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Press Release

Inaugural Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Connexions Forum to Offer Education and Career Guidance Coaches and Maritime Employers Industry Insights While Addressing Maritime Manpower Development Issues and Employment Trends

The event is a first of its kind to plug information gaps on manpower issues facing employers and career coaches managing jobseekers. The MSC Connexions Forum led active dialogue between the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, SkillsFuture Singapore, LinkedIn, two local tertiary institutions and maritime employers.

Singapore, 2 December 2016 – Maritime employers and those working with students and jobseekers in the schools and career centres under Workforce Singapore (WSG) and the Employment and Employability Institute (e2i) had a rare chance to meet and discuss maritime employment issues. This was a half-day event which revealed insights on maritime manpower and was attended by over a hundred human resource leaders, industry experts, university career centre officers and government agencies.

Given that global trade set to be centred around Asia and that nearly all of world trade is still delivered by shipping, the need for maritime services and therefore a strong manpower core is vital for the industry. Companies have also been focusing their efforts on developing new knowledge areas such as information technology, data analytics and environmental sustainability in order to remain competitive. Employers have also given feedback that enhancing employees' soft skills such as problem solving, cognitive and resource management skills would also help to drive optimal business performance.

While Head of Relationship Management & Public Sector at LinkedIn, Ms. Elsie Ng, addressed hiring and employment trends, the demand and supply side of maritime employment and the movement of talent within the sector, industry experts and those working with students and jobseekers on the career guidance front also had a chance to network after the event to find out more about the perspective of jobseekers and hiring preferences from their counterparts.

Director of the Career and Attachment Office at Nanyang Technological University, Mr. Loh Pui Wah shared during the panel discussion on three things which students were increasingly concerned about in relation to employment, "First of all, students look out for jobs that give them good career

development and career progression. Students also want to do something meaningful and something in which they can apply their training to. Lastly, they also seek work-life balance.”

Top management leaders also exchanged insightful dialogue on the relevance of internships, employer considerations when hiring candidates and the perception of maritime roles while MPA took the opportunity to elaborate on various funding platforms for manpower development as an encouragement for the industry to train local talents.

“From students and mid-career entrants to maritime management, regardless of whether you have a background in maritime studies, we hope to broaden the pathways to a rewarding career in the maritime industry. By bridging the information gaps between education and career guidance counsellors and maritime employers, this forum hopes to distil information about the industry’s key learning points on maritime manpower as shared by our partners. In addition, SMF hopes to provide a platform where these two important groups of people have a chance to meet and discuss the opportunities within the maritime industry.” said Mr David Chin, Executive Director of the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) who joined the maritime industry as a shipyard apprentice in 1962.

Forum participants also had a chance to preview the new Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) website which will be fully launched in early 2017 and will provide Singaporeans with information on the maritime industry, including but not limited to maritime education, internship opportunities, scholarship programmes, training and career matters. Maritime employers who register for an account with the MSC website could also profile scholarship and management trainee programmes, publicise career opportunities, and browse the database for their internship and job openings. Site visitors can also expect a comprehensive guide to entering the industry through information of career pathways, direct application functions for student scholarships and related events. A consolidated calendar of maritime events will also be accessible for the first time.

By strengthening local maritime capacities and building a pipeline of quality manpower, the industry hopes to support graduates and jobseekers through internships, scholarships and job opportunities to ensure a competitive Maritime Singapore.

For the full profiles of the panel speakers, please refer to **Annex A** for more information.

Pictures attached:



Mr Andreas Sohlen-Pao, Chairman of Singapore Maritime Foundation giving the welcome address at the MSC Connexions Forum



Panel Speakers (from left to right): Ms Prasanthi Guda, Mr Loh Pui Wah, Mr Goh Teik Poh, Mr Ong Poh Kwee, Mr Martyn Wade

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About Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF)

Established in 2004, the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) is a private sector-led organization that seeks to develop and promote Singapore as an International Maritime Centre (IMC). As the representative voice for the commercial players of the maritime industry, the Foundation seeks to forge strong partnerships with the public and private sectors of the maritime industry. SMF spearheads initiatives to promote the diverse clusters of the maritime industry in Singapore and at international frontiers, and to attract young talents to join the sector. SMF is directed by its Board of Directors which comprises prominent leaders in the Singapore maritime community. For details, visit www.smf.com.sg.

About Maritime Singapore Connect Office

The Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office is part of a SkillsFuture initiative by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. Started in 2016, the unit under the Singapore Maritime Foundation serves to help connect maritime employers, industry associations, the government and schools with students, jobseekers and the general public. As a central access point for target audience of varied profiles, the MSC Office's initiatives and partnerships help to profile the maritime industry and provide Singaporeans with easy access to maritime education, training and job opportunities. For more information, please visit www.maritimesgconnect.com or contact us at msc@sgmf.com.sg.

Annex A – Profile of Panel Speakers

Moderator

Mr Goh Teik Poh
Chairman,
Maritime Industry Advisory Committee, Singapore Maritime Academy

Mr Goh Teik Poh joined Neptune Orient Lines (NOL) in 1980 and spent six years at sea serving on container and general cargo ships. He subsequently transitioned to a shore-based role within the NOL Group in liner operations, corporate planning and equipment management.

From 1994 to 1997, he was based in Mumbai as President, NOL India, with overall responsibility for commercial and operational functions in India. Following NOL's acquisition of APL in 1997, he was posted to Oakland, California as APL's Vice President, Equipment Management in 1998.

In March 2003, he assumed the position of Senior Vice President, Global Operations & Network and was also Chairman of Neptune Shipmanagement Services Pte Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NOL.

In January 2008, he assumed the position of NOL's Chief Human Resource Officer and was responsible for all aspects of the NOL Group's global human resource function covering 11,000 employees.

In June 2009, he was appointed as APL's President, South Asia Region and was responsible for managing and developing APL's business activities in 27 countries in Australia, South East Asia, Indian Sub-Continent and Middle East.

He has an MSc in Transportation from Northwestern University and a BSc (Hons) in Maritime Commerce from University of Wales, Cardiff and currently serves as a Member of the Board of Governors, Singapore Polytechnic and a Member of the Technical Advisory Panel, Singapore Maritime Institute.

Panelists

Mr Ong Poh Kwee
Chief Operating Officer
Sembcorp Marine Ltd

Mr Ong Poh Kwee who is currently the Chief Operating Officer of Sembcorp Marine Ltd joined the company in 1987 as an Engineer. Mr Ong is a member of the Ministry of Manpower Workplace Safety & Health Council (Marine) Committee; Lloyd's Register South East Asia Technical Committee; ABS Southeast Asia Regional Committee; and DNV GL South East Asia & Pacific Maritime Committee. He became a board member of the Singapore Maritime Foundation on Jan 1, 2016.

Mr Ong has a Diploma in Marine Engineering from Singapore Polytechnic and a Bachelor of Marine Engineering degree (First Class Honours) from the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK. He also holds an MBA from the Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.

Mr Martyn Wade
Chief Executive Officer
Grindrod Shipping Pte Ltd

Mr Martyn Wade is Chief Executive Officer of Grindrod Shipping Pte Ltd which trades globally under two key brands – Island View Shipping (IVS) and Unicorn Shipping.

IVS owns and long term charters a modern fleet of 36 handysize, supramax and capesize bulk carriers which combined with its various operating businesses, transports in excess of 20 million tons of cargo per annum, whilst Unicorn Tankers owns/operates a modern fleet of 20 products, chemical and bunker tankers. Grindrod Shipping is represented globally with offices in Singapore, London, Durban, Cape Town, Richards Bay, Rotterdam, Tokyo and Maputo.

Martyn has over 39 years of international shipping experience and has worked for shipowners, operators and shipbrokers in London, Johannesburg, New York and now Singapore. The companies he has worked for include Van Ommeren UK, Simpson Spence and Young Johannesburg, Clipper Bulk USA and HSBC London.

He is an Executive Director of Grindrod Ltd, a director of the UK Freight Demurrage & Defence Association and a member of The Baltic Exchange having been first elected in 1979.

Grindrod Ltd, listed on the JSE Securities Exchange, is based in South Africa and is represented by subsidiaries, joint ventures and associated companies in 37 countries worldwide, employing more than 7,500 people.

Mr Loh Pui Wah
Director, Career & Attachment Office
Nanyang Technological University

Mr Loh Pui Wah has more than 30 years of working experience spanning both manufacturing and services industry. These include health sciences, computers, consumer electronics, precision engineering, management consulting, public transport and higher education.

As a Management Consultant, he consulted for clients covering Fortune 500 companies and local SME across diverse industries in Oil & Gas, FMCG, Info-Comm Technology, Integrated Logistics and *Electronics Manufacturing Services*. His practice areas were in strategic business planning, process innovation, lean manufacturing and people development.

Pui Wah has held senior leadership positions in foreign multi-national and Singapore listed companies as Business Leader and Board Director.

During his thirty-year career, Pui Wah has assumed various professional roles, namely, business development, sales and marketing, systems engineering, project management and six sigma black-belt. His operational experience was in supply chain, call centre, MRO and career services.

Since joining NTU as Director, Career and Attachment Office in 2008, Pui Wah now uses his broad industry knowledge and expertise to build systems, processes and people that prepare students for

future careers. As Career Coach and Consultant, he imparts life skills that will give students the head-start when they graduate from university.

Ms Prasanthi Guda

**Senior Assistant Director, Dato' Kho Hui Meng Career Centre
Singapore Management University**

Ms Prasanthi Guda is the Senior Assistant Director at the Dato' Kho Hui Meng Career Centre - SMU. She is an MBTI Certified career coach and works with undergraduate students on all matters related to career planning. As a part of her current role, she handles internships and graduate recruitment at SMU. Her portfolio for employer outreach and corporate relations include the following industries among others – Commodities and Trading, Engineering Manufacturing and Logistics.

Her prior work experience has been in private banking, project management and research roles in Singapore, Hong Kong, USA and India. Prasanthi is a trained Career Development Facilitator (CDF) and has an MBA in International Business from Nanyang Technological University and a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering from University of Cincinnati, Ohio – USA.