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OVER 150 EDUCATION AND CAREER GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS HOSTED FOR JURONG PORT TOUR AND FORUM WITH MARITIME PROFESSIONALS TO DISCUSS INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE MSC MARITIME INSIGHTS FORUM 2017

Singapore, 24 July 2017 – Industry professionals and stakeholders gathered for a time of sharing and networking at the second edition of the MSC Maritime Insights Forum, held at the Raffles Marina on 21st July.

Over 150 invited industry partners and Education and Career Guidance (ECGs) counsellors from schools under the Ministry of Education (MOE), polytechnics, universities and career centres under the Employment and Employability Institute, were given an overview and update on the diverse career opportunities available in the Sea Transport sector.

Organised by the Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office – an initiative of the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) with support from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the unit has been working on various initiatives to attract more Singaporeans to join the maritime industry. This year's MSC Maritime Insights Forum to equip ECG counsellors, which is a collaboration with the Guidance Branch of MOE, is one of these initiatives. The programme started with a tour of Jurong Port, where the ECG counsellors got first-hand experience of the multi-purpose port which brings in a range of products into the Republic, including sugar, cement as well as MRT carriages.

The informative forum which followed complements the recent launch of MSC Office's new website on 5th July. In addressing the forum participants, Mr David Chin, Executive Director of SMF, urged ECG counsellors to use the website as a one-stop resource for information about the maritime industry for students and jobseekers, and highlighted the myriad of opportunities in the maritime industry for those seeking a fulfilling career.

Outlook on the Maritime Industry

In his presentation, Mr Tay Yeow Min, Assistant Director, Industry Manpower Development Department, International Maritime Centre Division, MPA shared with the audience an overview and projected plans for the maritime industry. With the next generation port terminal in Tuas scheduled to develop in four phases within the next 30 years, Mr Tay mentioned that this was the perfect time to forge a career in the maritime industry and become a part of Singapore's illustrious history.

Thereafter, Ms Regina Lim, Senior Manager, MSC Office, SMF shared further about the various career and education pathways into the maritime industry for students and jobseekers. She said, "Many of us look for a dream job. A career in the maritime industry is where it all comes together like a Rubik's cube. It is not just a job but a career for many of us. The opportunity to learn, grow and be part of a diverse, international and passionate community bonds many together as we work together for Maritime Singapore."

Insights from Maritime Professionals

A highlight of the event was the MSC Conversations segment, where attendees had the chance to hear from and pose questions to a panel of four maritime industry professionals, where experiences ranged from Ms Toh Sze Yi, in her first year of sailing as a Deck Cadet with Pacific International Lines (PIL), to Captain Mohamad Salleh, Director of the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA), who has been in the industry for 40 years.

Captain Salleh shared about the "ladders and bridges" in the maritime industry, where there is vertical progression for those who choose to sail to make Ship Captain or Chief Engineer, as well as roles on shore, where their seafaring expertise is much valued in various maritime sectors.

In sharing about the qualities required for his vocation, Mr Jarrod Ho, a shipbroker with Eastport Shipping, said that contrary to popular belief, one did not need to be very aggressive, or be a "pitbull" to fulfil the demands of the role in buying and selling ships, or matching ships to cargo. He likened himself to a "golden retriever", with a more amicable and easy-going personality in his interactions with clients.

Ms Stephanie Ng, Senior Manager, Commercial with Jurong Port; and Ms Toh Sze Yi addressed questions on what it was like for females in the maritime industry. Ms Ng shared her experience of having worked in various maritime-related companies despite not having pursued a maritime-related degree, and how it was not an issue and instead a hugely rewarding experience. Ms Toh spoke about the "family" away from home that she had, on

board the ship, and how her parents had given their blessings despite initial reservations, when they saw that she was happy with her career choice.

“To maintain our lead and sustain the growth of Maritime Singapore, we need to attract talent for both seafaring and shorebased roles.” said Mr David Chin, Executive Director of SMF. ***“Through a session of sharing at the MSC Maritime Insights Forum, we hope that this would further provide all industry partners and education and career guidance counsellors with a better knowledge of the industry and career options available, as they guide students and jobseekers in making informed decisions about their education and career pathways.”***

END

Attached: Factsheet on the Maritime Singapore Connect Office

NOTE TO EDITORS

Key features of MSC Website

- Companies can browse resumes, publicise scholarships and job openings; as well as share videos and feature stories
- Students and jobseekers can submit resumes
- Access to maritime education, careers and feature stories
- Calendar of maritime events for students and jobseekers
- Maritime social media posts and YouTube channel

ABOUT SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION

Established in 2004, the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) is a private sector-led organisation that aims to develop and promote Singapore as an International Maritime Centre (IMC). As the representative voice for the commercial players of the maritime industry, SMF 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, please visit www.smf.com.sg.

ABOUT MARITIME SINGAPORE CONNECT OFFICE

The Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office was set up with a \$4 million commitment by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore in 2016 to complement efforts by the Sectoral Tripartite Committee for Transport (Sea) to attract more Singaporeans to join the maritime industry, following feedback from the industry.

The unit under the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) works on various fronts to elevate profiling efforts of the maritime industry, connect students and jobseekers to maritime opportunities, and provide Singaporeans with easy access to maritime careers, education and training opportunities.

As a central node connecting maritime employers, industry associations, schools and government agencies on all things maritime, the MSC Office offers maritime-related education and career guidance, links the industry with schools for internship and job opportunities, and organises outreach events and publicity campaigns.

For details, visit www.maritimesgconnect.com or email us at msc@sgmf.com.sg.

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Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office Factsheet



The Singapore maritime industry is diverse and dynamic, and offers multiple pathways to a rewarding and enriching maritime career. However, the challenge lies in reaching out effectively to students and jobseekers when the pool of information resides with different parties depending on the individual's area of interest.

To address this, the Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office was set up in 2016 with a \$4 million commitment from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. The unit under the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) complements efforts by the Sectoral Tripartite Committee for Transport (Sea) to attract more Singaporeans to join the maritime industry, following feedback from the industry.

The MSC Office serves as a central node connecting maritime employers, industry associations, schools and government agencies on all things maritime for students and jobseekers. It leverages on its network of partnerships to elevate profiling efforts of the maritime industry, connect students and jobseekers to maritime opportunities, and provide Singaporeans with easy access to maritime careers, education and training opportunities.

The new Maritime Singapore Connect website (www.maritimesgconnect.com), launched in July 2017, is one of the engagement channels by the MSC Office. Students and jobseekers

now have a one-stop resource on all things maritime – from education and career options, to the scholarships and management trainee programmes offered by maritime employers in Singapore. They could also upload their resumes to indicate interest in internships and jobs, for maritime companies to contact them when there is a suitable opportunity. The website also has videos and feature stories to help provide a better understanding of the careers and opportunities in the maritime industry.

Access to the resume database is free for maritime companies with a registered account, although the system will not release the individual's resume until his/her consent, to protect the jobseeker's confidentiality. Maritime companies in Singapore could also tap on this new online platform to market internship, job, scholarship and management trainee programmes without cost.

Apart from the website, the MSC Office also works with various partners on maritime-related education and career guidance matters, linking the industry to schools for internship and job opportunities, and organising outreach events and publicity campaigns.

The MSC Office also leverages on its network of partnerships to identify opportunities and areas of need to help maritime companies in Singapore in their manpower profiling and recruitment efforts.

The MSC Office can also be found on the following social media platforms:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MaritimeSingaporeConnect
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/the-maritime-singapore-connect-msc-office
Instagram: www.instagram.com/officemsc/
YouTube: [MSC Office](#)