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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEEPING THE MARITIME SINGAPORE ADVANTAGE: PANEL OF EXPERTS DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTI-SKILLED MARITIME WORKFORCE WITH A GLOBAL MINDSET

Panel discussion comprising industry professionals and education leaders focuses on maritime manpower as outlined in the International Maritime Centre (IMC) 2030 Strategic Review report

Singapore, 8 November 2017 – Discussion on Singapore’s efforts to stay ahead of the curve as a world leading International Maritime Centre took centre stage at the MSC Connexions Forum on 3rd November 2017. It was the second year that the [Maritime Singapore Connect \(MSC\)](#) Office had organized this for maritime employers and those working with students and jobseekers in schools and career centers under Workforce Singapore (WSG) and the Employment and Employability Institute (e2i). Building on last year’s success, about 150 human resource leaders, industry experts and education and career guidance counsellors participated in the half-day event at Carlton Hotel Singapore, which gave updates on the latest developments in Maritime Singapore, and provided a platform for discussion on Maritime Manpower-related matters.

Panel Discussion – “Developing a Multi-Skilled Maritime Workforce with a Global Mindset”

The focus of the panel discussion centered on the talent strategy outlined in the [International Maritime Centre \(IMC\) 2030 Strategic Review](#)¹ report presented to the Singapore Government recently. Senior representatives from the maritime industry and Institutes of Higher Learning shared their insights on the necessity and ways to develop a multi-skilled maritime workforce with a global mindset, as recommended by the IMC 2030 Advisory Committee convened by the [Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore \(MPA\)](#).

“Our discussion centred round the necessity for a multi-skilled workforce with a global mindset in shipping since it is global by nature. *Talent is essential to sustain the vibrancy of Maritime*

¹ The International Maritime Centre (IMC) 2030 Advisory Committee, established by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) in August 2016, submitted the IMC 2030 Strategic Review report to the Singapore Government on 22 September 2017. The Committee’s vision is for Maritime Singapore to be the **Global Maritime Hub for Connectivity, Innovation and Talent**. MPA’s press release [here](#).

Singapore and to help encourage improvements with fresh perspectives as the industry undergoes transformation. It was a very engaging and interesting sharing of views, and I believe the audience had a better understanding of how we could present the juicy challenges that the maritime industry has to offer, to attract a generation that relishes the opportunity to make a difference through their work,” said Mr Haider Nawaz, panel moderator, and Managing Director of [Red Dot Shipping Pte Ltd](#).

Mr Punit Oza, General Manager, Vice President and Head of Supramax Pacific of [Klaveness Asia Pte Ltd](#) kicked off the discussion by sharing what it means to have a global mindset and its importance to maritime employers, with shipping as an industry being global by nature. The ability to understand global dynamics and look beyond the local market, must be second nature to everyone working in shipping. Essentially, he explained that there is a need for a global mindset, global thinking and global actions. Mr Ooi Boon Hoe, Chief Executive Officer of [Jurong Port Pte Ltd](#) shared that the shipping and maritime industry is global and exposure is necessary to cultivate a global mindset. Employers and educators should provide exposure to the future talent, as it would be advantageous for them. He went on to say that looking back and understanding the past is as important as looking ahead to the future, to avoid having to relearn lessons.

Learnable competencies were touched upon by Ms Crystal Lim, Director of the Centre for Future-ready Graduates, [National University of Singapore \(NUS\)](#) who elaborated on the three main qualities to succeed in an ambiguous world: curiosity, empathy and sensing capability, which include different forms of awareness to do with the self, other people and the environment.

Similar to the other panelists, Captain Mohd Salleh, Director of [Singapore Maritime Academy](#), [Singapore Polytechnic \(SP\)](#), also agreed that shipping is a global industry. He elaborated that the programme at [Singapore Maritime Academy](#) preps the students with a global mindset by giving them the opportunity to go out to sea and go on various exchange programmes, giving them the exposure as well as opportunity to work with people of different cultures and diverse backgrounds. He capped off the subject with a saying often passed down to new recruits, *“It is difficult to change the rest of the crew members around you, but it is easy to change yourself.”*

*For the full profiles of the panel speakers, please refer to **[Annex A](#)** for more information.

Mr Andreas Sohmen-Pao, Chairman of the [Singapore Maritime Foundation \(SMF\)](#) and International Maritime Centre (IMC) 2030 Advisory Committee, said, **“A skilled workforce is critical for sustaining Singapore’s competitiveness as an International Maritime Centre. With this in mind, SMF set up the Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office to support companies with their talent attraction efforts. MSC Office has worked in partnership with maritime companies, government agencies and educational institutions to help students and jobseekers understand the multiple pathways into a maritime career.”**

“As an example, the MSC Maritime Careers Workshop provides a platform for graduates to hear from leading maritime companies about their business and career opportunities, and response

has been excellent so far. We are also working with the National University of Singapore, Jurong Port and PSA Corporation on the pilot run of the NUS Co-Operative Education programme to target talent in emerging areas of demand such as Business Analytics, Information Security and Data Science & Analytics,” he added.

Participants at the MSC Connexions Forum also had the chance to hear about the Skills Framework for Sea Transport² launched this year which provides information on employment, career pathways, occupations, 48 job roles, skills and competencies and training programmes. This is a resource for careers in the sea transport sector developed with individuals, employers and training service providers in mind.

Connecting Students and Jobseekers to Maritime Opportunities

Maritime has been highlighted as an important sector under SkillsFuture, and efforts to attract more talent for the Singapore maritime industry have intensified with various initiatives by the MSC Office since its establishment last year.

The **Maritime Singapore Connect website** (www.maritimesgconnect.com) was launched in July this year as a new one-stop resource for information of interest to students and jobseekers. Individuals can upload their resumes as an indication of their interest in internships or jobs, and maritime companies in Singapore can use the website to contact interested candidates whenever a suitable role arises.

END

² <http://www.skillsfuture.sg/skills-framework/sea-transport>

Event Photos



Panel discussion on the topic - Developing a Multi-Skilled Maritime Workforce with a Global Mindset



Industry professionals who attended the MSC Connexions Forum 2017

Annex A – Profile of Panel Speakers at the MSC Connexions Forum 2017

Moderator



Mr Haider Nawaz
Managing Director
Red Dot Shipping Pte Ltd

Mr Haider Nawaz is the Managing Director of Red Dot Shipping Pte Ltd, a company that is involved in commercial management of LPG and Petrochemical vessels.

Mr Nawaz holds a degree in electrical engineering and possesses 21 years of experience in developing businesses worldwide. From being the Managing Director of a manufacturing organization in Singapore, and heading Singapore Office of Varun Shipping, he has been instrumental in increasing the respective company's commercial roles and global activities. He has extensive experience in the LPG/Crude Oil and Offshore sectors.

He is also the co-chairman of Youth Maritime Advisory Board. He had also been the nominated and main “contact person” for the Indian National Shipowners Association for Asian Shipowners Forum (ASF) and within ASF, he was an active participant in the Safe Navigation & Environment Committee (SNEC) and Shipping Economics Review Committee (SERC).

Panellists



Mr Ooi Boon Hoe
Chief Executive Officer
Jurong Port Pte Ltd

Boon Hoe joined Jurong Port as Chief Executive Officer and a member of our Board on 21 August 2014.

Boon Hoe has had more than twenty years' experience in both the public and private sectors. He started his career with the Republic of Singapore Navy and the Ministry of Defence. In the private sector, Boon Hoe worked in DBS Bank as a corporate finance professional before joining Portek International in 2002. At Portek, Boon Hoe held various key positions including Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer. Boon Hoe graduated with a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honors, Economics) from the University of London; he also attended the College Interarmee De Defense, Paris, France; and he obtained a 1st

Class Pass from Britannia Royal Naval College. He was a recipient of the Singapore Armed Forces Overseas Training Award and Singapore Armed Forces Merit Scholarship.



Mr Punit Oza
Vice President & Head of Supramax Pacific
Klaveness Asia Pte Ltd

Mr. Punit Oza, after graduating in Financial Management and Accounting from University of Mumbai and successfully completing the qualifying examinations of Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, joined Precious Shipping PCL in Thailand in 1993. Thereafter, Mr. Oza worked with Astra Shipping in Dubai, Aries Ship broking in Singapore, Noble Chartering in Hong Kong and returned to Precious Shipping in Bangkok.

Mr. Oza joined Torvald Klaveness in 2006 and is currently General Manager of Klaveness Asia with the administrative responsibility of the office as well as holding the position of Vice President and Head of Supramax Pacific, handling the responsibility for the entire Supramax Portfolio in Asia Pacific for Torvald Klaveness. Mr. Oza's specialization is in handling the Indian and Thai Dry Bulk Markets in which he has extensive experience and has successfully developed and grown these markets for Torvald Klaveness.

Mr. Oza holds M.Sc. in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University (now CASS) Business School, London. He is involved with BIMCO Asia Shipping School and is a Fellow of Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers and sits on the EXCO of the Singapore Branch of ICS. He also holds a LLB from University of London. Mr. Oza sits on the advisory panel of the Singapore Maritime Foundation.



Ms Crystal Lim
Director, Centre for Future-ready Graduates
National University of Singapore

Crystal is a thought leader in future-ready life skills and holistic education. In her role as the Director of the Centre for Future-ready Graduates at the National University of Singapore, she spearheads initiatives that help students develop their potential and get connected to meaningful career opportunities.

In 2016, Crystal pioneered NUS Roots & Wings, a ground-breaking programme focusing on future-ready skills and mindsets for the VUCA world. The unique future-ready skills programme is an essential part of NUS' transformative education with 7,000 students participating in the programme every year.

Prior to NUS, Crystal had a diverse range of experience spanning start-ups, investment banking, equities, leadership advisory and philanthropy.



Capt Mohd Salleh
Director, Singapore Maritime Academy
Singapore Polytechnic

Capt Mohamad Salleh is the Director of Singapore Maritime Academy at the Singapore Polytechnic. He has been a lecturer in Navigation and Maritime Business at the Academy for the past 23 years.

He is also an ex-Ship Master with a seafaring career that spans more than 15 years.

Capt Mohamad Salleh completed his Master's Degree in Maritime Management at the Loeb-Sullivan School of Business, Maine Maritime Academy. He served as Economic Affairs Officer and Expert on Maritime Transport while on attachment at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) headquarters in Bangkok in 2002. During this period, he has been responsible for the development of Training Manuals on Logistics, Multimodal Transport & Supply Chain Management.

Capt Mohamad Salleh is also currently listed as a member of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Panel of Experts.

ABOUT SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION

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 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.

The **MSC Maritime Careers Workshop** was held on 18 August 2017 at the Pan Pacific Singapore brought together over 100 undergraduates from across all disciplines and working professionals with less than two years of work experience. The event offered participants, as potential entry-level jobseekers, the rare opportunity to learn from seven leading local and international maritime companies about career opportunities through presentations, breakout sessions and a networking reception which followed.

In September, the MSC Office also partnered the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) for two large-scale events which targeted secondary school students and undergraduates respectively. About 3,500 Secondary Two students and their parents attended the **MOE Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Fair** on 15 and 16 September which showcased the maritime sector. At the undergraduate level, over 400 final-year undergraduates across all disciplines participated in **The Xchange event at NTU** on 19 September. The six maritime companies involved in this event for the first time were given priority to next year's best graduates for their Management Trainee programme applications.

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

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