



Media release

SINGAPORE TO HOST MORE THAN 14,000 PEOPLE FROM OVER 60 COUNTRIES AT SEA ASIA 2015

Singapore, 1 April 2015: Singapore is gearing up to host more than 14,000 participants from over 60 countries this month at Sea Asia 2015 – one of the region's largest maritime conferences and leading forum for analysis and debate on the challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) Chairman Mr Michael Chia said this year's Sea Asia is also an opportunity to recognise Singapore's position as an international maritime centre and highlight the role the industry has played in the country's growth.

"2015 is a big year with Singapore celebrating its 50th anniversary – a key milestone and opportunity to reflect on the sectors which have helped Singapore become what it is today.

"The maritime industry – which employs some 170,000 people in Singapore and contributes around 7 per cent of Singapore's GDP – has played a key role in driving Singapore's development and this trend is set to continue," he said.

Estimates show that Singapore's container throughput for 2014 achieved another record high - 33.9 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) – growing by 4 per cent from 2013. Vessel arrival tonnage also rose by 1.9 per cent last year to 2.37 billion gross tonnage (GT) and Singapore continues to be the world's top bunkering port with 42.4 million tonnes sold in 2014.¹

"Singapore continues to cement its position as an international maritime centre and the increasing prominence of Sea Asia in the global maritime calendar demonstrates the country's importance in addressing the sector's challenges and opportunities," he said.

Seatrade Chairman Chris Hayman said the new realities facing the industry such as falling oil prices, an unstable Eurozone and the emergence of new cargo generators such as Africa will be discussed in depth at Sea Asia 2015.

"These developments provide opportunities and challenges for the sector. Falling oil prices, for example, provide real opportunities for the shipping industry to reduce operating costs while creating challenges for the oil and gas industry".

"Sea Asia 2015 is a critical opportunity for the global maritime and offshore communities to congregate in Singapore and share insightful perspectives on these issues affecting the various industry segments," said Mr Hayman.

The Sea Asia 2015 conference and exhibition will be graced by Singapore's Minister for Transport, Mr Lui Tuck Yew.

Mr Chia said: "Mr Lui's presence at Sea Asia 2015 is testament to the Government's recognition of the significant role the maritime industry plays in Singapore's continuing growth and development.

“It also shows the Government’s commitment and support to sustain our position as one of the world’s leading International Maritime Centres.”

One of the key highlights of this year’s Sea Asia event is the Sea Asia Global Forum which will see Christian Clausen, President and Group Chief Executive Officer, Nordea Bank; Khalid Hashim, Managing Director, Precious Shipping Ltd; Tom Boardley, Marine Director, Lloyd’s Register and Vice President, UK Chamber of Shipping; Andreas Sohmen-Pao, Chairman, BW Group; and S.S. Teo, Managing Director, Pacific International Lines Pte Ltd discuss trends and issues impacting the maritime industry.

Topics that will be debated include sustainability, shipping finance, demand for ships entering ports to be built locally and the re-alignment of trade in a post-recession world. The impact of oil prices on the industry will also be a key topic on the forum’s agenda.

Sea Asia 2015 will also feature the Offshore Marine Forum which brings industry experts together to debate the challenges and opportunities facing the region’s offshore marine sector against a backdrop of record revenues, orders and complex operating environments.

Among the topics that will be discussed at the Offshore Marine Forum include the manpower challenge facing the offshore marine sector, the need for more technically sophisticated vessels and the changing geography of exploration and production.

Mr Hayman said: “We look forward to welcoming maritime leaders from around the globe to discuss pertinent maritime issues, growth opportunities in Asia and share thoughts on how to work with the different industry sectors to navigate the challenges we are all facing.”

This year marks the fifth edition of Sea Asia which is co-organised by Seatrade and SMF. It will be held at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre from 21 – 23 April as part of Singapore Maritime Week.

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About Sea Asia

Sea Asia, an international conference and exhibition for the maritime and offshore industries, is returning for the 5th edition from 21 to 23 April 2015 at the Marina Bay Sands[®], Singapore. Sea Asia serves as a focal point for both the global and local maritime communities to network, explore new businesses, and showcase the latest maritime innovations, equipment and services. Co-organised by Seatrade and the Singapore Maritime Foundation, Sea Asia is an anchor event held in conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week and is well-attended by the most influential and respected leaders in the industry. The 3-day Sea Asia conference will bring forth the latest discussion and debates on key trends, opportunities and challenges facing the maritime industry.

Sea Asia is supported by principal sponsors Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Ltd, DP World UAE Region, Executive Ship Management, Lloyd’s Register, Neptune Orient Lines (NOL), Sohar Port & Freezone, as well as sponsors ABS, Admiralty, AXSMARINE, ClassNK, DNVGL, G Travel, Hempel, JTJB LLP, Keppel Offshore & Marine, LUKOIL Marine Lubricants, M3 Marine Group Pte Ltd, Mobil Industrial Lubricants, Pacific International Lines (Pte) Ltd, PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY, WORLDWIDE LEADER FLAG STATE, PSA Corporation Limited, QBE INSURANCE (INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED, Singtel, The Standard Club Asia Ltd, Veritas Petroleum Services, and Zamil Offshore.

For more information, please visit www.sea-asia.com.

About Seatrade

Seatrade provides a range of global events, websites and publications that covers every aspect of the cruise and maritime industries, bringing together key people to encourage innovation and to produce powerful learning, networking and promotional platforms. Founded in 1970, Seatrade was acquired recently in 2014 by UBM, the world's second largest media and event organiser. Seatrade sits with the UBM EMEA, which connects people and creates opportunities for companies to develop new business, meet customers, launch new products, promote brands and expand markets. Operating in over 23 countries, UBM EMEA organizes many of the world's largest, most important exhibitions, conferences, awards, directories, websites and publications in a wide variety of industries.

For full details about this event, visit www.sea-asia.com. Find out more about Seatrade and UBM, visit <http://www.seatrade-global.com/seatrade-global-information/about-seatrade.html> and <http://ubmemea.com/>.

About the Singapore Maritime Foundation

Established in 2004, the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) is a private sector-led organisation 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, 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, visit www.smf.com.sg.