

Press Release

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Engineering and Maritime Studies Undergraduates Get Exclusive Insights on SkillsFuture-aligned Jobs at Roundtable Discussions with Industry Experts

Inaugural MSC Career Workshop supported by leading Maritime Companies is the largest scale event of its kind

Singapore, 5 August 2016 – Tertiary students from the maritime and engineering disciplines had the chance to hear exclusive insights from industry experts, on the career prospects of six vocations from the port and shipping sectors, at the inaugural MSC Career Workshop at Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre on 5 August 2016, a half-day event where about 140 maritime professionals and students attended.

A total of nine companies from the maritime industry were present to share with students from Singapore Polytechnic (SP), Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Singapore Management University (SMU), about the six careers that have been identified to be aligned with SkillsFuture, by the Maritime Manpower Taskforce for Shore-based Sectors¹ formed by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). About 40% of the students were from engineering courses, while the rest came from maritime-related studies.

The six roles that were featured in the workshop were namely the Port Engineer, Port Operations Executive, Ship Broker, Post-Fixture Officer, Ship Charterer and Shipping Operations Officer, careers which have been highlighted as critical and important jobs for the development of Maritime Singapore.

¹ The Maritime Manpower Taskforce for Shore-based Sectors was one of the two taskforces formed by MPA in 2014 to drive efforts in support of SkillsFuture, to look at strategies to help maritime companies fill positions for critical shore-based jobs. The taskforce comprises members from MPA, the Singapore Workforce Development Agency, e2i, the National Trades Union Congress, as well as key industry players and associations.

Please refer to Annex A for more details on the requirement to pursue these careers, and the people who were featured for these roles during the workshop.

Participating companies were established names such as Anglo-Eastern Shipmanagement (Singapore), Aries Shipbroking (Asia), BW Group, Jurong Port, Klaveness Asia, NYK Group South Asia, Pacific International Lines, PSA Corporation and The China Navigation Company. Please refer to Annex B for more information on these companies.

Two undergraduates from the engineering and maritime disciplines respectively shared their learning experience at the career workshop. Mr Ricky Yeo, currently in his third year of studies in Mechanical Engineering at NTU, had the chance to learn more about the role of a Port Engineer. ***“I never knew that a Port Engineer’s role would be of such importance to maritime operations, as Singapore focuses a great deal on the maintenance of port equipment, and the main draw is that not only it is not entirely a desk-bound job, it also comes with an attractive salary package.”***

Ms Bing Yitong, who will be starting her second year of studies in Maritime Studies at NTU this coming semester, was attracted to the global aspect of the maritime industry. ***“The stories shared by the company representatives in my group were very inspirational, and I managed to gain insights into the job scope of a Ship Charterer which I was unsure of previously. What more, I learned that as a Ship Charterer, I will get to travel around the world extensively!”***

Each company had representatives present to share with the students in-depth about the job scope, job prospects and the job salaries of the careers showcased at the workshop, in a roundtable, focus-group format during the “Conversations with the industry” segment of the event. This provided an excellent and unique platform for an exchange of dialogue between the employers and the students, where the employers got to elaborate more on the careers to the students in a more targeted manner and get immediate feedback, while the students were able to clarify any uncertainties that they had about joining the industry with the employers.

“We are happy to have both maritime and non-maritime students join us today at this workshop, to find out more about the careers that have been highlighted as critical to the Singapore maritime industry. It is encouraging see the younger generation eager to find out more about the available careers out there, and putting great thought into making the right career choice for themselves. I believe that after attending today’s workshop, the students will walk away with a better understanding of the multitude of career prospects that Maritime Singapore has to offer,

and consider joining the industry upon graduation,” said Mr David Chin, Executive Director of the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF), also a veteran who has spent 54 years in the maritime industry.

According to this year’s Graduate Employment Survey results, 95% of NTU’s Maritime Studies graduates found employment within six months after taking their final examinations, with their gross median salary at \$3,200. Fresh graduates from the maritime-related diploma courses were also found to be among the best paid, with the gross median salary from \$2,200 to \$2,500 for fresh graduates from the Built Environment, Engineering & Maritime course categories.

The Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office is a unit newly established this year under the SMF, as part of a SkillsFuture initiative by the MPA. The MSC Office will be starting a new portal at the end of the year that will provide Singaporeans with a comprehensive range of information regarding maritime education, scholarship, training and career matters.

Pictures attached:

1. Mr Andrew Tan, Chief Executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, giving the welcome address at the Inaugural MSC Career Workshop 2016 – Choices in Port & Shipping.
2. Participating companies at the MSC Career Workshop 2016: (L-R) Mr David Chin, Executive Director of the Singapore Maritime Foundation; Mr Handoko Gunawan-Tunggal, Shipbroker at Aries Shipbroking (Asia) Pte Ltd; Ms Wendy Teo, Assistant Vice President of Jurong Port Pte Ltd; Mr Jacky Kan, Assistant Vice President (Talent Acquisition) of PSA Corporation; Mr Andrew Tan, Chief Executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore; Ms Sandar Koh, Chartering Manager of The China Navigation Company; Mr Jakob Hjortlund, Head of Global Operations (BW Pacific) of BW Group; Mr Punit Oza, Vice President, Head of Supramax Pacific of Klaveness Asia; Ms May Tham, Assistant General Manager (Human Resource) of Pacific International Lines; Ms Sayaka Yamazaki, Senior Manager (Fleet Management) of NYK Group South Asia Pte Ltd; Capt Amit Chaudhary, Assistant Operations Manager of Anglo-Eastern Shipmanagement and Ms Regina Lim, Senior Manager (MSC Office) of the Singapore Maritime Foundation.
3. Maritime students from Singapore Polytechnic, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University hearing more about the role of a Shipping Operations Officer.

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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 (MSC) 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 seeks to elevate existing profiling efforts of 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.