

# NEWSLETTER



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

2019 got off to a good start with SMF welcoming in the New Year with more than 300 of our maritime partners at the annual SMF New Year Cocktail Reception.

Looking back at last year, the MaritimeONE Scholarship Awards Ceremony in August saw a greater representation of female scholars for the first time, and we awarded our first Business Analytics undergraduate student. In September, the Maritime Singapore Connect Office worked closely with industry partners to organise the inaugural Careers at Sea & Beyond Forum and Exhibition to promote careers onboard and shore-based opportunities to the public.

On the global front, SMF continues to reach out to industry partners in the international community. In the coming months, SMF will participate in the biennial show, Nor-Shipping in Norway, to showcase Maritime Singapore's capabilities to our Norwegian and international maritime counterparts. SMF and Seatrade (UBM) will also organise the seventh edition of Sea Asia during Singapore Maritime Week, to gather thought leaders and experts in the maritime community to discuss the latest trends and developments in the industry.

In line with the industry's digital transformation, SMF has refreshed its website to incorporate streamlined pages and interactive elements for easier accessibility and an enhanced user experience. The website also features a variety of visual elements to better reflect the dynamism of the maritime industry.

We would like to thank our industry partners for your continuous support and participation at our events, and we look forward to more opportunities for collaboration in 2019.

With best wishes,

Andreas Sohmen-Pao  
Chairman, Singapore Maritime Foundation

## THE SMF BOARD

The SMF Board is steered by the Board of Directors, which comprises prominent personalities from the maritime industry. Our Board sets the direction and provides strategic insight for SMF's initiatives and programmes.

### Presenting to you the SMF Board:



**Mr Andreas Sohmen-Pao**  
Chairman,  
BW Group



**Ms Quah Ley Hoon**  
Chief Executive,  
Maritime and Port  
Authority of  
Singapore



**Mr Lee Keng Mun**  
Head of  
Shipping Asia,  
HSH Nordbank AG



**Mr Tan Puay Hin**  
Chief Executive,  
Singapore Logistics  
Association



**Mr Loo Tze Kian**  
Managing Director,  
LCH Lockton  
Pte Ltd



**Ms Lisa Teo**  
Executive Director,  
Corporate  
Development  
Pacific International  
Lines (Pte) Ltd



**Mr Abu Bakar**  
Managing Director  
(Gas & Specialised  
Vessels),  
Keppel Offshore  
& Marine Ltd



**Mr Prem K. Gurbani**  
Founding Partner,  
Gurbani & Co LLC



**Mr Punit Oza**  
Vice President, Head of  
Systems, Processes &  
Competence (Dry Bulk)  
Klaveness Asia Pte Ltd



**Mr Chua San Lye**  
Chief Human  
Resource Officer,  
Sembcorp  
Marine Ltd

## ▶ STEERING AHEAD WITH SMF INITIATIVES



### 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018: **WORLDSKILLS SINGAPORE**

Maritime was showcased at WorldSkills Singapore, an event organised by the Ministry of Education and SkillsFuture Singapore. Dubbed the “Olympics of Skills”, the three-day event held at Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre pit youth around the world in skilled trade areas, and consisted of an educational and career guidance (ECG) portion for Secondary Two and Three students and members of the public.

As part of the maritime showcase, the Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office partnered with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)’s Singapore Maritime Gallery (SMG), Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) and ITE College Central to organise an exhibition space that featured maritime related functions. The showcase displayed information about Maritime Singapore, and allowed students and members of the public to participate in maritime-related games and hands-on activities.

The team then jointly conducted a talk with SMA, and ran separate interactive workshop sessions with SMG and SMA to share more about the maritime industry and its many opportunities.

The event reached out to an estimated number of 20,000 visitors, consisting of Secondary Two and Three students on Thursday and Friday, and members of the public on Saturday.

### 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018: **SINGAPORE MARITIME DIALOGUE**

“Building a Future-Ready Maritime Singapore” was the theme of the 5th Singapore Maritime Dialogue, which saw more than 400 tertiary level students and teachers from ITEs, Polytechnics, Junior Colleges and Universities gather at the NUS UTown Auditorium. This year, MPA worked with NUS National Economics Society to hold the National Economics and Financial Management Challenge (NEFMC) as a lead up event to SMD 2018.

The event featured a panel discussion, comprising Dr Lam Pin Min, Guest-of-Honour, Senior Minister of State for Ministry of Transport and Health, Mr Andrew Tan, former Chief Executive of MPA, and industry professionals Mr Alvin Ea, CEO and Co-Founder of Haulio, Mr Eric Chean, CEO of Ship Supplies Direct Pte Ltd, and Mr Desmond Chong, General Manager of Sinanju Tankers Holdings Pte Ltd, who is also a Singapore Maritime Ambassador. The session was moderated by Mr Tan Kok Choon, Associate Professor, National University of Singapore Business School, Department of Analytics & Operations.

The panelists shared their experiences and views on Maritime Singapore, and were met with many questions posed by the participants.

Outside the auditorium, an exhibition panel posed a question: Have any ideas on how we can work towards being a Global Hub Port and International Maritime Hub via physical, non-physical or cross/interlinkage developments?

Underneath it, were colourful post-its with suggestions penned down by participating students ranging from incorporating fully automated ships, to increasing cultural awareness of the local maritime community and fostering greater connections with Singapore’s maritime partners overseas.

In his closing speech, Dr Lam concluded “Maritime Singapore will see many new and rewarding jobs. Besides ship charterers, brokers, marine insurers and maritime lawyers, we now have data analysts, robotics experts and cybersecurity specialists joining the ranks of maritime professionals.”

So, what do you think lies in the future of Maritime Singapore?





## 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018: MARITIMEONE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY

A total of 34 MaritimeONE and 15 TMSS scholarships were awarded at the annual MaritimeONE Scholarship Awards Ceremony, held at Conrad Centennial Singapore.

At the event, MaritimeONE saw a greater representation of female scholars for the first time, a reflection of the industry's collective effort to make maritime an inclusive one for all to enter and a step towards dispelling the myth that the maritime industry is a male-dominated one.

One such student, was Ms Pournami Sharma, a TMSS scholar, who has always been driven to pursue a career that can challenge her physical limitations. "If I continue working hard, I'll be able to reach my dream of commanding a ship one day."

MaritimeONE also awarded its first student pursuing his Bachelor of Business in Business Analytics at NTU, Mr Hor Zhi An. As the industry looks to diversify its talent pool and attract talent from adjacent industries, Mr Hor will be one of the many students with backgrounds outside maritime joining the Scholarship Programme in the future.

"With the digital transformation occurring in the maritime industry, I hope my background in Business Analytics can contribute to the continuous development of the industry," Mr Hor commented.

Sponsored by some of the industry's leading organisations, the Scholarship Programme supports various local and overseas diploma and degree programmes. In addition to the financial incentives for their education, MaritimeONE scholars also have the opportunity to attend exclusive industry events, embark on overseas exchange programmes and even experience life onboard vessels.

## 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018: GIA – SMF MARINE INSURANCE AND MARITIME NETWORKING NIGHT

One of the overarching strategies outlined in the Sea Transport Industry Transformation Map (ITM) launched last year include Connectivity, which focuses on the strengthening of interlinkages within the maritime ecosystem. Annually, SMF co-organises the GIA – SMF Marine Insurance and Maritime Networking Night together with the General Insurance Association of Singapore (GIA), to gather maritime insurance and maritime professionals together. This provides a platform that is conducive for the strengthening of networks and potential collaboration.

At the event, Mr Michael Gourlay, GIA Management Committee Member and Marine Insurance Convenor, and Mr Kenneth Chia, Executive Director of SMF, welcomed over 70 maritime insurance and maritime professionals at Cook and Brew, Westin Hotel. Guests mingled with one another over canapes and drinks while overlooking the Singapore skyline.



## 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018: CAREERS AT SEA & BEYOND FORUM AND EXHIBITION

The inaugural Careers at Sea & Beyond Forum and Exhibition was held at Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre and drew over 600 visitors across all ages.

The interactive exhibition featured a Virtual Reality (VR) station, where visitors flocked to the booth to experience life onboard vessels through immersive 360-degree VR videos. Attendees tried their hands at manoeuvring drones through an obstacle course and learnt how digitalisation can aid in increasing the efficiency of work processes in the maritime industry. The hall was a bustle of activity, as attendees struck up conversations with deck officers, marine engineers and representatives from training institutes, to find out more about seafaring and shore-based opportunities that await after sailing in the maritime industry.

The event also featured a forum, where a crowd of 120 participants listened attentively to stories from industry professionals who chose to embark on careers on board ships. Participants posed questions to the speakers, curious to find out more about what a typical day looked like on board, as well as the available career progression pathways that the maritime industry could offer.

Outside the event hall, a large Ro-Ro vessel sat next to the entrance, much to the interest of passers-by, who snapped photos with the ship model as they ventured into the hall.

The event was well received by visitors, of which the majority indicated that they would be keen to pursue careers at sea.



## 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018: 9<sup>TH</sup> STRATEGIC HR & PR NETWORKING EVENT

Over 70 HR and PR professionals and close industry partners gathered at La Cala, Duo Galleria, for the 9th Strategic HR & PR Networking Event. At the event, Mr Tay Yeow Min, Assistant Director, Industry Manpower Development, from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, gave guests an introduction to MPA's Maritime Manpower Development, which focused on strengthening and building talent pipelines through initiatives such as the Maritime Cluster Fund and the promotion of maritime careers, to name a few. SMF also invited Ms Lim Mong Ling, Senior Lecturer from the School of Business at Singapore Polytechnic (SP), to give a presentation on the HR Capabilities of SP, as well as potential areas of collaboration with maritime organisations. SMF then updated guests of past and upcoming initiatives with a light hearted stop motion video.

Guests had an enjoyable time interacting with friends from the community over a selection of Spanish tapas served by the skilled chefs at La Cala.



## 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018: **INDUSTRY WELCOME RECEPTION**

“From the food we eat to the cars that we drive, to the materials that create these buildings and structures around us – these were all shipped to our shores from around the world. With up to 90% of world trade moved by sea, it is no wonder that the growth of international trade is very closely linked to the maritime industry.”

At the Industry Welcome Reception held at Carlton Hotel Singapore, SMF Board Member Mr Punit Oza emphasised how the maritime industry is woven into the lives of each and every individual, to a crowd of 150 maritime graduates and final year students who were eager to make their mark in the industry.

Two industry professionals were also present to share more about their journey in the maritime industry.

Mr Jarrod Ho, Corporate Partnerships

Manager at PortXL and a Maritime Ambassador, highlighted the industry’s digital transformation, and that these graduates were entering the maritime industry at an exciting time.

Ms June Kua, a Jurong Port – MaritimeONE Scholar, shared about her experiences transiting from university to her current role as a Senior Human Resource executive at Jurong Port, and about the numerous opportunities that awaited these graduates in the maritime industry.

Annually, SMF hosts the Industry Welcome Reception to congratulate students who have graduated, and provide guidance and insights as they venture into the workforce. It also provides a platform for students to mingle with industry professionals, and grow their network in the industry.





## 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018: MARITIME KNOWLEDGE AND SHIPPING SESSIONS (MKSS) SESSION 37 ON BROADENING EXPOSURE IN MARINE LIABILITY

At the second run of the MKSS organised by SMF and GIA, Ms Alicia Leong, Marine Liability Underwriter from Munch Re Syndicate, introduced the various classes of Marine Liabilities such as Transport Operators, Terminal Operators and Marine P&I. She then shared a brief overview of the different types of coverages and exclusions and types of services covered under the respective classes.

Mr Nicholas Mavrias, Senior Claims Executive with Charles Taylor Mutual Management (Asia) Pte Ltd, gave a presentation on emerging technologies in shipping and P&I covers, and

assessed the relevant risks of these new developments and how these can impact P&I covers, as well as how the covers would respond. Mr Mavrias also touched on the increasing dependency the maritime industry will have on computers and computer software, which would result in more vulnerabilities to cyber-attacks.

A panel discussion followed thereafter, with Mr Richard Kuek, legal consultant to Gurbani & Co., as the moderator.

To view the presentations shared by the speakers at the MKSS 37, please click [here](#). The upcoming MKSS 38 will be held in June 2019.

## 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018: MSC CONNEXIONS FORUM

*The Future of Jobs Report 2018* published by the World Economic Forum, identified an increase in demand for roles centred on technology, such as analysts, software engineers and social media specialists. As the maritime industry embarks on a digital transformation, the demand for similar roles has emerged as well, which poses the question: how can the industry position itself to receive and attract individuals with the relevant skills?

At the third run of the MSC Connexions Forum held at Four Seasons Hotel Singapore, over 110 of the MSC Office's partners from maritime companies, schools, career centres, government and industry associations gathered together for a time of learning and networking. Heeding the call to increase connectivity between maritime and adjacent clusters as mentioned in the Sea Transport ITM, the team looked beyond the industry for learning, inviting guest speaker Mr Jason Ho, Head of Group HR at OCBC and Director of the Institute of HR Professionals, who shared about the future of work, HR and how the banks are adapting their workforce in the digital era.

The theme for the panel discussion was centred around "Rethinking Employer Branding and Employee Experience", and saw maritime HR leaders sharing the challenges and new HR mindsets and initiatives of their organisations, creating conversation on the future of the maritime workforce.





## 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018: YES CLUB YEAR END GATHERING

The annual Young Executives and Students (YES) Club Year End Gathering was held at Switch by Timbre on a Thursday evening. As YES Club members streamed in, the venue came alive with lively conversation and laughter. Friends caught up with one another, and newer members were introduced to the rest of the YES Club members. Over 100 members were present at the event, and had an enjoyable time participating in Christmas themed games.

The YES Club Year End Gathering serves as an annual get-together for all members of the YES club to network and receive updates on the various upcoming MaritimeONE and SMF initiatives. Fresh graduates and maritime students take the opportunity to meet with young maritime executives at the event and learn more about their journey as maritime professionals. This creates a strong network of industry friendships that members of YES Club can look to for guidance and support.



## 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019: SMF NEW YEAR COCKTAIL RECEPTION 2019

“The approach in Singapore has been to engage the entire community of stakeholders to work together to prepare for the future, to invest in talent and innovation. Although this does not absolve us from the need for hard work - and a little luck - we can certainly derive some confidence from this collaborative approach, whatever the market throws at us.”

In his opening address, Mr Andreas Sohmen-Pao, Chairman of SMF, echoed sentiments shared by guests at the SMF New Year Cocktail Reception. With the theme ‘Community through Connectivity’, Mr Sohmen-Pao highlighted the importance of coming together as a good way to strengthen the cohesive and collegiate nature of the industry.

Dr Lam Pin Min, Senior Minister of State for Ministry of Transport and Health, graced the Reception and announced Singapore’s maritime and port performance. Held at Shangri-la Hotel, the event saw a crowd of over 300 maritime professionals and close industry partners gather to welcome the new year.

Guests received updates on SMF’s initiatives in the past year, as well as events to look out for in the coming year. One such initiative was the revamp of SMF’s website, which now has a greater emphasis on user experience and a refresh of the site’s visual elements. Everyone had an enjoyable time networking with one another over a sumptuous buffet dinner spread.



# YOUTH MATTERS



## MARCUS POH

**“K” Line – MaritimeONE  
Scholar**

### **SMF: What made you decide to pursue a career or education in the maritime industry?**

**MP:** I wanted to pursue something different from my peers. I first got to know about the maritime industry during my first year of National Service from a maritime professional who had a background in bulk operations. He gave me an overview of the industry and told me that the industry was looking for fresh talent. This sparked my interest in the maritime industry, as I began researching the educational pathways I could take to pursue a maritime career. I then made my decision to pursue Maritime Studies at NTU, and have never looked back since.

### **SMF: Could you share any interesting experiences you’ve had so far while pursuing your course of study or internship?**

**MP:** I was fortunate to land a summer internship with Transport Capital Pte Ltd (TCPL), an investment management and advisory firm focusing on international transportation industries. The internship was challenging and gave me the chance to try out different departments in the organisation, exposing me to areas of ship financing and economic research. I learnt the importance of regularly liaising with the commercial and technical companies that managed assets under the care of TCPL, and had the fascinating opportunity of boarding a vessel to check on compliance and regulatory requirements.

Another experience I had was an exchange programme with BI Norwegian Business School in Norway, where I discovered that Norway had a very well-developed maritime industry, especially

in the maritime services and marine technology sectors. In class, we went through intriguing case studies that I felt would be of great help in my career. Exploring the sights in Norway was one of the highlights of my time there, and made the trip a very memorable one.

### **SMF: What qualities of an employer or company do you look out for when deciding where to work, and why?**

**MP:** I firmly believe that education should be a lifelong process, hence, I would look for employers who are willing to develop their employees, such as through retraining. Like most industries, the maritime industry puts a lot of emphasis on high standards and quality of work, and for an organisation to remain competitive, it should invest in its employees.

I would also look out for organisations that value its employees. An organisation that recognises its staff’s contributions will encourage them to continuously give their best.

### **SMF: How has the MaritimeONE Scholarship Programme enriched your education and/or career?**

**MP:** Other than the financial support I receive from the MaritimeONE Scholarship Programme, it has provided me with a platform to interact with industry leaders through networking sessions organised by SMF. I was also given the chance to embark on a 10-week long internship with my sponsoring company, “K” Line Pte Ltd, where I learnt specific functions of the maritime industry, such as ship operations.

**SMF: What do you do in your spare time?**

**MP:** I enjoy spending quality time with my family and friends, and also like reading self-enrichment books, such as 'Tuesdays with Morrie', which is one of my favorites. It serves as a reminder to be grateful for the blessings we have in life. Sports is something I do regularly too, such as jogging or cycling with my friends.

**SMF: What's trending now amongst youths?**

**MP:** One of the most visible trends is the following of Korean-pop bands. Another trend is solo travel to developing countries. Although I have yet to jump onto this bandwagon, I've heard from friends that they have gained a deeper appreciation of the blessings we enjoy in Singapore. I don't believe it's necessary to embark on a solo trip to come to this conclusion, but it's great to see more youths appreciating what our forefathers had built for us.

**SMF: What is the best thing about being part of Maritime Singapore?**

**MP:** The best thing would be the numerous job opportunities in Maritime Singapore. I've observed that many companies are very willing to mentor and develop fresh talent to build up the next generation of maritime professionals.

**SMF: What's one cause that is dear to your heart?**

**MP:** That one cause would be helping out in the Deaf community. I came to know about Singapore's Deaf community after I took up sign language as an elective in school. It was heartwarming to see that these people did not view their deafness as an obstacle and continued living life to the fullest.

**SMF: What have you learnt about being in the maritime industry?**

**MP:** I've learnt a lot of things – such as understanding that there is so much more to the maritime industry than just ships and ports. It is a very diverse industry made up of various sectors: marine insurance, ship finance, maritime arbitration, and more. I've also learnt that Singapore's strong connections with the global maritime community have also helped the maritime industry grow to what it is today.

**SMF: Any words of advice to someone who might be keen to join the maritime industry?**

**MP:** I would tell them that they will not regret their decision to join the industry, as it is home to a diverse range of career paths, where one does not need a background in maritime to pursue a maritime career. I'd also tell them not to be afraid to approach maritime professionals and industry veterans to find out more because the people in this industry are very helpful and more than willing to share.

## WHAT'S NEW!

Driven by the **Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore**, Singapore Maritime Week gathers the international maritime community for a week of flagship conferences, dialogues, exhibitions and social events in celebration of all things maritime. The range of activities and events organised by MPA, industry stakeholders and research and educational institutions, as well as the cosmopolitan profile of participants, reflect the vibrancy and diversity of Singapore as a global hub port and leading international maritime centre. For more information, visit [www.smw.sg](http://www.smw.sg).



## FRANKLY SPEAKING



## CAPTAIN DUTT

Capt Dutt, Chief Operating Officer (Tanker Division) of Anglo-Eastern Ship Management, has been with the organisation for over 20 years. He also sits on the Advisory Panel at SMF and works with the Foundation to promote Singapore as an International Maritime Centre, through contributing his invaluable expertise garnered from over a decade of experience at sea. In this exclusive interview, Capt Dutt shares another side of himself that is little known to others.

**SMF: Capt Dutt, we want to know, how did you get into the business of maritime?**

**CD:** My father was a Commander in the Indian Navy so I grew up around warships, naval officers and all things nautical. However, my desire for international travel landed me in the Merchant Marine instead of the Navy.

**SMF: What's the one thing you need every morning?**

**CD:** I am a morning person and there is nothing better than a brisk early morning walk to get me going.

**SMF: What are three things that you cannot live without?**

**CD:** Family, Friends & Music.

**SMF: What's the key to a successful business?**

**CD:** As someone who works in Ship Management, I would say that people are the key – hire good people and create an environment at work that will bring out their best. That is a sure recipe for success for any business.

**SMF: If you had a superpower what would it be?**

**CD:** I would like to create a more egalitarian world than what we see around us today.

**SMF: What did you aspire to be when you were younger?**

**CD:** When I was younger, I was fascinated by fighter jets and wanted to be an air force pilot. I guess going out to sea as an officer was the next best thing.

**SMF: What would you name your boat if you had one?**

**CD:** If I had a boat I would name it Kepler in memory of our pet dog who brought our family lots of joy for almost 12 years. We had named him after the famous 17th century German astronomer.

**SMF: Who or what inspires you?**

**CD:** I am inspired by nature and by the beauty and complexity of the natural world that surrounds us. Nature is humbling and reminds us that we are a very tiny part of something much greater than ourselves.

**SMF: What are some of your favourite hobbies?**

**CD:** I read extensively, mainly non-fiction these days. I also enjoy travelling to new destinations especially where I can spend time outdoors. Safaris in Africa & India are on the top of my travel list.

**SMF: How would you describe the importance of maritime to someone who is not from the industry?**

**CD:** Maritime transport is, without doubt, the backbone of global trade and of globalization. Most people are unaware that 90 per cent of what we use and consume in our everyday lives is transported by sea. Globalisation as we know it today would not exist without the low cost and efficiency of the maritime industry.