



MAKING WAVES IN MARITIME

Aaron Goh and William Goh were both inspired to pursue their dreams in the maritime industry.

An unforgettable voyage convinced Aaron Goh that a maritime career lay on the horizon. For William Goh, it was the influence of a seafaring relative.

The two, who are not related, have their sights set on promising careers in the diverse and exciting maritime industry.

William, 22, is enrolled in the Singapore Institute of Technology-Newcastle University degree programme for Mechanical Design and Manufacturing Engineering, while Aaron, 24, has graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Maritime Business and Logistics from Plymouth University.

Aaron, a capesize broker at Howe Robinson Partners, began his journey by earning a Diploma in Maritime Business after his O Levels.

"The courses at the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) piqued my interest because they stood out from those at other schools. I also spoke to a former Captain and was impressed by his and other lecturers' passion to impart knowledge to their students."

One unforgettable out-of-classroom learning experience was a six-day training trip – Aaron's first time at sea.

"We were taught how to operate and manage a vessel, forged strong friendships with other students onboard, and had an

enriching experience," says Aaron.

For William, his interest in the industry relates back to a family connection; his grand-uncle was a sailor who recounted countless tales of the sea, sparking his desire to learn what this industry could offer.

"I'm eager to be part of an industry that plays such a significant role in the world economy," he says.

Like Aaron, William was also drawn towards a maritime education after a visit to SP's open house.

"Growing up, I was always curious about how things worked. Visiting SMA's engine room simulator, I was amazed at how so many working parts collectively power such large vessels. It made me want to discover more and hence study Marine Engineering."

Aaron fondly recalls his SMA days, when his favourite module was Ship Operations, which taught practical skills such as seamanship and life-saving.

While he had not envisioned himself as a Ship Broker, Aaron was encouraged by others to explore the commercial aspect of shipping.

"As a ship broker, you're challenged to think on your feet to develop commercial deals in a fast-moving market," he adds.

On the other hand, William thoroughly enjoyed modules involving Workshop Practice.

"The more hands-on lessons, such as taking apart and reassembling an engine, gave me a deeper appreciation of what I had been taught," he shares. "The lecturers were very helpful and inspired us to learn more."

Both Aaron and William agree that Singapore has to adapt to digital transformation in order to remain competitive.

"New technologies, such as blockchain and AI, have made work processes more efficient. It is important that the industry makes a collective effort to embrace this change, and move forward together," says Aaron.

"Technology will help improve how we do things and how safely we work," William adds. "For example, the industry is incorporating drones in ship inspections, to enter hard-to-reach areas that can be hazardous for humans. I hope to one day help programme such drones."

Aaron advises others keen to follow a similar path to "always be open to challenges".

"The maritime industry is a dynamic one. There is always something new to learn. It is also a close-knit industry, where people are more than willing to help one another. If you are looking for a career that is both fulfilling and exciting, don't hesitate to join the maritime industry!"