

**SPEECH BY MR KENNETH CHIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION AT
AT THE MSC MARITIME SUMMIT CASE CHALLENGE (GRAND FINALS),
SATURDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2020, 9.30AM**

Ms Caroline Yang, Chief Executive of Hong Lam Marine Pte Ltd and member of the SMF Board,

Ms Tan Woei Tyng, Director of International Maritime Centre from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore,

Captain Priyadarshan Pandey, General Manager of Global Operations at PACC Offshore Services Holdings,

Mr Ho Vee Leung, Head of Infocomm Technology at PSA Corporation,

Mr Olav Nortun, Group Chief Executive Officer of Thome Group,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good morning and welcome to the Grand Finals of the second run of the MSC Maritime Summit Case Challenge, organised by the MSC Office, a unit under SMF and in partnership with POSH, PSA and Thome Group.
2. Congratulations to the three finalist teams who emerged top out of over 30 teams from the Preliminary Round. The judges were very impressed by the quality of the submissions, which made the judging process a difficult one. However, the finalists differentiated themselves with their thoroughness and creativity of their proposed ideas, going the extra mile to understand

the operations of the maritime industry and how their ideas could be tailored for real-world applications.

3. Although this event was postponed from February due to the ongoing pandemic, we are heartened to see a total of 42 teams participating in the challenge, an increase from 39 teams last year, with participants coming from NUS, NTU, SMU and SIM. Notably, 70% of participants are from non-maritime disciplines, which is great because the maritime industry offers many opportunities for talent with different backgrounds, and I hope you would consider this exciting industry to build your careers in.

Developments in the Maritime Industry

4. COVID-19 highlighted the maritime industry's role in driving global trade, as it continued to transport daily necessities and medical supplies across countries, even as the world came to a standstill. The industry's resilience was also displayed through the acceleration of its digitalisation journey and its continued investment in talent, developing a highly capable workforce to support exciting developments like the upcoming Tuas Port, which would feature automation and new technologies.

MSC Maritime Summit Case Challenge – Grand Finals

5. The final case was thus designed to challenge the three finalist teams, RotterRamp and Maridea Line from NTU, as well as ChihuahuaS! from NUS, to propose ideas on how Maritime Singapore can continue to attract and develop talent post-COVID-19, to maintain our position as the world's top maritime centre. Best of luck to all of you! The judges and I look forward to your presentations.
6. This year's event finale is slightly different – in place of the MSC Maritime Summit Dinner, all finalists will have the exclusive opportunity to engage with senior maritime leaders through company tours and dialogue sessions.

Conclusion

7. In closing, I would like to thank our partners, POSH, PSA, Thome Group, and MPA, for your support in the Case Challenge, despite the obstacles presented by the pandemic. To all students, thank you for your eager participation, which made this event a successful one.