

Press Release

MARITIME INDUSTRY CASTS ITS NETS WIDE TO ATTRACT GRADUATES ACROSS VARIOUS DISCIPLINES FOLLOWING RECENT LAUNCH OF THE SEA TRANSPORT INDUSTRY TRANSFORMATION MAP

*Four New Companies join PSA Corporation and Jurong Port in Partnering the
Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office for its Careers Workshop*

Singapore, 9 March 2018 – Over 140 undergraduates from across all disciplines and working professionals with less than two years of work experience gathered this afternoon at the Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre for the MSC Maritime Careers Workshop. Participants had the rare opportunity to hear from six leading local and international maritime companies about career opportunities in an industry that contributes to 7% of Singapore’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Careers Workshop started by the MSC Office, a unit under the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF), after its engagements with the industry, schools and government agency career centres, revealed a need for more avenues to connect maritime employers with graduates who were potential entry-level jobseekers, in order to support the industry’s talent attraction efforts.

This year, four new maritime companies – **APL, Norden, Wallem Shipmanagement** and **Wilhelmsen Ships Service**, joined **Jurong Port and PSA Corporation Ltd** for this unique event. Participants from both maritime and non-maritime fields closely interacted with six companies through multiple breakout sessions as well as a networking reception. This was a rare opportunity for participants to understand the diverse roles across the port, shipping and maritime services sectors, as well as the qualities that maritime employers looked out for.

Executive Director of SMF, Mr Kenneth Chia said of the MSC Maritime Careers Workshop, **“We’ve noticed an increasing interest in the maritime sector amongst the younger generation and this event presents one of the best platforms to connect graduates across disciplines with leading players in our industry. For the past few years, Singapore has been ranked the top maritime centre of the world in reports conducted by Menon Economics, Xinhua News Agency and the Baltic Exchange. To stay ahead, we will require**

greater focus on attracting the right talent, ideally graduates of diverse backgrounds and a global mindset for this dynamic sector.”

Workshop participants also learnt more about the Government’s blueprint and long-terms plans for the industry, as outlined in the Sea Transport Industry Transformation Map (ITM)¹ launched recently, which aims to grow the sector’s value-add by S\$4.5 billion and create more than 5,000 good jobs by 2025.

In addition, SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG)², the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and the Singapore Maritime Officers’ Union (SMOU) also recently announced the injection of S\$12.6 million into two cadet training programmes as part of efforts to develop the talent pool in the maritime industry by grooming 200 Singaporeans to become deck and marine engineer officers.

Participating Companies

Jurong Port, a leading international multipurpose port operator handling general, bulk and containerised cargo, has been involved in the MSC Maritime Careers Workshop, since the beginning, to engage and spot bright, young minds.

“We provide an environment for the younger generation to constantly challenge themselves to think out of the box. Structured programmes covering leadership, business and technical skills are available to further enhance our staff’s effectiveness in their current and future roles,” said Ms Wendy Teo, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources from Jurong Port.

She continued, **“Fresh graduates can join our Management Associate programme where they will undergo a structured 18-month rotation across key business and support divisions, allowing them to develop into multipurpose port professionals.”**

Seeing that company culture is important in attracting the younger generation, Ms Lynette Lim, HR Manager, Southeast Asia from the new host company for the event this year, Wallem Group said, **“We are proud to have a diverse workforce and take pride in having work-life balance with our flexi-working hours. Employees at Wallem Group are also entrusted to chart their own careers as they have the option to explore opportunities in the different business units like Shipmanagement, Agency and Commercial including an opportunity for cross country exposure.”**

“We encourage young individuals who are keen to explore a career in our vibrant maritime industry to be resilient to changes, resourceful and have

¹ “Sea Transport Industry Transformation Map to Drive Singapore’s Vision to be a Global Maritime Hub for Connectivity, Innovation and Talent” – [press release](#) dated 12 Jan 2018.

² “SkillsFuture Singapore, MPA and Maritime Union to Inject \$12.6 Million in Training Next Generation of Seafarers” - [press release](#) dated 20 Feb 2018.

an inquisitive mindset,” shared Mr Nitin Mathur, Managing Director, Singapore from Wallem Group.

On the reasons for young people to consider a maritime career, Mr Adrian Lau, Regional Human Resources & Organisation Development Director of Wilhelmsen Ships Service, had this to say, **“There is no time like the present to embark on a career in maritime. Many organisations in the sector are consolidating and transforming themselves to meet the growing demands of operations in the business. There is greater emphasis on agility, using analytics, technologies and innovation to move ahead of the game. Young individuals should keep an open mind about their career options and expand horizons through different roles that the companies have to offer and to have an inquisitive mind to be an agent of change.”**

Connecting Students and Jobseekers to Maritime Opportunities

The MSC Maritime Careers Workshop follows on from the Maritime D/coded Tour in January organised by the MSC Office, in partnership with Jurong Port and PSA Corporation, to interest students from diverse fields of study, particularly those from courses relating to business analytics, information security, data science and analytics, and information systems. Demand for expertise in these fields will be on a rise as Singapore embarks on digital transformation with automation in the works for shipping, port and maritime services sectors.

Besides partnering with leading maritime companies to connect with students, the MSC Office also works closely with Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) to further provide students with insights into the Singapore maritime industry. The launch of the MSC website (www.maritimesgconnect.com) in July 2017, also provides students and jobseekers with a one-stop resource for information on all things maritime. Individuals could upload their resumes as an indication of their interest in internships or jobs, and maritime companies in Singapore would use the website to contact interested candidates whenever a suitable role arises.

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ABOUT SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION

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

ABOUT MARITIME SINGAPORE CONNECT OFFICE

The Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office was set up with a \$4 million commitment by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore in 2016 to complement efforts by the Sectoral Tripartite Committee for Transport (Sea) to attract more Singaporeans to join the maritime industry, following feedback from the industry.

The unit under the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) works on various fronts to elevate profiling efforts of the maritime industry, connect students and jobseekers to maritime opportunities, and provide Singaporeans with easy access to maritime careers, education and training opportunities.

As a central node connecting maritime employers, industry associations, schools and government agencies on all things maritime, the MSC Office offers maritime-related education and career guidance, links the industry with schools for internship and job opportunities, and organises outreach events and publicity campaigns.

For details, visit www.maritimesgconnect.com or email us at msc@sgmf.com.sg.

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Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office Factsheet



The Singapore maritime industry is diverse and dynamic and offers multiple pathways to a rewarding and enriching maritime career. However, the challenge lies in reaching out effectively to students and jobseekers when the pool of information resides with different parties depending on the individual's area of interest.

To address this, the Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office was set up in 2016 with a \$4 million commitment from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. The unit under the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) complements efforts by the Sectoral Tripartite Committee for Transport (Sea) to attract more Singaporeans to join the maritime industry, following feedback from the industry.

The MSC Office serves as a central node connecting maritime employers, industry associations, schools and government agencies on all things maritime for students and jobseekers. It leverages on its network of partnerships to elevate profiling efforts of the maritime industry, connect students and jobseekers to maritime opportunities, and provide Singaporeans with easy access to maritime careers, education and training opportunities.

The Maritime Singapore Connect website (www.maritimesgconnect.com), launched in July 2017, is one of the engagement channels by the MSC Office. Students and jobseekers now have a one-stop resource on all things maritime – from education and career options, to the scholarships and management trainee programmes offered by maritime employers in Singapore. They could also upload their resumes to indicate interest in internships and jobs, for maritime companies to contact them when there is a suitable opportunity. The website also has videos and feature stories to help provide a better understanding of the careers and opportunities in the maritime industry.

Access to the resume database is free for maritime companies with a registered account, although the system will not release the individual's resume until his/her consent, to protect the jobseeker's confidentiality. Maritime companies in Singapore could also tap on this new online platform to market internship, job, scholarship and management trainee programmes without cost.

Apart from the website, the MSC Office also works with various partners on maritime-related education and career guidance matters, linking the industry to schools for internship and job opportunities, and organising outreach events and publicity campaigns.

The MSC Office also leverages on its network of partnerships to identify opportunities and areas of need to help maritime companies in Singapore in their manpower profiling and recruitment efforts.

The MSC Office can also be found on the following social media platforms:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MaritimeSingaporeConnect

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/the-maritime-singapore-connect-msc-office

Instagram: www.instagram.com/officemsc/

YouTube: [MSCOffice](https://www.youtube.com/MSCOffice)