



PRESS RELEASE

NEW MARITIME EDUCATION PROVIDER TRAINS ASIAN SEAFARERS FOR SINGAPORE VESSELS

Singapore, 14 February 2008 – Singapore’s maritime industry welcomed the announcement of a new maritime education partner as efforts intensify to stem the increasing shortage of seafaring officers.

Announced at a maritime industry lunar new year celebration hosted by the Singapore Maritime Officers’ Union (SMOU), the new training establishment, Wavelink Maritime International (WMI), will provide maritime training for seafarers working onboard Singapore-flagged vessels.

In his address to industry leaders at the celebrations, SMOU President Capt Robin Foo said that WMI was a contribution to both the maritime community and SMOU members alike in terms of the maritime education and training opportunities offered.

He added that “WMI offered a wide spectrum of more than 45 seafarer training and education programs encompassing the career and development phase, upgrading and enhancement training phase and a career transition training phase that prepared seafarers for a lifelong career.”

Referring to Singapore’s MaritimeOne initiative of raising the profile and attracting quality manpower to the maritime industry, Capt Foo also said that “WMI had been working together with shipping partners, tertiary and vocational institutions to attract and train young Singaporeans for career opportunities in the maritime sector both at sea and ashore.”

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Since its inception, WMI has ventured into training collaborations as an education partner with maritime institutions in China, Myanmar and Vietnam. Its most notable CadetsPlus programme had successfully nurtured a pioneering cohort of young quality seafaring officers from across the region for Singapore-flagged vessels.

The maritime lunar new year celebration was attended by more than 700 elderly folk, union members and industry leaders from the maritime community. Senior citizens at the event also received traditional red packets from the Minister of State for Education and Manpower, Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister of State for Health & NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Mr Heng Chee How, Singapore Shipping Association Chairman, Mr Teo Siong Seng and Singapore Maritime Employers Federation Chairman, Capt Francis Joseph.

The event is one of the many charity initiatives by SMOU & Wavelink to consistently contribute back to the community as part of the union's ongoing care and share program.

About Wavelink Maritime International

Wavelink Maritime International (WMI) Pte Ltd is a premier and professional organization dedicated to providing quality maritime education, training and consultancy services for both the local and international maritime community.

About SMOU

The **Singapore Maritime Officers' Union** (SMOU) was established in 1951 to safeguard the interest and well-being of seafaring officers. The primary role of the organisation is to promote good industrial relations between members and their employers, improve the working conditions of members in the maritime industry through the terms and conditions of collective bargaining agreements negotiated on behalf of members and signed with shipping companies which employ them and to advance the cultural, recreational and educational aspirations of its members.

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About Wavelink

Wavelink Co-operative Ltd (Wavelink) was jointly founded by **Singapore Maritime Officers' Union** (SMOU) and **National Trades Union Congress** (NTUC) on 29 June 2000 in an attempt to venture into new frontiers and business opportunities. The Co-operative aims to promote opportunities for social interaction, cultural appreciation, healthy recreation and leisure activities on an economic co-operation basis, at the same time, create career opportunities for members in the maritime and/or other industries.

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