

Over \$6 Million Invested to Build Singapore's Future Maritime Core

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MEDIA RELEASE

OVER S\$6 MILLION INVESTED TO BUILD SINGAPORE'S FUTURE MARITIME CORE

Over S\$6 million has been invested in building Singapore's future Maritime Core so that more Singaporeans can be offered an invaluable opportunity to pursue good wages in a promising career that offers better jobs, better wages and a better life.

The **Tripartite Nautical Training Award (TNTA)**, a place-and-train program, aims to train young Singaporeans for the Singapore COC Class 3 qualifications issued by MPA, thereby allowing the trainees to pursue a nautical career at sea as nautical deck officers once they have attained their COC Class 3. The program supplements the Diploma programme offered by the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA), and the distinction between both programs offered under the TNTA and by SMA, would be that SMA provides pre-employment training and TNTA is a continuing education and training centre that is opened to those seeking professional conversions into the maritime industry and a stronger emphasis on practical hands-on training through longer sea-time.

Some 13 shipping employers have participated in the program by offering shipboard placements, training allowances and long-term jobs for the successful Singaporeans enrolled under the TNTA program. The 108 Singaporeans under the program are at various stages of training, with the 1st graduates expected to complete their training to be 3rd Officers by end of this year.

An estimated 90 per cent of the world trade is by sea and our daily needs are met by the commodities that are transported by vessels bringing in the goods. With that in mind, the maritime industry remains vital to our daily lives. Moreover, Asian shipowners command around 50 percent of the world's merchant fleet, great potential is present in this region as more international maritime companies establish their regional offices in Singapore to gain better access to fast growing Asian economies.

Said Mr Thomas Tay, General Secretary, Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU), "The maritime industry remains a force to be reckoned with as it contributes to more than 7% of Singapore's GDP. We want to continue to grow this industry so that our nation will continue to grow as well."

Mr Tay continued, "In order to build the future Singapore maritime Core, we are targeting to train 500 cadets per year, pumping another S\$4.3 million into the infrastructure like training simulators. We are definitely going all the way out so that these well paying jobs can go to the Singaporeans."

Today, Singapore is home to more than 5,000 maritime companies employing over 170,000 people. Against such a backdrop, the demand for maritime professionals will only continue to grow exponentially and with the recent Maritime Labour Convention (MLC 2006) coming into effect, the maritime manpower landscape is changing at a rapid rate.

On 6 September 2013, key international maritime industry speakers will congregate in Singapore to discuss more of such pertinent maritime issues that will impact Singapore shores and beyond. The Maritime Manpower Singapore (MMS) 2013 themed "The Dawn of a New Maritime Manpower Landscape", held biennially is graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Acting Minister for Manpower.

MMS 2013 is held at Raffles City Convention Centre (Stamford Ballroom), from 9 am to 6 pm. It features a provocative line-up of 15 speakers, including leaders and professionals from the maritime industry. The Conference will see some 250 participants and also presents a great opportunity to network with local participants as well as delegates from at least 12 countries. This Conference remains pivotal to the sharing of information for the progress of the maritime industry not only in Singapore but beyond our shores.

The other prominent key industry speakers at the conference include Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, Director of International Labour Standards Department, International Labour Office (ILO), the brain child behind Maritime Labour Convention (MLC); Mr Stephen Cotton, Acting General Secretary of International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), a pivotal tripartite partner in MLC; Mr Mark Lim, Deputy Director (Shipping) & Deputy Director of Marine, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, and many others.