

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Raymond Lim, officiates at the annual Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) New Year Cocktail Reception, 6 January 2011 at the Sentosa Pavilion

Over 300 top maritime leaders gathered to usher in the new year and to witness the launch of the Singapore Ship Sale Form (SSF)

Singapore, 6 January 2011 – Over 300 movers and shakers of the maritime community congregated at the annual SMF New Year Cocktail Reception this evening to usher in the New Year.

The high-level networking function also saw the presence of top maritime leaders both from the private and public sectors. Luminaries from the public sector who were present included Ms Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education and Mr Choi Shing Kwok, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport. Maritime leaders including Mr Erik Borgen, Regional Director & Head of Asia, DnB Nor Bank ASA, Mrs Gina Lee-Wan, Partner, Allen & Gledhill Advocates & Solicitors, Mr Goh Teik Poh, President, South Asia, APL and Mr Kuok Khoon Kuan, Managing Director, Pacific Carriers Ltd were amongst the guests present.

In his address, the Guest-of-Honour, Mr Raymond Lim, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed the maritime community and shared insights about developments in the maritime industry and the overall performance of the sector in 2010.

Minister Lim said, “Compared to one-to-two years before, 2010 was more positive for the maritime industry. Singapore remains the world’s top bunkering port and continues to attract a broad range of maritime players to support our port operations and the diverse needs of ship owners and operators. The Singapore Government is

firmly committed to supporting the growth of the maritime industry together with our industry partners and we have reason to be optimistic for 2011.”

Mr Michael Chia, Chairman, SMF, highlighted some of key initiatives that SMF has undertaken in 2010 to further develop the maritime services sector, including the Singapore Ship Sale Form (SSF), the upcoming *Sea Asia* 2011 show and the MaritimeONE scholarship initiative.

“Strong emphasis was placed to develop the ancillary services sector. One of the milestone projects in 2010 was the development of the Singapore Ship Sale Form (SSF). The launch of the SSF is in response to the Singapore and Asian maritime community’s call for an alternative form. The SSF incorporates the latest regulatory changes and payment procedures and is formulated to address pertinent issues of interest to the shipping community, in particular the Asian shipping community,” said Mr Michael Chia, Chairman of SMF during the launch of the SSF. The official website, www.singforms.com, was launched on 6 January evening.

The Singapore Ship Sale Form was officially launched in the earlier part of the evening. Mr David Chin, Executive Director, SMF, gave a short briefing on the SSF and SMF’s key objectives to spearhead this strategic initiative. Mr Michael Chia officiated the launch with the unveiling of the SSF plaque and a festive congratulatory lion dance performance by students of Greenridge Primary School.

As part of the SSF launch, the signing ceremony of the first-ever ship sale & purchase transaction using the SSF was held, with the SSF form inked between Marco Polo Offshore II (Pte) Ltd, represented by Mr Sean Lee, CEO and Abbeypure Pte Ltd, represented by Pak Darmawan Layanto, Director for the vessel, *SMS Spectrum*.

Mr S.S. Teo, President, Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) said, “The ship sale forms that are currently used were developed many years ago. With the changing times and developments in the maritime scene, the shipping community needs a new and improved ship sale form – one that is up-to-date and formulated to address pertinent issues of interest to our shipping and maritime community. The SSA has been actively involved in the consultation and development stages of this ship sale form. We are delighted that our efforts have paid off. We strongly encourage the shipping community to support the SSF.”

Mr Johnson Sutjipto, Chairman, Indonesian National Shipowners’ Association (INSA), Federation of ASEAN Shipowners’ Associations (FASA) and Asian Shipowners’ Forum (ASF) said, “Today, Asian shipowners control and command about 50% of the world’s merchant fleet and maritime activities and transactions will continue to grow in this region.

The Singapore Ship Sale Form (SSF) spearheaded by the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) is a timely move and is endorsed by FASA and strongly supported by ASF. I would like to urge members of the global maritime community to welcome this form that SMF has painstakingly introduced as a gift to our maritime community.”

Beside the successful launch of the SSF, there is more for SMF to cheer about. Its flagship maritime show, *Sea Asia 2009* won the “Exhibition of the Year” award in the prestigious Singapore Experience Awards organised by Singapore Tourism Board last year.

The iconic maritime show of Singapore, *Sea Asia 2011* will be launched by Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, the Guest-of-Honour on 12 April morning and he will tour the exhibition thereafter. The *Sea Asia* show encapsulates

Singapore maritime community’s concerted efforts to project the voice of Asia and anchor Singapore’s position as a leading international maritime centre in this region.

For the first time, the *Sea Asia* show will be staged at Marina Bay Sands and is expected to set a new record, with a 20% increase in exhibition show size as compared to the 2009 show, with a total of 13,600 square metres. *Sea Asia* 2011 will also be the largest edition yet, aiming to attract over 12,000 participants from around the world to Singapore.

To download the press materials for the Singapore Ship Sale Form (SSF) and the SMF New Year Cocktail Reception, please visit www.singforms.com.

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About the Singapore Maritime Foundation

The Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) is a private sector-led organisation established in 2004 to develop and promote Singapore as an **International Maritime Centre (IMC)**, in partnership with the Government and maritime industry.

The broad objectives of the SMF are:

- To provide a **forum** in the private sector for exchanging, generating and developing ideas and proposals to turn Singapore into an IMC
- To act as the **catalyst** in fostering mutual co-operation among various sectors of the maritime industry
- To serve as the government's **partner** from the private sector in promoting Singapore as an IMC and developing manpower to support the maritime industry