

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 300 maritime leaders and Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, gathered at Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) New Year Cocktail Reception at Sheraton Towers to usher in the new year

SMF welcomed two new members into the SMF Board and thanked two maritime leaders for their contributions to SMF at the high-powered maritime reception.

Singapore, 12 January 2012 – Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Lui Tuck Yew ushered in the new year with over 300 maritime leaders from the private and public sectors at the annual SMF New Year Cocktail Reception held at the Sheraton Towers.

Top maritime leaders, both from the private and public sectors, graced the high-level networking function. They include Mr Choi Shing Kwok, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Transport, Mr Lucien Wong, Chairman of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Mr Kuok Khoon Kuan, Managing Director of Pacific Carriers Ltd and Mrs Gina Lee-Wan, Partner, Allen & Gledhill LLP amongst others.

Mr Michael Chia, Chairman of SMF highlighted in his opening address that Asia will emerge as the new centre of shipping influence when the world economy recovers from its financial woes.

“With the strong tripartite partnership between the government, maritime players and the associations and the stable maritime infrastructure, I am confident that the Singapore maritime community will be able to ride through this challenging period and emerge from the rough waters, stronger than ever,” said Mr Chia.

As part of his address, the Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs highlighted the overall performance of the Singapore maritime sector and port performance in 2011 and urged the Singapore maritime community

to synergise efforts to prepare themselves for the challenging year ahead. Please refer to the transcript of both speeches in the press kit.

SMF was established in 2004 as a private sector-led organisation to work closely with the public and private sector players of the maritime sector to steer Singapore towards its goal to be a leading international maritime centre (IMC) and to attract talents into the sector. The SMF Board comprises prominent leaders from diverse specialisations within the Singapore maritime industry and sets direction for SMF's key initiatives.

As part of the SMF New Year Cocktail Reception this year, SMF held its SMF Board Renewal Ceremony. Mr Lui Tuck Yew witnessed the re-appointment of Mr Michael Chia for his second term (two-year appointment) as Chairman of the SMF Board and the appointment of two new Board Members, Ms Gina Lee-Wan, Partner, Allen & Gledhill LLP, and Mr Henry C. Mytton-Mills, Managing Director, Aries Shipbroking (Asia) Pte Ltd. They will be replacing maritime leaders, Mr Kuok Khoon Kuan, Managing Director, Pacific Carriers Ltd and Mr Christopher Lau, Senior Counsel, Chartered Arbitrator, Christopher Lau SC (Singapore) who have completed their term of services. Mr Michael Chia paid special tribute to both outgoing Board Members and thanked them for their exemplary contributions to SMF. Together with the Guest-of-Honour, the newly appointed SMF Board and key government representatives gave a toast onstage to usher in the new year.

In 2011, SMF spearheaded several milestone projects to anchor Singapore's standing as a leading IMC. The third edition of SMF's flagship event, a three-day mega maritime conference and exhibition, *Sea Asia 2011*, jointly co-organised with Seatrade, was held successfully from 12 to 14 April at the Marina Bay Sands with a record-breaking number of more than 12,000 participants and over 340 exhibiting companies. The next *Sea Asia* show will be held from 9 to 11 April 2013.

In April, SMF launched the inaugural Singapore Maritime Services Guide 2011 as part of the Singapore Maritime Week. A first of its kind, the publication seeks to serve as a useful resource for maritime partners and new entrants to the Singapore maritime sector to gain a better understanding of the wide spectrum of maritime ancillary services available in Singapore. The second issue is scheduled to be printed in 2013.

In response to Singapore and Asian maritime community's call for an alternative viable and up-to-date sale form, SMF launched the Singapore Ship Sale Form (SSF) on 6 January 2011

during the last SMF New Year Cocktail Reception. To date, there are 70 known S&P transactions that have adopted or are currently using the form. SMF is glad to have been informed that two renowned lecturers from University of Southampton's Institute of Maritime Law, Mr Filippo Lorenzon and Mr Charles Debattista, will co-author a 300 to 400 page publication on the SSF to provide practical annotation which carefully examines the use of the form. The publication is scheduled to be published by mid 2012.

From 1 November 2011, SMF has given the exclusive rights to distribute the editable version of the SSF to Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF) for two years. ASF has since partnered and licensed leading maritime software and tools development and consultancy company, SD Software Developers Ltd (SDSD) to incorporate a digital editable version of the form through the Charter Party Editor programme on <http://www.charterpartyeditor.com/>.

Nurturing talents for the maritime workforce continues to be a core role of SMF. In 2011, as the MaritimeONE Secretariat, SMF gave out a record number of 34 MaritimeONE scholarships, valued at approximately one million dollars. These scholarships are funded by sponsoring maritime companies and administered by SMF. This is a giant leap forward compared to three scholarships given out in the inaugural award ceremony in 2007, 13 in 2008, 17 in 2009 and 21 in 2010.

In 2012, SMF will continue to work with strategic partners to formulate new initiatives in order to raise the profile of the maritime sector, attract talents and to propel Singapore maritime sector forward.

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About the Singapore Maritime Foundation www.smf.com.sg

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 players.

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