

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 300 maritime leaders joined the Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport, at the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) New Year Cocktail Reception 2013 at Regent Singapore to usher in the new year
Despite the challenging economic environment of 2012, the local maritime community still have much to cheer with the country's growing prominence as a key node of the global maritime network.

Singapore, 10 January 2013 – Minister for Transport, Mr Lui Tuck Yew ushered in the new year with over 300 maritime leaders from the private and public sectors, as the Guest-of-Honour, at the annual New Year Cocktail Reception organised by the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF).

Held at Regent Singapore, the high-level networking function saw the congregation of many movers and shakers of the maritime community across the diverse spectrum of the maritime specialisations. Luminary from the public sector who was present included Mr Pang Kin Keong, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport. Prominent maritime leaders from the private sector included Mrs Gina Lee-Wan, Partner, Allen & Gledhill LLP, Mr Henry Mytton-Mills, Managing Director, Aries Shipbroking, Mr K.K. Kuok, Managing Director, Pacific Carriers Ltd, Mr Lucien Wong, Chairman, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Mr S.S. Teo, Managing Director, Pacific International Lines (Pte) Ltd.

As part of his opening address, Mr Michael Chia, Chairman, SMF highlighted some of the milestone achievements of Singapore in 2012 and urged maritime companies to use *Sea Asia*, the mega-maritime event and flagship event of Singapore for their important announcements.

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“*Sea Asia* is the iconic maritime event of Singapore and the flagship event of SMF. We would like to encourage maritime companies to use *Sea Asia* as the key platform to announce their “breaking-news” launches, collaborations or products. In doing so, we hope to project the voice of Asia in a more unified manner,” said Mr Michael Chia, Chairman, SMF. Please refer to the press kit for the transcript of the speech.

In his welcome address, Minister Lui highlighted the overall performance of the Singapore maritime industry and port performance in 2012. He also shared insights about key initiatives to strengthen Maritime Singapore. Please refer to the press kit for the transcript of the speech.

“As we embark on a new year, let us strengthen the tripartite partnership between the Government, the industry and the unions. By working closely together, we will be in a better position to weather the rough seas and further develop Singapore as an International Maritime Centre. On its part, MPA will continue to invest in initiatives to help strengthen the capabilities of maritime companies, so that Maritime Singapore will be well-positioned to seize opportunities when the shipping industry recovers,” said Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport.

Since the inception of SMF in 2004, SMF has been working in sync with the public and private sectors of the maritime community to spearhead new initiatives to propel Singapore towards its vision to be an international maritime centre and attract talents to pursue maritime education and maritime careers. Some of its flagship initiatives include the iconic maritime show, *Sea Asia 2013* and the launch of the *Singapore Ship Sale Form* amongst others.

2013 looks set to be a busy year ahead for SMF. The fourth edition of the *Sea Asia* show will take place at Marina Bay Sands (MBS) from 9 to 11 April 2013. Organised by SMF and Seatrade, the three-day event seeks to attract more than 14, 000 maritime leaders and participants to Singapore to discuss pertinent maritime issues and project the voice of Asia in a more unified manner. The Opening Ceremony of *Sea Asia 2013* will be graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance.

The second edition of the *Singapore Maritime Services Guide* will also be launched during the Singapore Maritime Week. The publication seeks to showcase the diversity of maritime ancillary services in Singapore through a listing of maritime companies across various specialisations ranging from Bunkering, Law & Arbitration, Finance, and Classification

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Societies to Shipbrokers, Ship Surveying, Marine & Offshore Engineering amongst others. Other key initiatives in 2013 include the MaritimeONE scholarship programme, the inaugural Maritime Tour which seeks to allow maritime professionals to gain a better appreciation of Singapore's rich maritime history and heritage, the collaboration with renowned Singaporean playwright, Mr Haresh Sharma of The Necessary Stage to stage the first-ever maritime skit for secondary school students. Please refer to Appendix A for details of the SMF Key Initiatives in 2013.

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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 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

For details, please visit www.smf.com.sg