

Sea of Opportunities in the Maritime Industry

Amanda Lee and Tan Hwee Lin debunk the myth that working in the maritime industry means working on a ship. **By Denise Chen**

“It’s so much more than getting a container from Point A to Point B,” enthuses Amanda Lee, a first-year undergraduate in Nanyang Technological University, currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Maritime Studies with a Business Major.

Indeed, a quick search on the Singapore Maritime Foundation’s (SMF) website reveals that the industry is divided into three broad areas – Shorebased Maritime Services (providing round-the-clock support to shipping and port sectors), Seafaring (working on the deck or engine of the ship), and Offshore & Marine Engineering (rig-building and ship repair).

While still keeping her options open, the “K” Line-MaritimeONE scholar is inclined towards logistics or ship chartering services as future career options. To explain the terminology foreign to laymen, she elaborates. “Ship chartering means you’re involved with the hiring of ships. You’re the middleman between shipowners and potential ship buyers. You will liaise with shipbrokers or shipowners to charter ships to deliver your cargo on time and in the most cost-effective manner.”

On the other hand, Tan Hwee Lin’s expertise lies in seafaring. The 31-year-old is currently furthering his studies at Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA), Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and The Netherlands Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz (MIWB). After attaining his Diploma in Nautical Studies at SMA, he worked his way up from a trainee to a navigating officer of a large sea vessel.

Despite having much experience under his belt, the SMA-MaritimeONE scholar still aims to push himself further. “The MaritimeONE scholarship programme has enabled me to attain higher education, which I previously never dreamt of. I would love to continue studying and eventually attain a master’s degree.”

SMF works closely with maritime organisations in the private and public sectors to promote Singapore as an international maritime centre, and offers maritime scholarships to young talents seeking a career in the maritime industry.

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