

# A Maritime Nexus

Networking sessions often provide the platforms for communication, building relationships and exchanging knowledge. Work or business need not necessarily be discussed at these (formal or informal) sessions. Most of the time, you would find attendees with their hair let down, enjoying their drinks and building contacts. And this is exactly what we noticed when we attended a networking event from the maritime industry.

The Maritime Nexus event which saw a crowd of over 150 attendees was a fruitful collaboration of young maritime professionals from MaritimeOne, the joint branch of RINA and IMarEST(Singapore) and BIMCO39.

Keeping in mind their target attendees, the event was coordinated in a standing cocktail format at Crazy Elephant in Clark Quay. The drinks were of a variety, finger food was at fingertips and everyone seemed to be enjoying mingling, catching up with their old mates, making new ones and having their pictures snapped alongside the beautiful Singapore River.

The event was graced by, Mr. S.S Teo, Chairman of MaritimeONE Steering Committee, Singapore Maritime Foundation and President of the Singapore Shipping Association. He greeted the crowd with a speech that highlighted the success of the Maritime Industry and how the maritime workforce has grown by 12 percent. He also encouraged and expressed his hope that everyone would meet each other to share insights and develop new collaborations across the maritime industry.

Though the event had professionals representing different organizations of the maritime industry, the environment seemed like that of one huge happy family.

Some of the attendees shared their thoughts on this initiative.

Mr Cheng, a corporate executive from Pacific International Lines said, "After a hard day's work, I always appreciate relaxing and enjoying good drink at such networking events. I also look forward to getting to know more people from the industry. This is my third time at such an event and I see some familiar faces."

Mr Cheng added that he is very content with his job and his advice to those keen to take a dive in the maritime industry, "Look at the long-term and don't let the fluctuations hamper your decision. Shipping will go a long way."

Mr Lee, an Engineering Officer from the Navy said, "Such networking sessions provides a carefree environment, to relax and open up to each other." His thoughts on the industry, "I want to be transparent to the younger people that the marine industry is not some dirty and low job, but it's very diversified and challenging."

Many of these young maritime professionals shared the same sentiments that such informal networking sessions were useful and enjoyable, a good mix of work and pleasure. There was a blend of local and overseas working professionals, recent graduates and students sharing insights and widening their network. This event targeted at the young maritime professionals from a diversified industry proved to be a hit and many are looking forward to more of such get-togethers.

<http://www.maritimecareers.com.sg>

