

Studying in Oslo, Norway

Life as an undergraduate in Norway was an interesting experience for the first-time traveller, Cai Rui. The lecturers in school were maritime industry veterans who possessed a wealth of knowledge and experience. He also visited renowned Norwegian shipping companies as part of his course to learn about their history and their latest developments. Cai Rui was exposed to a whole new world of new experiences at school and at play.

Cai Rui affirms that the overseas stint and the maritime knowledge and experience he has gained is invaluable. "Norway has a strong and modern fleet. I am grateful that I have been given the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the global maritime scene. The lessons learnt from the maritime experts and the hands-on experience has definitely made me even more interested about the maritime industry back home."

Joining the maritime industry

Cai Rui took his first baby step into real shipping industry in Singapore during his attachment programme in the second year of his undergraduate studies, in a maritime company that specialises in oil refinery and oil tank services. "I was exposed to a different side of the maritime industry. I followed my mentor to the clients' vessels to conduct on-site surveys and it was truly a great learning experience," he said.

The Singapore maritime industry is one that comprises diverse sectors and is home to many maritime professionals from different parts of the world. Yet, the Singapore maritime community remains closely knit, thanks to the close partnership between the commercial players and the government.

As a scholar of the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF), Cai Rui gets to attend networking functions that seeks to allow maritime students to interact with maritime professionals. Through them, he learned more about the dynamics of the fast-paced and the ever-changing maritime industry, the challenges they face at work and the latest updates and developments.

Some say the maritime industry is an unsinkable industry. And it is indeed. This Singapore maritime industry has earned many international accolades and has established its reputation as one of the world's leading international maritime centres.

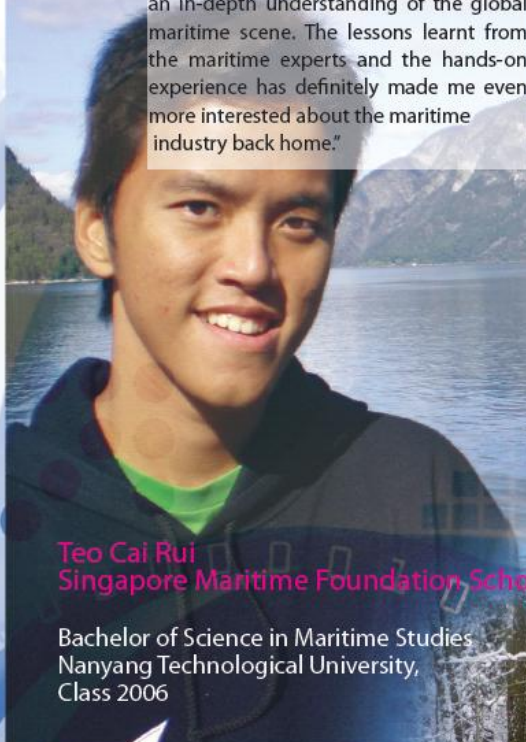
The recession may have dented its growth but it is set to soar greater heights when the world economy recovers.

Cai Rui is raring to join the dynamic maritime workforce in a few years' time. "It has always been my dream to join the maritime industry and I'm glad that I'm steering in the right direction, made possible by the scholarship given to me by the Singapore Maritime Foundation and their initiatives," he said.

Casting a wide network

Cai Rui's word of advice to fellow youth - The success of your future career will eventually come if you constantly build and maintain a wide network of contacts. Enter any career with an open mind. Grab hold of every opportunity that comes along and keep your options open."

A whole sea of exciting career opportunities await. To get a glimpse of the Singapore maritime industry, check out www.maritimecareers.com.sg



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Steering ahead in pursuit of the maritime dream

At 24, Cai Rui has travelled to the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom. Thanks to his overseas Industrial Immersion programme which gave him the opportunity to explore these foreign countries when he was studying in Norway. During his third year as a student in Maritime Studies in NTU, he spent one semester in Oslo in the Norwegian School of Management (BI), Norway.