

**SPEECH BY MR SS TEO,
CHAIRMAN OF MARITIMEONE STEERING COMMITTEE,
A MARITIME NEXUS – FOR YOUNG MARITIME PROFESSIONALS,
ORGANISED BY THE MARITIMEONE, BIMCO39, JOINT BRANCH OF THE RINA IMAREST
14TH OCTOBER 2008, 6.45PM AT CRAZY ELEPHANT, CLARKE QUAY**

Mr Torben C. Skaanild, Secretary General of BIMCO

Dr Arun Dev, Chairman of the Joint Branch of RINA and IMarREST (Singapore)

Brigadier-General Tay Lim Heng, Chief Executive, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening.

1. Welcome to the Networking Session for young maritime professionals jointly organized by the MaritimeONE, BIMCO39 and IMarEST. I am happy to see so many young faces here this evening.
2. This is the first time that the three organizers have come together to organise a networking event for young maritime professionals like you. Through this networking session, we hope you will be able to meet other young maritime professionals in this diverse industry, share insights and foster new collaborations across the maritime industry.
3. The maritime industry of Singapore has won many awards over the years, for its excellent ports and ancillary services. And all these would not have been possible without a diverse team of dedicated and hardworking maritime professionals working in their respective fields of specialisations, making sure that maritime operations run like clockwork.
4. The maritime industry is a very important component of the Singapore economy, contributing to about seven per cent direct value add to Singapore's GDP and provides jobs for some 108,000 workers.
5. Over the last year, the maritime workforce grew by an impressive 12 percent. Our maritime industry is an exciting and vibrant industry and we are always on the lookout for new talents to join the maritime workforce to help steer the Singapore maritime industry to greater heights.

6. Unlike some industries that adopt the hire-and-fire practice, the maritime industry is relatively stable. Many of the maritime professionals have often made their maritime profession their lifelong career. I've been in the maritime industry for nearly 30 years and I can assure you that the maritime industry has indeed a lot to offer, both in terms of career advancement and personal fulfillment, if you possess the right attitude to learn and the passion to succeed.
7. The Singapore maritime industry is booming and there are endless opportunities for you to seize. I would strongly encourage young maritime people like you to participate in these networking sessions organised by the Singapore Maritime Foundation and its other partners to expand your professional horizons and extend your maritime network of contacts.
8. Lastly, on behalf of all the organizers, MaritimeONE, BIMCO39 and IMarEST, we hope that you will have a fruitful and enjoyable networking session.

Have a pleasant evening.

Thank you