

**SPEECH BY THE MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF
SINGAPORE CHAIRMAN, MR LUCIEN WONG AT THE MPA AND
MARITIMEONE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY ON 3
AUGUST 2009, 6:00PM AT THE GALLERY THEATRE @
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE**

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1 Welcome to this evening's combined MPA and MaritimeONE Scholarship Award Ceremony, and I am indeed glad to be here with all of you. This is the second time that MPA is collaborating with MaritimeONE to orchestrate the scholarship ceremony. For those of you who do not know what MaritimeONE is about, MaritimeONE, or **Maritime Outreach Network**, was launched in April 2007 with MPA's 3 important partners – the Association of Singapore Marine Industries, the Singapore Maritime Foundation and the Singapore Shipping Association – to enhance MPA's efforts in developing maritime manpower, with MaritimeONE serving as a key platform for maritime stakeholders to collectively raise awareness of the maritime industry and attract quality manpower into the industry. This evening's event is a reflection of the close synergy between MPA and the maritime players to groom talents for the Singapore maritime industry to achieve our vision to be a premier international centre of maritime business.

2 I would like to first congratulate the 7 MPA scholars and 17 MaritimeONE scholars who have been awarded scholarships to read degree programmes at renowned overseas and local universities. Next, I extend my congratulations to

the 2 students who have been awarded sponsorships to attend the Diploma in Maritime Transportation and Management Course, and the Diploma in Marine Engineering Course at the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA). I would also like to congratulate the 2 SAIL and 12 TMSS scholars who have been awarded scholarships to attend the Diploma in Nautical Studies Course and the Diploma in Marine Engineering Course at the SMA. Upon completing these 2 courses they will have to acquire further sea service and pass the requisite professional examinations to obtain the Class 1 Deck or Marine Engineer Officer Certificate of Competency (COC) to become a master or chief engineer of an ocean-going ship. The MPA-sponsored student attending the Diploma in Marine Engineering Course will likewise be sponsored till he obtains the Class 1 Marine Engineer Officer COC.

3 Today, the Singapore maritime sector contributes about 7% to Singapore's economy GDP and employs more than 100,000 employees. MPA and the maritime partners have endeavoured to create a pool of well trained and competent maritime personnel in Singapore to fill posts in MPA and other maritime-related organisations in Singapore. Having a pool of highly qualified maritime personnel in Singapore is crucial towards attracting more overseas - related companies and organisations to establish operations in Singapore. A growing pool of maritime firms will inject more vibrancy into the maritime sector and further enhance Singapore's growth as an international maritime centre.

4 Since the inception of MPA in 1996, we have offered 63 scholarships for students to pursue degree programmes as well as 29 sponsorships for students to attend the various diploma and maritime-related degree programmes. Besides developing talents for itself, MPA is also committed to promoting manpower development for the maritime industry. Commencing in 2002, MPA together with the shipping employers and the local seafarer unions, started to provide the TMSS, and subsequently the SAIL scholarships for students to attend the sea-going diploma programmes at the SMA. This is part of our plan to build up the pool of local mariners. To-date, we have given out a total of 91 SAIL and TMSS scholarships. MPA and its partners will continue to work towards attracting and retaining talent among the seafaring scholars. As an example of this endeavour, “Young Seafarers Networking Events” are organised annually to create a support network for our scholars. Last year, two such events involved ex-mariners who shared their seafaring experiences as well as their transitions to shore careers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our industry partners, the shipping employers and the seafarer unions, for their continuing support in both our SAIL and TMSS programmes.

5 As for MaritimeONE, this year, *MaritimeONE* launched two initiatives to bring the maritime industry closer to our youths. In March, *MaritimeONE* collaborated with the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information on a marketing project, [MaritimeONE@Campus](#). This initiative sought to engage students to brainstorm on creative marketing ideas to make maritime careers

more appealing to their peers. We also roped in some students from the Nanyang Polytechnic to design the *MaritimeONE* publicity materials and lanyards. A new maritime supplement, *Making Waves*, was also published to showcase the careers of 10 young maritime professionals, their passions for the industry and their diverse specialisations within the maritime industry.

6 Despite the economic slowdown which has also adversely affected the maritime industry, the maritime community has been very supportive of the activities organised under *MaritimeONE*. I am pleased to note that this year, the Singapore Maritime Foundation was able to obtain 17 *MaritimeONE* scholarships provided by 6 maritime establishments. I would like to thank our maritime players and the SMF for working together in our task to groom talents and offer maritime scholarships during these challenging times.

7 Finally, I am indeed pleased to see many proud parents who are here today to witness their children receiving the scholarship and sponsorship awards. The maritime industry is one of the key pillars of the Singapore economy. I can assure you that your children's future will be promising and there will be ample opportunities for them to develop their careers in the maritime industry. I would like to thank all of you for attending this evening's award presentation ceremony. I trust you will have an enjoyable dinner and a joyous evening.