

Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance

Mr Lui Tuck Yew

Minister for Transport

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to express our sincere thanks to our Guest of Honour for this Opening Ceremony, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance for honouring us by being here this morning.

I would also like, on behalf of Seatrade, to offer a very warm welcome to all participants in Sea Asia 2013, sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, delegates and visitors, coming from Singapore, from across Asia and from around

the world. We expect a record attendance with a truly global footprint at this year's event.

From day one, back in 2007, Sea Asia was designed to provide a platform for the articulation of the Asian Voice in world shipping, a platform commensurate with Asia's position as the centre of gravity of the global maritime industry.

The maritime industry in Asia has weathered the lean times of the last couple of years. We are now witnessing an industry re-inventing itself, rising to the challenges and moving forward in new and creative ways. Engaging new clients and forging strong new business partnerships are action points on everyone's agenda. The strong industry support, from our sponsors and exhibitors, is a testament to the increasing importance of Asia for the international maritime industry.

The markets and economies of Asia are proving more robust and adaptable. They have continued to spearhead the rest of the world's recovery. Intra-Asian economic

activity continues to expand and develop, and Singapore grows in tandem, fast becoming the region's most dynamic and reliable maritime hub.

Asia is taking its rightful place as a leading contributor to the debate on international shipping matters. In line with this, the conference will feature over 50 industry leaders and practitioners coming together to engage the delegates in thought-provoking issues.

In addition, we have a new and exciting session – the Sea Asia Global Forum, featuring the Minister of Transport of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr Jubara Al Sureisry, as well as industry leaders representing the International Chamber of Shipping, Panama Canal Authority and DP World

But Sea Asia is also a major exhibition of the best and brightest in innovative products and services for the maritime industry. This year's exhibition almost doubled since the inaugural event in 2007, and increased by 16.5% since 2011, with 36 countries represented on the exhibition floor and a total of 16,954 square meters of gross

exhibition space.

We also have, for the first time, a whole day dedicated to one of the most buoyant sectors – Offshore Marine, in recognition of its growing impact on the maritime industry.

We believe that Singapore is the natural home for Sea Asia, with its remarkable record of success across the spectrum of maritime activity and a thriving shipping community that benefits from the business friendly environment which your Government has established.

I would like to record our appreciation for the excellent cooperation in the development of Sea Asia with Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, and our co-organisers, Singapore Maritime Foundation, with whom we have forged a strong working relationship.

This award-winning event, which takes its place as part of Singapore Maritime Week, is now one of the leading maritime events in Asia and the world.

Our thanks to all who have supported it, the sponsors as well as the exhibitors, chairmen, speakers, delegates and visitors. I would also like to recognise the contribution of the International Advisory Panel and to the members of the organising committees for their hard work.

Seatrade remains fully committed to supporting the maritime sector in Asia.

Please take full advantage of all that Sea Asia has to offer in the days ahead.

Thank you