

**SPEECH BY MR MICHAEL CHIA,  
CHAIRMAN OF MARITIMEONE AND SINGAPORE MARITIME  
FOUNDATION, AT THE JOINT EVENT OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> MARITIME  
LEADERS SPEAKER SERIES AND NETWORKONE RECEPTION,  
22 JUNE 2011, 2.30PM AT AMARA HOTEL**

Mr S.S. Teo, President of the Singapore Shipping Association

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon.

1. Welcome to the joint event of the 5<sup>th</sup> Maritime Leaders Speaker Series (otherwise known as 'MLSS' in short) and the NetworkONE Reception. I am happy to see many young people from the various Institutes of Higher Learning and maritime professionals today.
2. The MLSS and the NetworkONE Reception are organised jointly as one of the key programmes of the MaritimeONE initiative. Many of you may be familiar with the activities of MaritimeONE. For those who have not heard of, MaritimeONE, I would like to share some insights on our initiatives.
3. MaritimeONE stands for Maritime Outreach Network. This initiative was incepted in 2007 by four key partners; the Singapore Maritime Foundation, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, and two of the largest maritime associations, the

Singapore Shipping Association and the Association of Singapore Marine Industries. Through MaritimeONE, we seek to raise the profile of maritime education and heighten youth's awareness about the diversity of career opportunities in this sector.

4. Over the years, MaritimeONE has conceptualised numerous activities, from networking events, publicity initiatives to scholarships in a bid to attract and nurture talents to be part of the maritime workforce. The 5<sup>th</sup> MLSS and NetworkONE Reception are amongst the events that we organise annually.
5. I am pleased to introduce three maritime professionals that are here with us today to share their wealth of expertise and knowledge. They are, Capt Rod Short, Executive Secretary of the Association of Maritime Education and Training Institutions in Asia Pacific & Former Head of the Department of Nautical Studies at the Singapore Polytechnic, Mr Kenneth Tan, Bunker Procurement Manager at APL and Mr Chia Yujin, Assistant Marketing Manager of Pacific Radiance Ltd. These three speakers will reveal interesting insights into their areas of specialisations, how they embarked on their maritime journeys and shed light on the job prospects and career advancement opportunities for youth in the maritime sector.
6. In the second half of the programme, as part of the NetworkONE Reception, we have also invited representatives from leading maritime companies to mingle with the participants. This will serve as a good opportunity for students to meet the maritime professionals and expand their social network as well as to gain a better understanding of the different facets of the maritime sector. You will find that the Singapore maritime community is a

closely-knit one where the camaraderie amongst the maritime professionals is strong.

7. The Singapore maritime sector is one of the key pillars of the Singapore economy and the maritime sector is certainly an ideal sector to pursue your lifelong careers. Our ports and shipyards are internationally acclaimed and are amongst the best in the world. We have some of the best technical specialists, from IT experts to engineers of diverse specialisations, such as marine engineers, naval architects and marine surveyors, amongst others to ensure that these operations run like clockwork.
8. However, the maritime sector is not all about ports, shipyards and overalls alone. Our maritime sector also encompasses diverse ancillary services sector offering a suite of maritime services to the maritime community, both in Singapore and overseas. Professionals from bankers, HR practitioners, PR practitioners, business administrators, lawyers, ship charterers and shipbrokers work together in dynamic environments.
9. Today, there are 5,000 maritime companies in Singapore and over 170,000 people in the maritime workforce. Many overseas maritime companies have also established regional offices here. With the rapid growth of Asia as a leading maritime shipping hub, the Singapore maritime industry will continue to expand in breadth and depth and we certainly need young talents like you to join the industry.
10. Through the MLSS and Network Reception, I hope you will take this opportunity to learn more about the maritime sector and the array of career opportunities that this sector can offer you. We hope that this session will help open your mind about maritime

careers and clarify doubts and stereotypical perceptions that you may have of jobs in this industry. We certainly hope to welcome you onboard to be part of the maritime workforce in the near future.

Thank you.

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