

**SPEECH BY MR MICHAEL CHIA, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE  
MARITIME FOUNDATION AT THE SINGAPORE NITE @ NOR-  
SHIPPING, HELD AT HOTEL RADISSON BLU, OLYMPIA BANQUET  
HALL, LEVEL 2  
ON WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE 2013, 7PM**

Mr Lui Tuck Yew  
Minister for Transport

Mr Otto G. Tidemand  
Honorary Consul- General of the Republic of Singapore in Norway

Mr Lam Yi Young  
Chief Executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

Distinguished guests

Fellow Singaporeans and maritime associates in the Norwegian maritime community

1. Good evening and a very warm welcome to the Singapore Nite @ Nor-Shipping. We are honored and privileged to have Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport leading the Singapore delegation at Nor-Shipping 2013 as well as gracing this evening reception as our Guest-of-Honour. Thank you, Minister for joining us at this joyous occasion.
2. This year is the fourth time the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) and organising partner, Association of Singapore Marine Industries (ASMI) are bringing Singapore maritime companies together to fly our flag high in Oslo, Norway. The Singapore Pavilion at Nor-Shipping 2013 seeks to showcase a slice of the maritime services and expertise that Singapore has to offer to the global maritime community.

3. Strategically located at the crossroads of key international shipping routes, Singapore has long enjoyed a maritime tradition anchored in its early history as an entrepot port. A significant player in the global maritime industry, Singapore is home to more than 5, 000 maritime companies which employ over 170, 000 people. With close to 200 Norwegian companies established in Singapore, there is a sizeable Norwegian maritime community in Singapore and we are thankful for your support and contribution to our local maritime scene.
4. With the shipping sphere of influence fast gravitating from the West to the East, Singapore has been steadily raising to prominence as one of the world's leading international maritime centres. In April last year, Menon Business Economics, commissioned by Nor-Shipping and Oslo Maritime Network, ranked Singapore as the leading maritime centre of the world, ahead of other maritime cities.
5. Also, Singapore's reputation for its world-class arbitration institutions, robust legal system and effective arbitration infrastructure enabled her to be chosen to officially represent the Asia region as the seat for maritime arbitration for the new the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) Standard Dispute Resolution Clause 2013. This recognition by an established organisation like BIMCO bears testimony to Singapore's position as a key node of the global maritime network.
6. The accolades that the Singapore maritime industry achieved over the years would not have been possible without the strong tripartite partnership between the government, in particular the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), maritime community and trade associations. This spirit of camaraderie amongst the stakeholders of the Singapore maritime industry allows SMF to synergise efforts with strategic partners to spearhead initiatives that are beneficial to Singapore.
7. Established in 2004, SMF is a private sector-led organisation that works in sync with the public and private sectors of the Singapore maritime industry to develop and promote Singapore as an international maritime centre and to attract and nurture talents for the Singapore maritime industry.

8. Held biennially in April since 2007, Sea Asia, Asia's international mega-maritime conference and exhibition, is SMF's flagship event. Co-organised with Seatrade Communications, the three-day iconic Singapore maritime show congregates CEOs, presidents, decision-makers and maritime professionals from the diverse sectors of the global shipping industry to discuss pertinent maritime issues and to project the Asian voice in a stronger manner. The fourth edition, which took place in April this year, ended on a high note with a total of 13, 167 participants from 68 countries. The next edition of Sea Asia will take place in Singapore from 21 – 23 April 2015.
9. Another milestone initiative by SMF is the Singapore Ship Sale Form (SSF). Endorsed by the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations (FASA) and strongly supported by the Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF), the SSF features clearly defined clauses which are reflective of current ship sale and purchase practices, thereby reducing the number of changes that would need to be made in a standard form, hence saving time and costs for both the seller and buyer.
10. For companies hoping to establish a greater presence in Asia, I would strongly urge you to visit the Singapore Pavilion to discover how Singapore can be your maritime partner. This year, SMF launched the second edition of the Singapore Maritime Services Guide, a useful reference to our global maritime partners who are seeking access to business opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region from Singapore. You can pick up copies of the publication at tonight's event or the Singapore Pavilion.
11. In closing, I would like to thank our sponsors, Keppel Offshore & Marine, MPA, Sembcorp Marine, DNB and Thome Group for their generous sponsorship for tonight's reception. I would also like to thank our Singapore Pavilion exhibitors and supporters, as well as our co-organiser, ASMI for their continuous support. I hope that this evening's reception will open doors to more partnerships between our Singapore maritime community and fellow maritime associates and companies in Norway and the world.
12. Have an enjoyable evening and bon appetit!

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