

**SPEECH BY MR MICHAEL CHIA, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION
AT THE SEA ASIA 2013 LAUNCH PARTY, HELD AT ROOMS 208 & 209, LEVEL 2 AT
SUNTEC SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE
TUESDAY, 24 APRIL 2012, 12.20PM**

Ms Tan Beng Tee

Assistant Chief Executive (Development), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
(MPA)

Mr Chris Hayman, Chairman of Seatrade

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon

Thank you for attending this launch party of *Sea Asia* 2013.

The *Sea Asia* show was first incepted in 2007 as we wanted to have a maritime show of international standing of our own. Then, we envisaged a flagship show for Singapore, one that would bring the global maritime community and exhibitors to Singapore to network, explore new business possibilities and showcase their new maritime innovations, equipment and services.

We felt that through a large-scale maritime show, we would be able to position Singapore as an international maritime centre and showcase our capabilities as a maritime business, offshore engineering and knowledge hub to the global maritime community and project the voice of Asia in a more concerted manner. In the long run, we hope that the *Sea Asia* show can grow to be a reputable show in Asia, in the likes of *Nor-Shipping* to Norway and *Posidonia* to Greece in Europe.

Over the years, the *Sea Asia* show has grown from strength to strength. This upcoming *Sea Asia* show will be the fourth edition. With the uncertainties of the global economy (still) continuing to pose challenges for the maritime sector, we hope that the number of participants and exhibitors for the upcoming show will not be unduly affected.

It is precisely during such trying times that it is critical for maritime leaders to congregate to discuss pertinent maritime issues, exchange views on ways to steer their companies through the trouble waters and how to prepare themselves for the next upturn. *Sea Asia 2013* hopes to provide the platform for such high-level discussions by top maritime leaders that will incite new trends, steer directions and shape the future of the maritime sector, both in Singapore and in the region.

The *Sea Asia* show is jointly organised by SMF and our co-organiser and long-term partner, Seatrade. We are also fortunate to have the support of an International Advisory Panel and the various sub-committees, and I would like to thank their leaders and members for sharing their invaluable expertise as well as their active involvement throughout the planning stage of the shows. I would also like to thank the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) for their strong support all these years. With the *Sea Asia* show as the anchor event of the Singapore Maritime Week in 2013, it will certainly fortify *Sea Asia* as the iconic maritime event of Singapore.

In the coming months, SMF will be working hard with Seatrade to market the *Sea Asia 2013* show and attract more exhibitors and participants to the show. We hope to make *Sea Asia 2013* an even greater success, surpassing the outstanding records of the earlier three editions.

I would like to thank all the sponsors, participating companies and exhibitors for your strong support in making *Sea Asia 2013* possible. I wish all those involved every success and a good year ahead.

Thank you.