

**SPEECH FOR MICHAEL CHIA, CHAIRMAN OF
SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION AT THE
SINGAPORE NITE@NOR-SHIPING HELD AT
HOTEL RADISSON BLU, OLYMPIA BANQUET HALL,
LEVEL 2
AT 6.30PM ON 25 MAY 2011**

Your Excellency Ng Ser Miang, Singapore's Ambassador to Norway

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
shipping community and global maritime community,

Good evening

1. On behalf of the Singapore Maritime Foundation, I would like to
thank you for your presence here in joining us for this evening's
Singapore Nite reception.
2. We are indeed honored that we have two special guests with us
this evening. They are His Excellency Ng Ser Miang,
Singapore's Ambassador to Norway and Mr Otto G. Tidemand,

Honorary Consul-General of the Republic of Singapore in Norway. Thank you, gentlemen, for gracing this joyous occasion.

3. For some of you who have been to the previous *Singapore Nite* receptions at the previous *Nor-Shipping* exhibitions, you may be familiar with the Singapore Maritime Foundation or SMF for short. But for those who are attending this event for the first time, please allow me to just say a few words regarding SMF. SMF is a private sector-led organisation incepted in 2004 to work in tandem with the Singapore government and maritime players to develop and promote Singapore as an International Maritime Centre, and to attract and nurture talents for the Singapore maritime sector.

4. To this end, SMF has been working with the various stakeholders of the Singapore maritime community to pursue initiatives that develop and strengthen the maritime business in Singapore. We are thankful for the support that we have obtained from the sizable Norwegian maritime community that is based in Singapore. I think Norwegian companies do have a history and part to play in the Singapore maritime scene and we welcome more of your presence there. SMF has also been instrumental in promoting scholarships under the *MaritimeONE* scholarship programme which was started in 2007. A total of 54 scholarships valued at over S\$1.6 million have been given out to students to pursue maritime education to date. These scholarships are sponsored by maritime companies and administered by SMF. This year, SMF launched the inaugural Singapore Maritime Services Guide 2011. (We have some copies here for those of you who would like to have a copy).

This publication provides a better understanding of the key players in the Singapore's maritime ancillary services sector and serves as a useful reference to our global maritime partners who are seeking access to business opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region from Singapore.

5. One of the major undertakings of SMF is to jointly organise the bi-annual *Sea Asia* conference and exhibition with Seatrade. Some of you may have had the opportunity to attend the three-day event in Singapore just last month. It was the third edition and proved to be the most successful yet with a total of 12,167 participants. Through *Sea Asia*, we hope to strengthen Singapore's standing as one of the leading international maritime centres in the region. We hope to make *Sea Asia* a must-attend maritime event in Asia just as *Nor-Shipping* is a must-attend maritime event in Europe.
6. This is the fourth time that Singapore is participating in the *Nor-Shipping exhibition* since 2005. *The Singapore Pavilion*, which is co-organised by SMF and Association of Singapore Marine Industries (ASMI), has expanded in size and stands at 276 square metres, the biggest ever since our first *participation* in 2005, with 13 participating companies. Through our participation, we hope to showcase some of the world-class products and services that Singapore has to offer to the global maritime community.
7. The Singapore maritime sector has grown significantly in the last 10 to 15 years. Today, the Singapore maritime scene is a dynamic and bustling one which is home to 5,000 maritime

companies and contributes 7.5 per cent to Singapore's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

8. Maritime activities in Asia have increased considerably and are expected to grow further in the next few years. We welcome maritime partners to visit us at the Singapore Pavilion to find out how Singapore can be your gateway to access business opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region and establish your maritime presence in Singapore.
9. The Singapore Nite would not be complete with the authentic Singaporean cuisine. We have specially flown chefs from Singapore to prepare a sumptuous spread of Singapore dishes. The Singapore brew, Tiger Beer is also available. We hope that these mouth-watering treats will entice you to visit Singapore to discover more of our country and our maritime sector.
10. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, Keppel Offshore & Marine, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, Sembcorp Marine, and DnB NOR for their sponsorship for the *Singapore Nite@Nor-Shipping* reception. We would also like to thank our Singapore Pavilion exhibitors and supporters, as well as our co-organiser, ASMI for their continuous support.
11. Lastly, we 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!

Thank you.

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