

SPEECH BY MR MICHAEL CHIA, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION AT THE CONGRATULATORY RECEPTION FOR THE THIRD COHORT OF GRADUATES OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (MARITIME STUDIES) OF NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, ON 26 JULY 2010, MONDAY, 6.30 PM, INSOMNIA BAR & RESTAURANT @ CHIJIMES

Good evening to all of you.

1. I can see all of your joyous faces and it looks like everyone is having a good time. As such, I shall not take too long to dispense with formalities.
2. Once again, a very good evening to

Prof Soh Chee Kiong, Associate Chairperson (Administration), Civil & Environmental Engineering of NTU
Mr Lam Yi Young, Chief Executive, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
Mr Kenneth Kee, President, Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers Singapore and all you graduands.
3. It is my pleasure to be here with you on this joyous occasion to celebrate your completion of the Bachelor of Science (Maritime Studies) course in Nanyang Technological University. On behalf of Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) and the maritime community, we would like to congratulate you on your graduation and also welcome you to our big maritime community.
4. I understand that this is the third cohort of the Bachelor of Science in Maritime Studies and that there are supposedly 62 graduands. I would like to give special mention to three of the graduands, and they are Yongjie, Terry and Francis, who are our SMF and MaritimeONE scholars. I was also told that Yongjie has graduated with first class honours and is the top student of your class. Unfortunately, he cannot be here with us tonight because he is receiving the prestigious Nanyang President's Graduate Scholarship and will continue his post graduate studies in NTU. I wish him all the best.
5. For those of you who are not associated with the SMF, I would like to use this occasion to share with you some insights about SMF and what we do within the maritime sector. The SMF was formed in 2004 as a private sector-led organisation

to develop and promote Singapore as an international maritime centre. Since then, SMF spearheads various initiatives and partnerships with the government and maritime partners to nurture, attract new talents and also raise the profile of the maritime industry and maritime careers.

6. We have an initiative known as MaritimeONE and it stands for Maritime Outreach Network. There are four partners in this initiative, of which two are the largest associations within the maritime sector. They are Association of Singapore Marine Industries (ASMI), Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and SMF. Working collectively as MaritimeONE, we work with various partners to synergize efforts to raise awareness and attract quality manpower to our industry. These include facilitating scholarships and also organizing networking sessions for maritime professionals to interact with maritime students, like yourself, and joint-student outreach activities.
7. Tonight's event is organized under the MaritimeONE and we hope to start a two-way communication channel between SMF and you so that we can maintain contact and be aware of your progress in your maritime careers from time to time. Also, we hope to use this platform to update you with various maritime seminars and events organised by SMF.
8. I understand that some of you have already started your career in the maritime industry. For those of you who have not and are apprehensive of what work life is like in the maritime sector, I can assure you that you have not chosen wrongly because this is a very exciting sector. As new entrants to this sector, there will be ample room for you to enhance your maritime knowledge and expertise. In addition, there will be opportunities which will allow you to grow professionally.
9. You will also find that the strong spirit of camaraderie amongst the maritime community and the cross-cultural work environment make this sector unique and work very enjoyable. More importantly, this sector is one that is able to reward and remunerate very handsomely. After all, the maritime industry today is one of the key pillars of the Singapore economy, and contributes about seven per cent of Singapore's GDP and employs well over 120,000 people.
10. This sector is set to grow both in breath and magnitude, with the rapidly increasing shipping activities in this region. I have been in this maritime industry for more than 33 years and I must say that there has never been a dull moment. I do hope that it will be the same for you. The vibrancy in this dynamic sector will energize you and keep you going. I am certain that if you possess a positive attitude and a strong passion to work in this sector, you will be able to excel.

11. Once again, on behalf of SMF, I wish all our graduands all the best in your pursuits of your maritime career in the Singapore maritime sector.

Thank you.

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