

**WELCOME REMARKS BY MR DAVID CHIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION AT THE MSC MARITIME
INSIGHTS FORUM HELD AT COMPASS BALLROOM, RAFFLES
MARINA ON FRIDAY, 21 JULY 2017, 11.00AM**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1 Good morning and thank you for joining us today for the MSC Maritime Insights Forum. This is a platform that we started especially for those in education and career guidance roles like yourselves, so that we could share more about the Singapore maritime industry and its diverse opportunities. We hope that this would help you in your work with students and jobseekers, as you guide them in making informed decisions about their education and career pathways. I am happy to see the session grow in attendance from the inaugural run last year, where we received much positive feedback, and I trust that you would likewise benefit from what we have lined up for you today.

2 This year, we are pleased to collaborate with the Guidance Branch of the Ministry of Education, to include all Education and Career Guidance (ECG) counsellors in MOE schools, polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education. We have also invited career counsellors in the universities, and those working with jobseekers in career centres islandwide under the Employment and Employability Institute, or e2i, and Workforce Singapore, WSG.

3 This morning's programme started with a tour of Jurong Port for the career counsellors. As the only multi-purpose port in Singapore, Jurong Port brings in everything from cement, to sugar, and even our MRT carriages. We hope that you have gained insights to the role of shipping, and its importance, through this tour. We find that many are still not aware that ships move 90 per cent of world trade, and that

the maritime industry is a key pillar of our economy, contributing to some 7 per cent of Singapore's Gross Domestic Product, and employing over 170,000 people.

4 In fact, Singapore was named the Leading Maritime Capital of the World this year, for the third consecutive time, in a study conducted with over 250 industry experts across all continents. Singapore is also the world's top transshipment hub, with connections to 600 ports globally. We are also the world's top bunkering port, and we are aiming to be LNG-bunker ready by 2020. To maintain our lead and sustain the growth of Maritime Singapore, we need to attract talent for both seafaring and shorebased roles. The Singapore maritime industry consists of companies in port, shipping, maritime services, and offshore and marine engineering sectors, and we need people of different backgrounds for a variety of roles.

5 To elevate the profiling of the maritime industry and help students and jobseekers find answers to their questions more easily, the Maritime Singapore Connect, or MSC Office, was established last year with a \$4 million commitment from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. Since then, it has embarked on a number of initiatives, including the new MSC website launched two weeks back. Apart from being a one-stop resource for maritime education and careers, individuals can also deposit their resumes on the website to indicate interest in internships and jobs.

6 Before I end, I would like to thank our friends from the industry, who are here today to share their knowledge and personal experiences, as well as our partners in MPA, e2i, WSG and the maritime courses in the schools. Thank you for making time to join us.

7 I wish you a fruitful session and look forward to an engaging discussion later. Thank you.