

**SPEECH BY MR ANDREAS SOHMEN-PAO, CHAIRMAN,  
SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION AT THE MSC MARITIME CAREERS  
WORKSHOP, HELD AT MARINA BAY SANDS EXPO AND  
CONVENTION CENTRE, HELICONIA BALLROOM  
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Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

For those of you interested in an exciting and purposeful career, you're in the right place.

There are a lot of exciting developments in the world around us from self-driving cars to drones to 3D printing. What is even more exciting than working in a narrow sense on a single technology is to consider how all these technologies could be applied within a global industry. How will autonomous propulsion apply to ships? How can drones be used to inspect and deliver things to vessels? How can 3D printing revolutionise the design of machinery and supply of parts to the maritime industry?

And if that is not enough, we are in an industry which is connected with global events in a way that few others are. When Donald Trump talks of launching a trade war, or central banks look at raising interest rates, when China launches its Belt and Road Initiative, or there is unrest in the Middle East, it all has a bearing on our industry. Weather patterns and impact on grain harvests, GDP growth and energy demand, environmental policy, electric vehicles, solar power – this all has relevance for us.

I used to work in banking and then manufacturing, and it was boring by comparison...

I probably don't need to sell you on the industry since most of you are already connected with it or interested in it. Suffice it to say, this is a great industry, full of all imaginable types of career opportunities, from ship chartering and trading to engineering, from maritime law to finance: 170,000 bright individuals helping to make Singapore the number one shipping centre in the world.

Looking forward, what matters is that we develop the right skills and that we connect bright young people like yourselves with companies and job opportunities, which is what Maritime Singapore Connect and today's workshop is all about.

Today, we are pleased to have with us six maritime companies working across the container shipping, dry cargo and tankers, port operations, and ship management sectors, to share about what they do, and the type of employees they are looking out for.

This is your chance to ask as many questions as you wish to find out more from these companies.

The Singapore Maritime Foundation has established the Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office, which can help you discover a rewarding and enriching maritime career through their connections to a large network of maritime companies. The MSC team recently launched a website with a resume depository function so that jobseekers and students can gain easier access to maritime education, training and job opportunities, and has since received 43,000 site visits with over 200 resumes requested to be viewed by maritime employers. You might have also seen them at the career fairs or received their email notifications whenever a new job is posted on the website.

Whether you are here to look for an internship or job, or simply to learn more about the industry, I hope that through this workshop, you will find how global and high-impact this community is, and what fun it is to work in the maritime industry.

To our participating companies here at the workshop – APL, Norden, Jurong Port, PSA, Wallem and Wilhelmsen, I thank you for your time today and look forward to your continued partnership for Maritime Singapore.

Thank you, and I wish you all a great session.