

Frankly Speaking

An exclusive interview with a senior maritime personality on the lighter side of life. Mr Ong Poh Kwee, Chief Operating Officer at Sembcorp Marine Ltd, shares a side of himself which is little known to others.

1) When I was young, I wanted to be...

I did not give serious thought to what I wanted to be when I was young because life was much simpler and relaxed back then. School work was not so stressful, my parents had no expectations and did not put pressure on my studies.

2) Please share one little known aspect of your career or your personal life

After completing my GCE 'O' levels, I'd applied to study Mechanical Engineering as my first choice at the Polytechnic as they offered a more "hands-on" approach. I had a keen interest in the course and my grades were good enough. However, on registration day, it came as a surprise when I found out that I was instead, enrolled in the course for Marine Engineering. Although I had thoughts to change my course of study, I was advised that Marine Engineering had higher entry requirements and was ultimately convinced to stay on.

3) If I wasn't in the maritime industry, I would be....

Although that has not crossed my mind yet, I've asked myself – would I have taken the same path if I had to live my life all over again? My answer is "YES", I would still like to be a Marine Engineer.

4) If you can change one thing in your life, or one trait of yours, what would it be?

If I could change one thing in life, I would have liked to spend more quality time with my children - you do not realize that time passes so quickly until they're all grown up.

5) When I retire...

In the course of my work, I have travelled extensively. More often than not, these trips comprise a quick visit to major cities for meetings or exhibitions. In my retirement, I would like to travel to enjoy nature and



understand the culture of countries, especially in the case of China, where I can relate to their history.

6) What would you say to young people who are thinking of pursuing their careers in the maritime industry?

The maritime industry provides a wide range of opportunities for career development and growth. It is a global industry that requires many areas of expertise from legal, to marketing, and even engineering. Maritime Singapore started with humble beginnings and has become a world class international maritime centre through hard work by our pioneer generation. Now, we will need our next generation to build on existing achievements to take us further.

What's New!

The fourth edition of the Singapore Maritime Services Guide (SMSG) was launched at Sea Asia 2017 during Singapore Maritime Week. The SMSG 2017/2018 showcases the breadth and magnitude of the maritime industry, in particular, the maritime ancillary services such as maritime arbitration, classification societies, ship financing, and bunkering. To obtain copies of the new SMSG 2017/2018, please get in touch with us via email at corpcomms@sgmf.com.sg. This publication is free of charge and can be collected at the SMF office.



Alternatively, you may view the e-book version of the guide at: <http://www.timesdirectories.com/ebook/smsg/2017/>.

NEWSLETTER

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From the Chairman's Desk

It's been an active first half of the year. In April, we were delighted to see a great turnout at our events during the Singapore Maritime Week. Sea Asia 2017, co-organised with Seatrade biennially, reached out to 15,000 participants from 85 countries, with three new national pavilions joining us at our exhibition spaces.

SMF hosted Singapore Nite @ Nor-Shipping in May, and prepared an exciting line-up of Singaporean cuisine for our delegates, bringing together a large group of shipping figures for what has become a key fixture in the Norshipping calendar.

On the local front, we covered much ground with our outreach efforts – from participating in career fairs to organising talks and educational tours at tertiary institutions. Our recent Maritime Knowledge Shipping Session on the topic of China's One Belt One Road initiative also saw overwhelming attendance, indicative of the interest in the region's geopolitical shifts, and how these may impact maritime developments.

We invite you to explore the MSC Website that now incorporates new information on structured pathways and management trainee programmes, and catch our latest maritime videos on nine vocations in the sectors of port, shipping and maritime services.

The support of the industry has been critical to the success of these initiatives. Thank you and we look forward to working even more closely with you in the months to come.

With best wishes,

Andreas Sohlen-Pao
Chairman
Singapore Maritime Foundation

SMF Board

The SMF Board is steered by the Board of Directors, which comprises prominent personalities from the maritime industry. Our Board sets the direction and provides strategic insight into SMF's initiatives and programmes.



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A REVIEW OF 2017, JAN TO JUN 2017

STEERING AHEAD...SMF INITIATIVES



Maritime Knowledge Shipping Session (MKSS) 34, 21 February 2017

SMF and the General Insurance Association of Singapore (GIA) jointly organised the 34th MKSS in February. At the session, Mr Moses Lin, Director of Incisive Law LLC, Mr M.Jagannath, Director of NAU Pte Ltd, Mr Vijay Krishnan, Managing Director of Rystad Energy Asia Pacific, and moderator, Mr Derek Teo, Chief Executive of GIA, extensively discussed the topic of insolvency in shipping.



MSC Outreach at Career Fairs, 7 February – 10 March 2017

To support the job search efforts of this year's graduates, the Maritime Singapore Connect (MSC) Office was involved in various university career fairs during the first quarter of the year. Students appreciated the resume deposit function and other helpful tools in the new MSC website, when looking out for jobs and internship opportunities within the industry.



Maritime Touch Programme, 8 February 2017

The Maritime Touch Programme encompasses a series of maritime talks by SMF's maritime ambassadors at schools to showcase the diversity of the maritime industry. This year's guest lecturer, Mr Lim Woon Cheong Kevin, Sales & Operations Manager, Sembcorp Marine Repairs and Upgrade Pte Ltd, covered the importance of engineering and engaged students with his personal experiences.



Maritime Spotlight Campus Series 2017, 6 & 7 March 2017

Through recent industry engagement activities, the MSC Office identified engineering as a discipline of interest to many maritime employers. This year's Maritime Spotlight Campus Series catered to such industry feedback, and reached out to engineering undergraduates at NTU and NUS. These lunch time talks featured speakers from Jurong Port, Keppel, PSA, Sembcorp Marine and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Singapore (SNAMES).



Sea Asia 2017, 25 – 27 April 2017

Co-organised by Seatrade and SMF, the three-day event was held at Marina Bay Sands and had close to 15,000 participants from 85 countries. The show also saw participation from 448 exhibitors and three new national pavilions. Conference attendees were treated to an exciting line-up of talks, from a Parliamentary Debate, to discussion on the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Sea Asia returns from 9-11 April 2019.



Sea Asia Tour for Career Counsellors, 27 April 2017

The MSC Office invited education and career guidance (ECG) counsellors from local institutions, MOE, e2i, and Workforce Singapore, for the first time, on a guided tour of the Sea Asia Exhibition at Marina Bay Sands. The ECG counsellors appreciated the chance to interact with experienced professionals from global maritime companies, and learnt more about the spectrum of career opportunities available in the industry.



**Liu Yongsheng
Sembcorp Marine — MaritimeONE Scholar
(Awarded in 2014)**

I remember the first time I was exposed to the maritime industry - it was at Singapore Polytechnic's (SP) Open House, and I got to speak with my lecturer from the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA). Back then, building a career in this industry did not cross my mind, but the concept behind the structure of a ship staying afloat in water really fascinated me. That spurred me on to take up a course in Marine Engineering, and marked the start of my passion for ships and a career in maritime.

Through SMF's MaritimeONE Scholarship Programme, I got to learn of the Maritime Experiential Programme (MEP) which brought me on my first visit to the "heart"- the engine room and the "brain" – the bridge of a ship in operation. My knowledge of marine systems expanded through my internship where my supervisor got me to work on ship design. As a student in Newcastle University, it was compulsory for all students from Singapore to travel to the main campus to complete a module on utilizing and viewing the Emerson Cavitation Tunnel and Hydrodynamics Laboratory. This was an eye opening experience, and these moments, collectively, have inspired me to become an even more competent Naval Architect.

Two other memorable experiences include travelling to the world's largest shipyard, Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI), and sailing on an LPG Carrier. It was a fruitful trip where I witnessed shipbuilding operations of one of the top yards in the world, and got acquainted with engineers from Korea, crew from India and Philippines, as well as shipowners and surveyors from the UK. They willingly shared their knowledge and setbacks with me. However, the most exciting incident happened when I was signing off from a ship. Due to bad weather and a failure of a gas trial procedure, I had to delay my return to Singapore and was almost stranded at Yeosu Port Terminal with no means of transport back to the airport.

The maritime industry has always been a vital part of Singapore's economy. As we are presented with future challenges, it is important for us to continue innovating and improving ourselves. To me, being part of a team in creating ships or ocean-going vessels gives me the motivation and satisfaction to keep my passion alive.



Sea Asia Youth Tour and Youth Lego Competition (Panama Canal Edition), 27 April 2017

On the final day of the Sea Asia Show, SMF held the Sea Asia Youth Tour which saw a gathering of over 221 attendees from the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs). In conjunction with this tour, a Youth Lego Competition (Panama Canal Edition) was held as a fun and interactive activity to promote the industry to students. The competition was supported by the Panama Canal Authority.



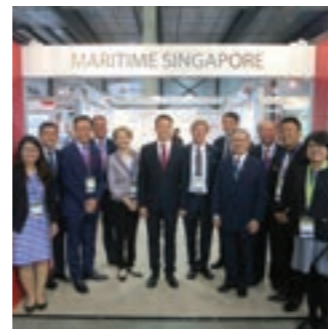
Maritime Experiential Programme, 22, 23 & 25 May 2017

The Maritime Experiential Programme is organised specially for secondary school students and aims to raise awareness of maritime education and careers through interactive learning journeys. Three sessions including educational tours to Singapore's shipyards and port terminals were held earlier this year, and were well attended by over 150 staff and students from various IHLs.



Polytechnic Maritime Exhibition, 22 – 26 May 2017

The Polytechnic Maritime Exhibition aims to inform students at the polytechnic level about the various career, education, and scholarship opportunities within the industry. The exhibition was held at Singapore Polytechnic's Eleven Square, where a maritime talk was also organised to provide students with greater insights to the industry. Apart from a talk, further details relating to MaritimeONE Scholarships and good maritime careers were shared with the students.



Nor-Shipping 2017, 30 May – 2 June 2017

SMF co-organised the Singapore Pavilion with the Association of Singapore Marine Industries (ASMI) at Nor-Shipping 2017 in Oslo, Norway. A highlight of the programme was Singapore Nite @ Nor-Shipping, where SMF played host to over 400 guests and brought to the table, a selection of Singaporean cuisine. The event was also graced by Guest-of-Honour, Dr Lam Pin Min, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Health.



Cinema Advertisement Campaign, 22 June – 19 July 2017

SMF ran a month-long advertisement campaign with Golden Village (GV) cinemas to coincide with the screening of blockbuster movies Transformers: The Last Knight, and Spider-Man: Homecoming. A new maritime profiling video featuring careers that are critical for the maritime manpower pipeline was screened as a commercial at theatres island-wide. Such outreach efforts aim to inform youths about the potential of the maritime industry.



Maritime Knowledge Shipping Session 35, 29 June 2017

The 35th MKSS examined the topic of China's One Belt One Road initiative and saw an overwhelming attendance of maritime professionals. The panel of speakers comprised of Mr Asad Ali, Senior Analyst Asia-Pacific of IHS Markit Country Risk, Mr Ton van den Bosch, Energy, Shipping Counsel, Singapore of Ince & Co, and moderator, Mr Rama Chandran, Head of Marine, Singapore, QBE Singapore.