

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR WONG WENG SUN,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND GOVERNING COUNCIL,
SINGAPORE MARITIME INSTITUTE
AT THE SINGAPORE MARITIME INSTITUTE (SMI) FORUM 2017,
TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2017,
NICOLL ROOM,
SUNTEC SINGAPORE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE**

Dr Lam Pin Min, Senior Minister of State for Transport and Health,
Dr Cheong Wei Yang, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the National Research
Foundation (NRF) Singapore,
Singapore Maritime Institute (SMI) Board Members, and Governing Council Members,
Distinguished guests,
Friends, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon and welcome to the SMI Forum 2017.

- 1 I am delighted to see this gathering of leaders and professionals from the industry, agencies and academia once again at the annual SMI Forum.

Singapore as a Global Maritime Knowledge and Innovation Hub through R&D

- 2 In close collaboration with the industry and institutes of higher learning or IHLs, the mission of SMI is to enhance Singapore's position as a global maritime knowledge and innovation hub through world-class R&D.
- 3 This is achieved through three strategic thrusts. These are firstly to deepen capabilities and expertise within the research community; secondly to develop a strong maritime innovation ecosystem for faster innovation cycles; and thirdly to build up a sustainable pool of quality research talent for maritime industry development and transformation in Singapore.

Establishing Maritime Research Centres of Excellence

- 4 To enable Maritime Singapore to build up peaks of research excellence in identified niche areas under the three strategic thrusts, SMI will be supporting the establishment of maritime research Centres of Excellence within the IHLs, in three strategic research areas. These strategic research areas are Next Generation Ports; Maritime Energy and Sustainable Development; and Maritime Safety.
- 5 I am therefore pleased to announce that SMI will be supporting the establishment of the Maritime Energy and Sustainable Development Centre of Excellence, or MESD in short, in the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

- 6 MESD's vision is to become a global leading applied research centre with a focus on three R&D areas, namely Energy Management; Emission Management; and Sustainable Maritime Operations for future ports and shipping. Beyond advancing research to enhance industry and enterprise values, MESD will also develop a long-term pool of quality maritime researchers in Singapore.
- 7 The support for MESD's research activities for the initial five-year period is S\$15 million with SMI providing funding of up to S\$10 million and NTU together with industry partners would contribute S\$5 million. SMI is pleased to formalise the establishment of the MESD with NTU later at this Forum.
- 8 While the Centres of Excellence focusing on Next Generation Ports and Maritime Safety are under planning and review, I strongly encourage the maritime industry to work closely with these centres on research and innovation projects to create greater impact and contributions to Maritime Singapore.

Fostering Closer Research and Innovation Development Collaboration

- 9 There will also be two additional signings of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) later today, reflecting the strong commitment and collaboration between the industry, academia and government agency in maritime research and innovation development within Maritime Singapore.
- 10 Following the establishment of the MESD, NTU has further bolstered its research collaboration with the maritime industry by signing a MoU with multi-purpose port operator, Jurong Port. NTU and Jurong Port will jointly pursue and promote R&D in areas of mutual interest including Multi-Energy Systems, Alternative Energy Source Applications and Environmental Monitoring Solutions.
- 11 This joint NTU-Jurong Port collaboration will be an integral component of the Jurong Port Living Labs Programme that seeks collaboration with partners to develop and test solutions in areas including Multi-Purpose Port Productivity, Internet of Things, Data & Visual Analytics, and Safety & Security.
- 12 Together with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), research community and other stakeholders, the Jurong Port Living Labs Programme will contribute towards a stronger maritime innovation ecosystem in Singapore.
- 13 In the same context, I am also pleased to share that Shell Eastern Trading and MPA will be signing a MoU for co-operation to promote research and innovation in areas such as Clean Fuel Technology, Remote/Autonomous Technology and Digitalisation.

Top Projects of SMI Research Showcase April 2017

- 14 To recognise research excellence and create more awareness of maritime R&D, SMI has organised four Research Showcases so far and featured over 30 SMI-funded research projects with high potential impact to the industry. Research Showcase 2017 was held during Singapore Maritime Week this year. The principal investigators of the Top Projects of the SMI Research Showcase 2017 will be receiving their awards later this afternoon.

Establishing a Strong Maritime Innovation Ecosystem

- 15 While these new research and innovation development collaborations to be formalised today, together with the on-going research collaborations will contribute to developing a maritime innovation ecosystem in Singapore, more can be done to grow the maritime innovation ecosystem into a vibrant and strong one.
- 16 I hope that the theme of the SMI Forum 2017 of “Establishing a Strong Maritime Innovation Ecosystem” will lead to useful discussions and more in-depth collaborations. Hence, I am looking forward to the keynote address by Dr Cheong Wei Yang, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of NRF for his insights towards establishing an innovation ecosystem to transform Singapore into a knowledge-based nation with strong capabilities in research and technology.
- 17 We are honoured to have:
 - a. Dr Erik W. Jakobsen, Managing Partner of Menon Economics
 - b. Mr David Tan, Chief Technology Officer of ST Electronics;
 - c. Mr Kenneth Lim, Chief Technology Officer of MPA;
 - d. Mr Srinivas Tati, Vice President, Sales & Marketing and Global Business Development of Kongsberg Maritime;
 - e. Ms Stuti Nautiyal, Managing Director of SimPlus; and
 - f. Mr Alvin Foo, Vice President (ST2 Engineering) of PSA Corporation

sharing their perspectives in a Panel Discussion on Establishing a Strong Maritime Innovation Ecosystem. I would also like to thank Professor Annie Koh Vice President of the Singapore Management University for chairing and moderating the Panel Discussion.

Conclusion

- 18 I thank all distinguished panellists in advance for your valuable time and contributions.

- 19 I will also take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our Guest-of-Honour Dr Lam for gracing SMI Forum 2017, and to SMI Board and Governing Council Members for their continuous support and contributions towards SMI.
- 20 Thank you all for joining us today and I wish all of you a good and productive event ahead.