

SPEECH BY ESP FOLLOWING SSA COUNCIL ELECTIONS 30/6/2015

GOOD EVENING MY FELLOW SSA MEMBERS,

Introduce the whole Council:

I am very honoured and humbled to be elected President of this active and vibrant organisation, now comprising some 470 member companies. As Singapore turns 50, our Association turns 30 this year. As you all know, our immediate past President Patrick Phoon has always placed great emphasis on youth and I suppose that is why I have been elected to this post !!!

I would firstly like to pay a heartfelt tribute to the many members who have served tirelessly on the Council and standing committees of the SSA over the years, and in particular to my predecessor Mr. Patrick Phoon.

He has served on the Council for no less than 24 years, the last 4 as President. His boundless energy, incredible enthusiasm and sheer passion for our industry is there for all to see and stepping into his shoes will be a big challenge for me – albeit he leaves the Association in fine shape, and ready for the many challenges ahead. It is thus almost impossible to exaggerate his massive contribution to the SSA over so many Years ---- and may I therefore ask you to give him a rousing round of applause for all his fantastic work on behalf of the SSA.

I hope during my tenure to justify the faith the Council and membership has placed in me, and I look forward to helping represent our members' interests to the very best of my ability, and to continue our constructive and close relations with the MPA, the SMF and other industry partners in Singapore and overseas ... in promoting and maintaining and enhancing Singapore's position as a leading IMC.

I believe our hard working Secretariat, ably led by Executive Director Michael Phoon, stands ready to help drive current initiatives forward, and to implement new initiatives to be introduced by the Council. In this respect, the Singapore War Risk Pool Work Group and the Ship Finance Work Group,

Chaired by Tan Chin Hee and Lee Keng Mun respectively remains work in progress.

The newly elected Council will be looking at an array of issues we aim to address going forward, and amongst these, three have been identified initially:-

- 1) To play an active role and make a significant and meaningful contribution to the recently established tri-partite Manpower Development group initiative, led by the MPA. I expect to be able to report on this in more detail in September.
- 2) To support and promote the development of a Singapore Clause as an integral part of the Singapore War Risk Mutual and
- 3) To develop the next generation of leaders – part and parcel of the ongoing efforts being made by ourselves and our industry partner friends in attracting young talent to our industry.

When I attend meetings, conferences and related maritime events overseas, I always sense that Maritime Singapore is not only well respected, but is listened to. Being 'at the table' is important and our efforts in this regard have borne fruit. Concurrently, I find that the SSA enjoys a reputation of which I think we can all be proud. But an association is only as good as it's members and so I really hope that as many of you as possible will continue to support the SSA through Committee work, education and other activities, further bolstering our standing as a top National Association in the world of shipping - and that if any of you have ideas as to how we can improve as an organisation, please do come forward and tell us. There is no organisation on this earth that cannot be improved, and it is the responsibility of myself and your newly elected Council to do what we can, as custodians, to take this wonderful organisation to the next level.

Thank you for your kind attention.