



**SPEECH BY MR. ESBEN POULSSON
PRESIDENT OF THE
SINGAPORE SHIPPING ASSOCIATION
AT THE SSA YEAR-END COCKTAIL RECEPTION
ORIENTAL BALLROOM, MANDARIN ORIENTAL SINGAPORE
3RD DECEMBER 2015, 7.00 P.M.**

Distinguished Guests,
Fellow Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen

- 1 Good evening and a very warm welcome to SSA's Year-End Cocktail Reception. With the fantastic turnout tonight, thank you all for taking the time to join us this evening.
- 2 First and foremost, I would like to express my appreciation to all our members for your generous sponsorships, invaluable support and active participation at our association's meetings and events during the past year.

Pro-Enterprise Ranking Survey

- 3 Next, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) on topping the Pro-Enterprise Ranking Survey for the fourth consecutive year. I understand that this survey recognises the efforts of government agencies in their commitment to stay pro-enterprise to improve the business environment.

- 4 SSA has been actively engaged in workgroups with the MPA this past year, from our usual operational and management meetings, to developing SkillsFuture initiatives for the maritime industry and putting in place the port dues concession measures for Offshore Support Vessels (OSVs). SSA will continue to play an active role to represent our members in discussions with the MPA and other stakeholders to ensure that your views are heard (and I'm sure MPA is hoping that they will be highly ranked again next year!)

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council

- 5 With this, I am proud to note that Singapore was re-elected into the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) last week. This is joyous news as it is the **12th** consecutive 2-year term that Singapore has held a seat on the IMO Council since being first elected in 1993. It also recognises the dedicated effort and hard work which Singapore has put in to promote the IMO's goal of safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans. This is also in conjunction with Singapore being nominated as vice-chair for Committee 1 at the IMO. I understand that Minister Khaw Boon Wan, his team at Ministry of Transport and MPA pulled out all the bells and whistles to lobby for this seat and may we congratulate them on their fruitful efforts.
- 6 On our part, SSA will continue to do its best to help ensure that any regulatory measures developed at IMO are practical and implementable.
- 7 At the top of our to-do list is IMO's Ballast Water Convention. As you may have heard, the Convention will enter into force on 24 November 2016. While this gives shipowners some much-needed certainty, more needs to be done at the IMO to finalise the revision of the G8 Type Approval Guidelines. To this end, SSA will continue to work closely with MPA and other stakeholders to help ensure that our members be assured that the treatment systems they will soon have to install will not become extremely expensive white elephants.

- 8 On reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This week, more than 190 nations have gathered in Paris to discuss a possible new global agreement on climate change. Whilst shipping is already the most efficient mode of transport and a key driver of world trade, as part of our commitment towards clean and green shipping, we will continue in our efforts of improving fuel efficiency and the carbon footprint of our vessels.

Other Updates

- 9 As our industry seeks to attract and nurture young maritime talents, I encourage you to pay a visit to the MaritimeONE scholarship booth, just outside the ballroom to find out more about the scholarships that you can lend your support to. I am pleased to share that we have in our midst this evening - Mr Ong Woei Chian, one of the 4 beneficiaries of SSA's MaritimeONE scholarships awarded in 2014. He graduated from SMU this year and has embarked on his maritime career (with Oldendorff Carriers). The other 3 scholarship recipients are from SMA and are busy studying for their exams now. We wish them the very best.
- 10 To further exemplify our commitment towards this excellent MaritimeONE initiative, I am pleased to announce that the SSA Council has agreed to set aside \$30,000 for three scholarships next year.
- 11 Now let me update you on our association's membership. Tonight, we will welcome **15** new members into our SSA family, bringing our membership to a total of **469** corporate members and **5** individual members.

Conclusion

12 In closing, I would like to thank:

- Our sponsors - Jurong Port Pte Ltd, ClassNK Singapore, Veritas Petroleum Services (Asia) Pte Ltd and Anglo-Eastern Shipmanagement (Singapore) Pte Ltd for their generous sponsorship towards tonight's event;
- Our dedicated SSA course lecturers who are here tonight. They have trained some **623** of our employees this year; and
- All members of the SSA for your continued and unstinting support.

Last but not least, I would also like to thank the Secretariat for the efficient discharge of their duties. Good job team!

13 On this note, and on behalf of my SSA Council members, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone - a joyous festive season, and continued success and prosperity in the coming year.

Thank you.