



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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SG-STAR Fund Taskforce Develops CrewSafe Audit Programme and Attracts more Global Partners

IMEC-ITF Quarantine Project in Manila Declared as CrewSafe

The Singapore Shipping Tripartite Alliance Resilience (SG-STAR) Fund is the first global ground-up tripartite initiative with international partners including the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC) and the International Chamber of Shipping, to work with stakeholders in seafaring nations on concrete solutions for safe crew changes, starting with the Philippines.

2. The SG-STAR Fund is recently joined with support from more international organisations - Global Maritime Forum Maritime Industry Crew Change Taskforce, INTERTANKO, Norwegian Shipowners' Association, and World Shipping Council, as well as seven port authorities from Abu Dhabi, Antwerp, Barcelona, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Sines, and Vancouver.

3. The SG-STAR Fund Taskforce (SFTF), led by the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), with members from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Singapore Maritime Officer's Union and Singapore Organisation of Seamen, has developed a CrewSafe audit programme based on Singapore's crew change model, to establish safe and scalable 'corridors' for crew change. This will help ensure quality checks on quarantine/holding, medical and swabbing facilities in crew-supplying countries. Please refer to [Annex A](#) for more details.

4. The SFTF has appointed auditors to conduct assessments at the recently inaugurated IMEC-ITF safe quarantine processes and facilities in Manila, Philippines, namely St. Giles Hotel and Marriot Hotel, as well as the safe quarantine processes by the Norwegian Shipowners' Association at Marriot Hotel and the AMOSUP Seamen's

Hospital Molecular & PCR Laboratory. SFTF expressed satisfaction that these facilities fulfil the CrewSafe criteria, complying with the following Safe Management Measures, among other requirements. Please refer to [Annex B](#) for the listing of these four facilities.

5. SFTF is looking at further enhancements of the CrewSafe audit programme, which could include the use of electronic tamper-proof smart wearable devices while the crew are in quarantine, as well as secure document processing for onboarding crew.

6. Given the endorsement by the auditors, MPA will streamline application procedures for sign-on crew from these accredited facilities boarding ships in Singapore, in line with the objective of facilitating crew change in a safe and responsible manner.

7. “Singapore takes our responsibility to facilitate safe crew change seriously. We are pleased to work with our global tripartite partners to accelerate the development of practical solutions for crew change amid the pandemic. We are also pleased to have the support of ports from Abu Dhabi, Antwerp, Barcelona, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Sines, and Vancouver, as well as international maritime organisations such as the Global Maritime Forum Maritime Industry Crew Change Taskforce, INTERTANKO, Norwegian Shipowners’ Association, and World Shipping Council to recognise the CrewSafe and other programmes by the SG-STAR Fund as a global initiative to facilitate safe crew change. We look forward to welcoming more like-minded partners to join us in this global alliance,” said Ms Quah Ley Hoon, Chief Executive of MPA.

8. “The SFTF aims to have a gradual global recognition of the CrewSafe process that identifies the safe and secure facilities. Such acknowledgements by national governments and international organisations will ensure greater participation and bring a long-term solution to crew movement across national borders,” said Mr Nitin Mathur, SSA Council Member and Chair of the SFTF.

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About the Singapore Shipping Tripartite Alliance Resilience Fund

The Singapore Shipping Tripartite Alliance Resilience (SG-STAR) Fund is the first global ground-up tripartite initiative to bring like-minded international partners from the industry, unions and government to work with stakeholders in seafaring nations on concrete solutions for safe crew changes, such as initiatives on best practices for crew holding facilities and COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction PCR Testing. It was first established by the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Singapore Maritime Officer’s Union (SMOU) and the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS), and later joined by the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), the International Maritime Employers’ Council (IMEC) and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). The SG-STAR Fund Taskforce, led by SSA with members from SMOU, SOS and MPA will lead various

initiatives to achieve the goals of the SG-STAR Fund. The fund, based in Singapore, will be disbursed for use upstream in seafaring crew nations. We continue to welcome like-minded partners to join us in this global alliance.

About the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) was established on 2 February 1996, with the mission to develop Singapore as a premier global hub port and international maritime centre (IMC), and to advance and safeguard Singapore's strategic maritime interests. MPA is the driving force behind Singapore's port and maritime development, taking on the roles of Port Authority, Port Regulator, Port Planner, IMC Champion, and National Maritime Representative. MPA partners the industry and other agencies to enhance safety, security and environmental protection in our port waters, facilitate port operations and growth, expand the cluster of maritime ancillary services, and promote maritime R&D and manpower development.

About Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)

The Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) represents a wide spectrum of shipping companies and other businesses allied to the shipping industry. It is a national trade association formed in 1985 to serve and promote the interests of its members and to enhance the competitiveness of Singapore as an International Maritime Centre. The SSA is a trusted advisor and partner in the local and international shipping community and collaborates with relevant maritime stakeholders to protect the marine environment as well as promote freedom and safety at sea. Despite being a not-for-profit organisation SSA, on behalf of its members, strives to give back generously to the community through Corporate Social Responsibilities activities. Currently, the SSA represents over 460 member companies; comprising ship owners and operators, ship managers, ship agents and other ancillary companies such as shipbrokers, classification societies, marine insurers, bunker suppliers, maritime lawyers, shipping bankers and technology start-ups amongst others.

About the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU)

The Singapore Maritime Officers' Union was established in 1951 to safeguard the interest and well-being of seafaring officers. The primary role of the organisation is to promote good industrial relations between members and their employers, improve the working conditions of members in the maritime industry through the terms and conditions of collective bargaining agreements negotiated on behalf of members and signed with shipping companies which employ them and to advance the cultural, recreational and educational aspirations of its members.

About the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS)

The Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) is a global maritime trade union commissioned by the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) to promote positive industrial relations between seafarers and their employers, shipping companies. Since 1971, SOS has been representing ratings and helping them receive their dues through Collective Bargaining Agreements with shipping companies. SOS also works actively with tripartite partners to improve the working and living conditions of seafarers and helps members acquire and upgrade skills that meet the demands of the industry.

SOS is affiliated to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the Nautilus Federation.

About the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is a democratic, affiliate-led union federation recognised as the world's leading transport authority. We fight passionately to improve working lives; connecting trade unions from 147 countries to secure rights, equality and justice for their members. We are the voice for nearly 20 million working women and men in the transport industry across the world, including over a million seafarers.

About the International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC)

The International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC) is the only international employers' organisation dedicated to maritime industrial relations. Established over fifty years ago, we operate from offices in Hampshire, UK and Manila in the Philippines and represent over 250 shipping companies located all over the world.

IMEC is run by and exists for the benefit of its members, who enjoy exclusive privileges including the benefits of IBF agreements, access to funds to support the welfare and employment of seafarers and advice and guidance from the dedicated Secretariat team.

IMEC's Recruitment and Training Committee is engaged in career development programs for Officers, Ratings and Cadets. IMEC provides assistance to its members to maintain and upgrade training facilities. Working together with universities and global training providers, IMEC contributes to seafarers' training at all levels.

About the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)

International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) is the principal international trade association for merchant shipowners and operators, representing all sectors and trades and over 80% of the world merchant fleet.

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CrewSafe Audit Programme

The CrewSafe audit programme is similar to a quality system audit, based on the 'Plan-Do-Check-Act' methodology whereby facility operators will need to ensure that the processes and hygiene practices at quarantine/holding and medical/testing facilities shall be held to a standard to afford a certain level of assurance to all stakeholders via:

- i. Enhanced check-in/check-out procedures, baggage management and isolation of the group-check in of seafarers.
- ii. Enhanced house-keeping procedures for laundry, waste-handling, cleaning of rooms and common areas after crew's departure.
- iii. Catering procedures and delivery of meals to seafarers.
- iv. Procedures for the extraction of suspected/infected/confirmed cases in infection from hotel premises.
- v. Procedures for the transfer of seafarers to air/sea port.

List of Accredited Facilities

The accredited facilities in Manila are listed below. Audits will be conducted periodically to ensure these facilities are maintained at the standards required under the CrewSafe audit programme.

- i. ITF/IMEC-Manila Marriott Hotel
2 Resorts Drive, Manila,
1309 Metro Manila, Philippines
- ii. ITF/IMEC-St. Giles Makati Hotel
Makati Avenue, Corner Kalayaan Ave, Makati,
1209 Metro Manila, Philippines
- iii. Norwegian Shipowners' Association (NSA) / Norwegian Training Centre (NTC)
– Manila Marriott Hotel
2 Resorts Drive, Manila,
1309 Metro Manila, Philippines
- iv. AMOSUP Seamen's Hospital Molecular & PCR Laboratory
746 General Luna Street,
Intramuros Manila, Philippines