

Press Release

SSA joins forces with the MPA and SMOU to open up shore-based career opportunities for today's seafarers

SINGAPORE, 7 April 2022 – The Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) that will help to bridge the gap in preparing seafarers for a working life ashore in today highly digitalised world.

The MOU, which was signed during Singapore Maritime Week, will support, and equip seafarers with the relevant skills needed in transitioning from a sea-based to a shore-based career, with a particular emphasis on sustainability and digitalisation.

All parties will collaborate to help maritime employees undertake new and redesigned jobs in Industry 4.0 and beyond, and work towards a more digitalised and sustainable shipping industry, but with a pledge to build a relevant, ready, and resilient workforce for the sustainability of the industry labour and talent pool to command fairer and better wages as well as welfare and work prospects.

A committee made up of the three signatories, plus any other relevant partners, will be set up to help companies equip their employees with future core competencies and technological tools to improve personal and operational effectiveness and efficiency. SSA, MPA and SMOU will help employers identify what training and skills are required and incorporate new transformation requirements into their company-based training programmes and plans.

They will work with NTUC Training & Placement Division to support Company Training Committee training and transformation initiatives; as well as perform industry wide engagement to accelerate workers' acceptance and adaptation of technology to benefit both employer and maritime employees. The signatories will also help to develop a blueprint to transform the way the industry carries out its training to ensure better outcome and implementation of identified projects and initiatives that will benefit the industry and the workforce.

Caroline Yang, President of SSA, welcomed the MOU claiming it was a major step in helping seafarers embrace innovation and business change when they come ashore. "Driving awareness of shipping as a career is as much about shore-based jobs as it is with life onboard ship. We want to ensure that the talent we have all nurtured and developed at sea takes advantage of the opportunities that a shore-based career can give, especially as we look to greater digitalisation and innovation."

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About Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)

Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), with more than 470 members, 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. SSA is a trusted advisor and partner in the local and international shipping community. It 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.

For more information, please visit www.ssa.org.sg.

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