

1st Services Committee Meeting Summary

The inaugural gathering of the Services Committee for the 2023/2025 term, led by Mr Lakhbir Singh (Chairman), convened at the SSA Office in the Bank of China Building. The Chairman stated that the sheer number of agencies in the meeting was fantastic. The one thing that stood out during the members' introductions was the wide variety of entities within the maritime sector (i.e., ship agents, ship owners, various service providers, ports). Therefore, the variety of members, spanning different maritime sectors, was highlighted as a positive asset to the Committee.

The Chairman added that the one thing that continues to evolve is the interactions with the various authorities, where we achieved some small changes and cascaded the challenges accordingly. He also highlighted that the Committee meeting discussions will be structured around key themes such as anchorages, cruise terminals, container terminals, private oil terminals, service providers, and interactions with authorities. Members gave feedback on these themes, emphasizing the need to stay adaptive in their discussions, given the ever-evolving maritime ecosystem.

Noting the overwhelming number of applications received and meeting capacity challenges, a first-come-first-serve approach through Microsoft Forms was adopted for meeting registrations. There were discussions on the creation of a WhatsApp group for attendance-related announcements. The Terms of Appointment (TOA) and Terms of Reference (TOR) were shared and discussed, emphasizing the roles, responsibilities, and goals of the Committee. The Chairman also proposed forming workgroups to address specific issues to provide solutions immediately instead of permanent sub-committees. A quorum was set at 50% + 1. A discussion on co-opting additional members and observers followed, highlighting flexibility in accommodating experts as needed.

Various other matters were discussed, including a potential lifejacket mandate by the Maritime and Port Authority (MPA), the practicalities and challenges of enforcing this, and the stance of agents in this matter. Moreover, to gather valuable insights from Services Committee members on that matter, members were asked to complete a survey. There was also a quick update on the MPA-SSA Industry Briefing Webinar on the revised SOP for crew sign-on/off in Pasir Panjang Container Terminal (PPCT). Other topics included challenges at Marina South Pier and West Coast Pier and suggestions on more on-ground collaboration with ICA to have a good exchange of ideas.

Singapore, 31 August 2023
