

### **8<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting Summary**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting, chaired by Ms. Cristina, convened at 4:30pm, with an agenda aimed at wrapping up the 2023/2025 term and laying potential groundwork for the next term. The meeting proceeded with robust discussions, insightful reflections, and active participation from the committee members.

The Secretariat presented a comprehensive review of the Technical Committee's activities over the past two years. Serving as a key platform for collaboration between industry, regulators, and global partners, the Committee made significant strides in driving maritime innovation and aligning with regulatory developments. Through sustained engagement and knowledge-sharing, the Committee helped shape policy, improved industry preparedness, and strengthened Singapore's maritime positioning on the global stage.

As the term came to a close, members were invited to provide feedback via an online form and in open discussion. Captain Rahul praised the value of the Committee's technical presentations and highlighted the importance of staying informed on upcoming developments, particularly from MEPC 83. Mr. Subrata, a first-time full-term member, noted the Committee's openness and relevance to real-time industry challenges. Ms. Cristina affirmed the value of this feedback, reiterating the Committee's commitment to continuous improvement.

The Secretariat highlighted the Committee's key activities in three main areas:

1. **Regulatory Engagement**

The Committee actively engaged with key regulatory bodies like the IMO and MPA. Contributions included submissions to critical IMO committees such as MSC, MEPC, and sub-committees focused on pollution prevention, human elements, and operational safety.

2. **Industry Representation**

The Committee also represented SSA in regional and international forums such as the Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) and the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Association (FASA), ICS, INTERTANKO, and BIMCO. These engagements allowed Singapore to influence best practices and regulatory developments from a well-informed and strategic position.

3. **Seminars and Outreach**

Notable events included the "Navigating a Safe Shipping Transition" Seminar and a joint Seminar on Maritime Security in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). These sessions tackled critical issues like alternative fuels, regional security, GHG compliance, and cyber resilience, underscoring the Committee's commitment to proactive industry dialogue and preparedness.

The Secretariat also outlined five key trends that may shape the Committee's agenda for the next term:

1. **Decarbonisation and GHG Policy**

Amid tightening regulations from IMO and the EU, the Committee helped members stay ahead through deep dives into Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), carbon capture, and

performance indicators such as CII and EEXI. The Committee will continue to support scalable and compliant decarbonisation solutions aligned with Singapore's green shipping ambitions.

2. FuelEU Maritime and Alternative Fuels

The implications of FuelEU Maritime regulations are broad, especially for Singapore as a bunkering hub. Through discussions on methanol bunkering safety, emissions tracking, and pooling mechanisms, the Committee provided members with practical insights and strategies. Looking forward, the focus will broaden to include ammonia, biofuels, and hydrogen readiness.

3. Crew Welfare and Human Element

The Committee has promoted crew welfare in alignment with global labour standards such as ILO and MLC, emphasising mental health, anti-harassment practices, and workforce development. In the next term, this focus will continue, reinforcing Singapore's leadership in crew welfare and talent attraction.

4. Security and Operational Risks

Key topics discussed in the Committee included the ISPS Code, DPRK trade compliance, cybersecurity, ship recycling, CWQ standards, and bunkering practices. With geopolitical tensions and operational complexity on the rise, the Committee will continue helping members adapt and mitigate risks effectively.

5. Autonomous Shipping

With Singapore playing a lead role in maritime digitalisation, early-stage engagement on Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs) and autonomous operations was a priority. The Committee facilitated early conversations on regulatory preparedness, liability, and port interface management, ensuring that members are ready for the next wave of maritime innovation.

During the open discussion, members suggested to prioritise emerging technologies, crew training for new fuels, and addressing dark fleet-related security threats like GPS spoofing. The recent incident involving an MSC vessel running aground was cited as a wake-up call for the members. Closer collaboration with MPA's Maritime Energy Training Facility (METF), to better understand training efforts for alternative fuels such as ammonia and methanol, was also recommended.

Looking ahead, the Secretariat reminded members that nominations for the 2025/2027 Committee would be coordinated through their company's administrative contact. Members were advised to ensure the company's administrative contact details were up to date with SSA Member Services. Participation in the next term's committee will be subject to the availability of slots. The Secretariat also announced that members who achieved at least 80% attendance during the term will receive certificates following the SSA AGM in June 2025.

In the Chairman's closing address, she expressed heartfelt appreciation for the members' commitment, participation, and contributions. She acknowledged the increasingly complex maritime landscape, shaped by evolving regulations, geopolitical instability, and economic

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pressures, and reiterated the importance of collective collaboration and continued knowledge exchange.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm, concluding a term marked by innovation, engagement, and shared vision.

Singapore, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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