

## Media release

### SEA ASIA 2017 SET TO HOST INDUSTRY LEADERS FROM OVER 80 COUNTRIES

**SINGAPORE, 7 March:** Sea Asia 2017, the region's anchor maritime exhibition and leading forum for analysis and debate on key issues facing the industry, is gearing up to host more than 16,000 people from over 80 countries this 25-27 April in Singapore.

Taking place as part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Singapore Maritime Week (22-28 April), it will be graced and opened by Singapore's Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport, Mr Khaw Boon Wan.

Chairman of the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF), Mr Andreas Sohmen-Pao, said this edition of Sea Asia will provide a platform for maritime leaders from around the world to address trends and challenges.

"The maritime industry has always played a vital role in Singapore's economy. This sector is here to stay, and by attracting companies and talent, we will continue to build on the strong platform that has been established over the past decade," said Mr Sohmen-Pao.

According to statistics released by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Singapore remained the world's top bunkering port in 2016. Total cargo tonnage and vessel arrival tonnage also increased by 3.0 and 6.3 per cent respectively in 2016 compared to 2015.

Mr Sohmen-Pao added, "Sea Asia 2017 provides a golden opportunity for executives to interact with each other, to discover new opportunities, and to collaborate to find solutions to the industry's challenges. We are delighted to have many new national pavilions join us this year."

This year's edition of Sea Asia will feature 10 national pavilions – four of which are new to Sea Asia. These are the Japan, South Korea, Denmark and Greece pavilions. Over 300 exhibitors from across different sectors around the world will also be showcasing their latest and innovative maritime products and solutions.

Notably, the Sea Asia conference will see six shipping industry leaders debate for and against the motion at the inaugural Parliamentary Debate. The leaders will each share their thoughts on the motion, 'This House believes that the best days of the private independent shipowner are over'.

Seatrade Chairman, Mr Chris Hayman, said current developments in the industry today, such as the challenging offshore and marine sector and the implications of smart shipping, will also form significant parts of discussions at Sea Asia 2017.

"These trends are impacting the industry in more ways than one. The move towards smart shipping and data analytics, for example, provides opportunities for industry players to potentially cut costs and enhance productivity. At the same time, there is a need to think about the talent and skills needed in this area.

"Sea Asia 2017 will provide that critical and established platform for industry leaders from around the world to come together and share their thoughts on the current developments and how the industry can navigate challenges together moving forward," said Mr Hayman.

Other topics that will be discussed at the Sea Asia 2017 conference include the importance of technical change and innovation for the industry, the future of freight markets, and the opportunity for ship finance against a challenging market environment and more demanding regulatory framework.

Mr Hayman said, "We are excited to welcome maritime leaders from the world and to hear their insights on some of the more prominent issues that the industry is facing today. With the new features and format introduced for this year's edition of Sea Asia, we look forward to more engaging and fruitful discussions on how we can all work together to propel the industry further."

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25 - 27 April 2017  
Marina Bay Sands®  
Singapore  
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**Notes to Editors**

**About Sea Asia 2017**

Sea Asia, the premier maritime and offshore conference and exhibition in Asia is returning for the 6th edition on 25 - 27 April 2017 at the Marina Bay Sands®, Singapore. Co-organised by Seatrade and the Singapore Maritime Foundation, Sea Asia is well-attended by trade professionals and some of the most influential and respected leaders in the industry, delivering an unparalleled reach of key decision-makers.

Alongside an international exhibition, the highly acclaimed and interactive Sea Asia conference complements and puts Sea Asia at the forefront of regional maritime events. International thought-leaders will address the latest topics, debate on key trends, and discuss opportunities and challenges facing the maritime and offshore businesses from a commercial perspective.

For a full list of sponsors and exhibitors, and more information on the conference programme, please visit [www.sea-asia.com/](http://www.sea-asia.com/).

**About Seatrade**

Founded in 1970, Seatrade was acquired in 2014 by UBM, the world's second largest media and event organiser across a wide variety of industries. Seatrade's publications, events, management training, research and award schemes cover every aspect of the cruise and maritime industries. The company's principal strength is its ability to bring key people together, encouraging innovation and facilitating better communication within the industry. Seatrade is headquartered in Colchester, UK, with regional offices in Dubai, Singapore, as well as representatives in all major maritime centres and cruise destinations across the globe.

For more information, please visit [www.seatrade-maritime.com](http://www.seatrade-maritime.com).

**About the Singapore Maritime Foundation**

Established in 2004, the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) is a private sector-led organisation that seeks to develop and promote Singapore as an International Maritime Centre (IMC). As the representative voice for the commercial players of the maritime industry, SMF seeks to forge strong partnerships with the public and private sectors of the maritime industry. SMF spearheads initiatives to promote the diverse clusters of the maritime industry in Singapore and at international frontiers, and to attract young talents to join the sector. SMF is directed by its Board of Directors which comprises prominent leaders in the Singapore maritime community.

For details, please visit [www.smf.com.sg](http://www.smf.com.sg).

**About the Singapore Maritime Week 2017 (22nd – 28th April 2017)**

Sea Asia 2017 is held in conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week 2017 (SMW). SMW is the leading maritime event in Singapore driven by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. SMW gathers the international maritime community in Singapore for a week of conferences, dialogues, exhibitions and social events in celebration of all things maritime. These events reflect the vibrancy and diversity of Singapore as a major international maritime centre.

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