



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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Littoral States of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore Reaffirm Shared Commitment to Keep the Straits Open and Safe for International Shipping

Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore reaffirmed their shared commitment to keep the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) free, open and safe for international shipping at the 17th Co-operation Forum held in Singapore.¹

2. The Littoral States affirmed the status of the SOMS as a Strait Used for International Navigation, where the right of transit passage applies, as enshrined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and reflected in customary international law. They underscored the importance of respecting navigational rights and freedoms both in principle and practice.

3. The Littoral States also reaffirmed the important roles played by User States, international organisations, the maritime industry and other stakeholders in sharing responsibility for and contributing to the safety of navigation and environmental protection in the SOMS. At the 17th Co-operation Forum, the Littoral States and stakeholders will discuss proposals to further these efforts, including the safe introduction of new technologies and alternative fuels in the SOMS, and review ongoing technical projects to enhance navigational safety.

4. The Co-operative Mechanism established by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore in 2007 provides the framework for this co-operation. It enables Littoral States to work together with User States and other stakeholders on navigational safety and environmental protection in the SOMS. Its establishment gave practical effect, for the first time, to Article 43 of UNCLOS.² The Littoral States also renewed their

¹ As one of three important components of the Co-operative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (Co-operative Mechanism), the Co-operation Forum serves as a key platform for the Littoral States, User States, the industry, and other stakeholders to engage in dialogue on issues relating to navigational safety and marine environment protection in the SOMS. The other two components are the Aids to Navigation Fund and Project Co-ordination Committee.

² Article 43 states that "User States and States bordering a strait should by agreement co-operate: (i) in the establishment and maintenance in a strait of necessary navigational and safety aids or other improvements in aid of international navigation; and (ii) for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from ships".

commitment to uphold the objective and founding principles of the Co-operative Mechanism.

5. The Littoral States further expressed their appreciation to stakeholders for their longstanding contributions to the Co-operative Mechanism and encouraged their continued support and participation.

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About the Directorate General of Sea Transportation (DGST)

The Directorate General of Sea Transportation (DGST) is Indonesia's competent maritime authority under the Ministry of Transportation, responsible for regulating, overseeing, and developing the national maritime transport system. It enforces maritime safety and security through ship seaworthiness certification, port state control, and law enforcement; governs port infrastructure and green port initiatives; and secures archipelagic connectivity via national shipping regulations. DGST also leads marine environmental protection and decarbonization efforts in the shipping sector, while serving as Indonesia's official authority at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to enforce compliance with international maritime conventions.

For more information, please visit <https://hubla.dephub.go.id/>

About the Malaysia Marine Department (MMD)

The Malaysia Marine Department (MMD) is Malaysia's maritime administration under the Ministry of Transport, responsible for administering shipping, ports and maritime affairs within Malaysian waters. MMD performs its regulatory responsibilities as a flag, port and coastal State through ship registration, inspection and certification, Port State Control, seafarer certification and welfare, navigational safety, vessel traffic services, aids to navigation and marine casualty investigations. It also safeguards the marine environment, supports the development of the national shipping industry and implements applicable national legislation and international maritime conventions. MMD represents Malaysia in maritime technical matters and works closely with international and regional partners, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to promote safe, secure, environmentally sustainable and efficient shipping.

For more information, please visit www.marine.gov.my

About the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)

MPA was established in 1996 with the mission to develop Singapore as a global hub port and international maritime centre, and to advance and safeguard Singapore's strategic maritime interests. MPA takes on multiple roles as Singapore's maritime and port regulator and planner, international maritime centre champion, national maritime representative, and champion of maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation efforts. MPA partners industry, research community and other agencies to enhance safety, security and environmental protection, facilitate maritime and port operations and growth, expand multi-domain capabilities, and support the cluster of maritime services and manpower development.

For more information, please visit www.mpa.gov.sg/.

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