



The Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local
Government



Chee Hong Tat
Minister for Transport and
Second Minister for Finance

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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SINGAPORE AND AUSTRALIA FORMALISE COLLABORATION TO ESTABLISH GREEN AND DIGITAL SHIPPING CORRIDOR

Singapore and Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formally collaborate on establishing the Singapore-Australia Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC).

The signing of this MoU was welcomed by the Prime Ministers of Singapore and Australia during their 9th Annual Leaders' Meeting in Melbourne on 5 March 2024.

Signed by Mr Chee Hong Tat, Singapore's Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance and the Hon Catherine King MP, Australian Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the MoU will accelerate maritime decarbonisation and digitalisation.

Under the MoU, both countries will work with interested partners to explore opportunities to develop zero or near-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emission fuel supply chains for the maritime industry, including building necessary infrastructure, formalising standards, and developing and implementing the training requirements.

The MoU will also explore facilitating digital information exchange to enable efficient port clearance, port calls and flow of vessels between Singapore and Australia, and facilitate collaboration between the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Australian federal, state and territory governments, as well as industry stakeholders.

Australia holds great potential to be a key producer of green marine fuels, and Singapore is the world's largest bunkering and busiest transshipment hub port with a vibrant research and innovation ecosystem.

The collaboration is expected to help catalyse the development and uptake of zero or near-zero GHG emission technologies and the adoption of digital solutions to enhance the resilience, efficiency and sustainability of global maritime supply chains.

More information on the GDSC, which aligns with the Singapore-Australia Green Economy Agreement signed in October 2022, can be found at: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade-and-investment/singapore-and-australia-green-and-digital-shipping-corridor>.

Quote attributable to Singapore’s Minister for Transport Mr Chee Hong Tat:

“The MoU affirms the shared commitment of Singapore and Australia to pool our expertise and resources to develop scalable green and digital solutions for the maritime sector, and upskill our workforce to support the energy transition.”

Quotes attributable to Australian Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King:

“This is an important partnership for a sustainable global maritime future. Australia is committed to supporting the decarbonisation of international shipping, which plays an important role in economies across the globe.

“This collaboration will place Singapore and Australia amongst the leaders in contributing to the international maritime community’s objectives, while supporting Australia’s exports of clean renewable energy.”

In addition to the MoU, MPA and Australia’s Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), supported by Singapore’s Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), are working to collaborate on research and development, demonstration projects, and pilots under the Australia-Singapore Initiative on Low Emissions Technologies for Maritime and Port Operations (ASLET)¹. First announced in 2021, the ASLET is aligned with and will support the Singapore-Australia GDSC outcomes.

<End of Release>

¹ The collaboration between MPA and CSIRO aims to collectively address the following areas: (i) reduce costs of using low emissions fuels and technologies in maritime and port operations; (ii) improve technical and commercial readiness of low emissions fuels and technologies in maritime and port operations; and (iii) explore cooperation between Australia and Singapore in green shipping and port infrastructure initiatives.

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About the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)

A statutory board under Singapore's Ministry of Transport, MPA was established on 2 February 1996 with the mission to develop Singapore as a premier global hub port and international maritime centre, and to advance and safeguard Singapore's strategic maritime interests. MPA is the driving force behind Singapore's port and maritime development, taking on the roles of port authority, maritime and port regulator and planner, international maritime centre champion, national maritime representative and a champion of digitalisation and decarbonisation efforts at regional and international fora such as at the International Maritime Organization. MPA partners industry, research community and other agencies to enhance safety, security and environmental protection in our waters, facilitate maritime and port operations and growth, expand the cluster of maritime ancillary services, and develops maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation policies and plans, R&D and manpower development. MPA is responsible for the overall development and growth of the maritime domain and Port of Singapore. In 2023, Singapore's annual vessel arrival tonnage crossed 3 billion Gross Tonnage and remains the world's busiest transshipment hub, with a total container throughput of 39.0 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs). Singapore also registered 51.82 million tonnes of bunker sales in 2023, surpassing the previous record of 50.64 million tonnes in 2017 – reflecting Singapore's support to the global shipping community as a bunkering hub.

For more information, please visit <https://www.mpa.gov.sg>

About the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia

The department provides policy advice and delivers programs, projects and services in the infrastructure, transport, communications and arts sectors, supporting Australia's regions, cities and territories.

Australia relies on sea transport for 99 per cent of our exports. A substantial proportion of our domestic freight also depends on coastal shipping. The Australian Government,

through the department, contributes to the prosperity of the economy and the wellbeing of all Australians by supporting and enhancing our maritime industry.

The department supports an efficient, safe and environmentally friendly maritime transport system, including an effective regulatory framework for shipping and environmental and safety regulations.

For more information, please visit <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/maritime>