



MEDIA RELEASE

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Singapore Strengthens Maritime Safety with Multi-Agency Chemical Spill Exercise and Safety Forums at International Safety@Sea Week 2025

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) is organising the 12th edition of the Safety@Sea Week, with this year's event being the international edition, taking place from 15 to 18 July 2025. Themed 'The Future of Maritime Safety: Navigating the Next Frontier', the annual event brings together local and international maritime experts, and the maritime community to promote awareness and facilitate discussions on maritime safety.

2. Speaking at the opening today, Mr Murali Pillai, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Transport, said that the maritime sector is facing increasingly complex global challenges, including heightened geopolitical tensions, climate change, and rapid transformation in digitalisation and decarbonisation. He highlighted that we can tackle these challenges by (i) equipping our workforce for future challenges, (ii) harnessing collective expertise through close collaborations and partnerships, and (iii) drawing upon technology and innovation to augment our capabilities.

3. In his keynote address, Mr Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), underscored the need for robust safety frameworks and regulations as the maritime landscape evolves. He cited Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships and new ship designs and systems using sustainable marine fuels as examples of how the maritime sector is transforming and outlined IMO's priorities in those areas. Mr Dominguez also highlighted the importance of government-industry collaboration and initiatives like the Safety@Sea Singapore Campaign to foster a safety-first culture at sea.

4. This year's conference features 19 speakers across three plenaries. Discussions will focus on issues shaping the future of maritime safety, including lessons learned from past incidents, and the human element in ensuring safety as the industry transforms. A new Safety@Sea Community Conversations event will also bring together representatives from shipping companies, regional ferry operators,

harbour craft operators and terminal operators to share their experiences and efforts in fostering a safety culture in their organisations.

5. Over 1,800 participants from more than 40 countries are expected to participate in the week's sessions. Other highlights include the Responders Plus Programme (RPP) Maritime Workshop jointly organised by MPA and the Singapore Civil Defence Force, and two safety forums organised by the MPA-Harbour Craft and MPA-Pleasure Craft Safety Work Groups to promote safety awareness and best practices within the local maritime community. Details can be found at www.safetyatseaweek.gov.sg.

Chemical Spill Exercise

6. As part of the International Safety@Sea Week, MPA also conducted a multi-agency chemical spill exercise to strengthen Singapore's operational readiness today. Conducted off Singapore's southern coast, the exercise involved 11 vessels and over 150 personnel from more than 10 government agencies and industry partners. Mr Murali, Mr Dominguez and Secretary-General, International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation, Mr Francis Zachariae, observed the exercise.

7. The exercise simulated a methanol spill from a collision involving a methanol-carrying tanker, triggering a multi-agency response. This included coordinated efforts for spill containment and the evacuation of injured crew. A range of drone-enabled technologies was trialled during the exercise, including 3D imaging to assess vessel damage and a water curtain misting system to limit the spread of chemical plumes. An Uncrewed Surface Vehicle was also deployed to monitor air quality, reducing the need for responders to enter hazardous zones to perform such monitoring. The Maritime Digital Twin and chemical plume modelling tools were used to enhance situational awareness and support decision-making throughout the exercise.

8. The exercise is part of MPA's broader preparations for methanol bunkering and provided a valuable opportunity for agencies and industry partners to better understand the safety and operational challenges, and potential solutions, in handling alternative fuels. Following an open call in March 2025, MPA has received 13 applications for methanol bunker supplier licenses, reflecting strong industry interest in supplying methanol on a commercial scale in Singapore. MPA is evaluating the applications and targets to issue the licenses in Q4 2025, which will cover the period from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030.

Advancing Safety with Shore-to-Ship Drone Trials

9. MPA is also enhancing safety across other areas of port operations. In collaboration with Skyports Drone Services, TFG Marine and CBS Ventures, MPA and the partners will complete Singapore's first shore-to-ship drone trials for delivery and retrieval operations from bunker tankers later this week. The use of drones reduces

reliance on harbour craft for such operations, improving efficiency while reducing pollution and congestion. It also minimises safety risks by removing the need for crew to handle and transfer heavy items between the ship and shore using harbour craft. Safety considerations, including the management of electrostatic discharge risks during the drone operations, are carefully reviewed in preparation for the trials. Findings from these trials will inform the development of safety protocols and an operational framework to support the phased implementation of this new maritime service.

Enhancing Situational Awareness with Smart Buoys to Strengthen Navigational Safety

10. To enhance navigational safety, MPA will progressively install smart buoys in Singapore's waterways from 2026 to replace selected existing buoys. These next-generation buoys will be equipped with environmental sensors and communication systems to transmit real-time data, such as currents and waves, to MPA. This will enhance situational awareness, support dynamic traffic management, and enable more timely and informed decision-making, strengthening navigational safety.

MPA Safety@Sea Awards

11. At the opening event today, Mr Ang Wee Keong, Chief Executive of MPA, also presented the MPA Safety@Sea Awards to six companies for their outstanding contributions to search and rescue efforts in 2024, and to one company for its innovative solutions and training to enhance safety. In addition, Letters of Commendation were issued to three companies to recognise their efforts in promoting safety at sea. Refer to **Annex A** for details of the awards recipients.

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About Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)

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 maritime and port development, taking on the roles of 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 and the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation. 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 ancillary services and manpower development. MPA is responsible for the overall development and growth of the maritime multi-domain and the Port of Singapore.

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

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Annex A: MPA Safety@Sea Awards 2025

Outstanding Contributions to Search and Rescue Efforts in 2024

Award	No.	Name of Recipient	Point of Contact
	1.	Executive Ship Management Pte Ltd	Name: Capt Vijay Cherukuri Contact Number: +65 92980522 Email: vijayc@executiveship.com
	2.	K Marine Ship Management Pte Ltd	Name: Capt Takuro Saito Contact Number: +65 96457329 Email: saito.takuro@kme.sg.kline.com Name: Mr P M Hameed Rahman Contact Number: +65 98329350 Email: rahman.hameed@kmsm.sg.kline.com
	3.	MISC	Name: Ms Maisara Noor Ahmad Contact Number: +60 123860528 Email: maisara.noorahmad@miscbhd.com
	4.	OSM Thome	Name: Ms Eunice Anne Narvadez Contact Number: +47 37504342 Email: euniceanne.narvadez@osmthome.com
	5.	Pacific International Lines	Name: Mr Roy Tan Contact Number: +65 64210567 Email: roy.tan@sgp.pilship.com
	6.	Swire Shipping Pte Ltd	Name: Mr Kevin Lim Contact Number: +65 92967318 Email: kevinsp.lim@swireshipping.com
Letter of Commendation	1.	IMC Ship Management Pte Ltd	Name: Low Mei Yen Contact Number: +65 98891320 Email: lowmeiye@tsaopaochee.com
	2.	MISC	Name: Ms Maisara Noor Ahmad Contact Number: +60 123860528 Email: maisara.noorahmad@miscbhd.com

Open Category

Award	No.	Name of Recipient	Point of Contact
	1.	Rio Tinto	<p>Name: Ms Jennifer Sakaguchi Contact Number: +65 9489 0073 Email: Jennifer.Sakaguchi@riotinto.com</p> <p>Name: Ms Nazia Nasim Contact Number: +61 499786641 Email: Nazia.Nasim@riotinto.com</p>
Letter of Commendation	1.	Singapore Maritime Academy, Singapore Polytechnic	<p>Name: Ms Michelle Oh Contact Number: +65 68790358 Email: Michelle_OH@sp.edu.sg</p>