



MEDIA RELEASE

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IS@S Week 2023: Fostering Maritime Safety in the Decarbonisation and Digitalisation Age

Themed “Advancing Maritime Safety in a Green and Digital Age”, the 10th edition of the International Safety@Sea (IS@S) Week, from 23 to 27 October 2023, was launched by Mr Chee Hong Tat, Acting Minister for Transport and Senior Minister of State for Finance during the IS@S Conference today. The annual event, organised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), brings together maritime experts and top practitioners from the local and international maritime community to discuss challenges and new opportunities concerning maritime safety in the decarbonisation and digitalisation age.

2. This year’s conference will feature over 20 local and international speakers. Mr Chee also shared various MPA-led initiatives to enhance safety at sea in his opening speech. More than 350 participants from close to 20 countries are expected to attend the event. Please refer to [Annex A](#) for the IS@S conference programme.

3. Several initiatives were announced or will be conducted during IS@S week:
- a. New community volunteer programme pilot to enhance safety at sea;
 - b. Multi-agency Ferry Rescue Exercise (FEREX), which will be centred on an electric ferry mishap for the first time; and
 - c. Presentation of International Safety@Sea Awards.

4. MPA will also be organising the Singapore Registry of Ships (SRS) Forum in the same week, which will discuss the opportunities arising from digital initiatives and the adoption of the 2023 International Maritime Organization Strategy on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships.

New Community Volunteer Programme to Enhance Safety at Sea

5. Ensuring safety at sea is a shared responsibility. MPA and the National Maritime Safety at Sea Council (NMSSC) are developing a new volunteer programme to build and train a network of community volunteers. This would complement government agencies’ response to search and rescue efforts within Singapore waters. MPA will consult various stakeholders and share further details in 2024.

International Safety@Sea Awards

6. During the IS@S Conference, Chairman of NMSSC presented the IS@S Awards to two companies for their outstanding contributions to Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts in 2022.

7. NYK Shipmanagement Pte Ltd, and the master and crew of HELIOS LEADER, were recognised for their role in a challenging SAR operation amidst adverse weather conditions on 7 November 2022. More than 300 people were rescued from a sinking boat in the South China Sea, and brought onboard the ship about four hours after it received the distress message from MRCC Singapore.

8. Pacific International Lines, and the master and crew of KOTA SURIA, were recognised for assistance rendered after responding to a distress message off West Africa in the Gulf of Guinea on 9 April 2022. Despite the security risks in this location, they deviated from course for about four hours before finding and rescuing the entire crew of a cargo vessel that had stopped at sea due to water ingress and flooding of the engine room. KOTA SURIA was only able to resume its voyage seven days later after the rescued crew onboard KOTA SURIA disembarked at Cape Town.

Multi-agency Ferry Rescue Exercise (FEREX)

9. As part of IS@S Week, the annual multi-agency Ferry Rescue Exercise (FEREX) will be conducted to validate Singapore's operational readiness and response capabilities in the event of a ferry mishap incident, on 24 October. FEREX comprises a Table-Top Exercise and a Ground Deployment Exercise, involving eight vessels, a helicopter and over 180 personnel from close to 30 agencies, industry partners, and observer organisations¹. FEREX will simulate seaward and landward exercises off Pulau Bukom and at the Pasir Panjang Ferry Terminal.

10. This year's FEREX scenario will be centred on an electric ferry mishap for the first time, reflecting the need to ensure Singapore is well-prepared for potential battery-operated craft mishaps as more electric harbour craft ply our waters. The exercise will simulate excessive heat and battery fire in one of the two battery compartments onboard the electric ferry, and the resultant passengers' evacuation, medical treatment and fire containment efforts by ferry crew and government agencies.

11. MPA's Ferry Mishap Contingency Plan will be activated to evaluate the operational readiness of agencies and the ferry operator. Seaward resources,

¹ Besides MPA, the participating government entities in the FEREX Ground Deployment Exercise and Table-top Exercise include the Singapore Police Force (SPF), the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA), the National Environment Agency (NEA), National Parks Board. The participating industry partners include Shell, Penguin International, Singapore Cruise Centre Pte Ltd, Skyports and West Squadron Marine Services. The organisations who will be observing FEREX include representatives from Class Societies, regional ferry operators and Ministry of Health.

including patrol craft, firefighting rescue vessels, electric ferries, and a helicopter², will secure the area and manage passenger evacuation. At the terminal, the Singapore Civil Defence Force will render emergency medical treatment to “injured” passengers, while the Singapore Police Force will maintain law and order. The terminal staff will also manage crowd control.

Singapore Registry of Ships Forum (SRS Forum)

12. MPA will also host the Singapore Registry of Ships (SRS) Forum on 26 October. Themed “Safe, Secure & Sustainable Shipping”, this annual forum will bring together 300 representatives from the industry and government agencies to facilitate dialogues and knowledge-sharing on key issues, challenges, and opportunities in the areas of maritime digitalisation, safety, security and decarbonisation.

13. The SRS Top Net Tonnage Contributor and Green Ship Programme (GSP)³ will be presented at the forum⁴. This year, 22 Singapore-flagged ships from 10 companies will receive Green Ship certificates through the GSP. Since 2011, more than 650 ships have been recognised as green ships.

14. Additionally, 71 seafarers will be awarded the Sail Milestone Achievement Programme (SailMAP) financial incentives worth \$455,000. The SailMAP provides each eligible local seafarer with up to \$50,000 as they achieve key milestones in their seafaring training, leading to the Certificate of Competency Class 1, the highest level of shipboard competency⁵.

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About the 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 port and maritime development, taking on the roles of port authority, maritime and port regulator and planner, international maritime centre champion,

² The seaward resources include two MPA patrol craft, a Police Coast Guard 5th Generation PT class patrol craft, an RSN Independence-class Littoral Mission Vessel, an RSAF H225M Medium Lift helicopter, two SCDF Rapid Response Fire Vessels and two Penguin electric ferries.

³ Launched in 2011, the Green Ship Programme is a programme under the Maritime Singapore Green Initiative which provides incentives and reductions of fees for ship owners who voluntarily adopt solutions that enable ships to exceed environmental regulatory standards set by the International Maritime Organization. The certificates acknowledge their efforts in reducing their fleets’ environmental impact, embracing innovations like using low-carbon fuels such as methanol and implementing energy-efficient technologies that enabled the ships to surpass the Energy Efficiency Design Index requirements mandated by the IMO.

⁴ The complete list of Singapore Registry of Ships (SRS) award recipients, including the SRS Top Net Tonnage Contributor and ships receiving the Green Ship Certificates will be updated in Annex C with this release on 26 October after the SRS Forum. MPA will inform media subsequently to update their reporting.

⁵ The SailMAP incentives include waiver of fees for the first examination attempt for the Certificate of Competency Class 3/5, a monthly allowance of S\$1,000 while studying, and bonuses of up to S\$10,000 on completion of each shipboard training milestone.

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 2022, Singapore remained one of the world's busiest transshipment hubs with a container throughput of 37.3 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

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

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Annex A: International Safety@Sea Conference Programme

23 Oct 2023: Opening Session (Advancing Maritime Safety in a Green and Digital Age)

Time	Programme
13:05 – 13:15	Opening Address by Mr Chee Hong Tat, Acting Minister for Transport and Senior Minister of State for Finance
13:15 - 14:15	Panel Discussion: “Advancing Maritime Safety in a Green Age” ● Mr Ishak Ismail, Chairman, National Maritime Safety at Sea Council (Moderator) ● Mr Ismael Cobos Delgado, Deputy Director (Maritime Safety Division), International Maritime Organisation ● Mr David Foo, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations Technology), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore ● Mr Michael James Drake, Executive Director Operations, Australian Maritime Safety Authority ● Mr Palle Kristensen, Chief Advisor, Danish Maritime Authority ● CDR Peter Bizzaro, Chief of Inspections Division Activities Far East, and Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Inspection Unit Singapore
14:15 - 15:25	Panel Discussion: “Advancing Maritime Safety in a Digital Age” ● Capt Yves Vandeborn, Honorary President of Nautical Institute Singapore branch, Head of Loss Prevention Asia-Pacific at NorthStandard P&I and member of the National Maritime Safety at Sea Council, Singapore (Moderator) ● Mr Roberto Cazzulo, IACS Chair (Elect), International Association of Classification Societies ● Mr Nick Potter, Chairman, Oil Companies International Marine Forum ● Mr Steen Lund, CEO, RightShip ● Ms Caroline Yang, President, Singapore Shipping Association ● Capt André L. LeGoubin, President, The Nautical Institute

23 Oct: Session 2 (Operationalising Methanol Bunkering)

Time	Programme
16:05 - 16:15	Presentation of International Safety@Sea Awards
16:15 - 16:55	Presentations by Panellists on Singapore's methanol bunkering experience
16:55 - 17:55	Panel Discussion: "Operationalising Methanol Bunkering" • Capt Vibhas Garg, Director, Octant Marine Pte Limited and a member of the National Maritime Safety at Sea Council, Singapore (Moderator) • Mr Samuel Soo, Senior Deputy Director (Marine Services), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore • Mr Vibin Chandrabose, Principal Engineer, Sustainability, Global Sustainability Center - Singapore, American Bureau of Shipping • Mr Dinesh Kumar Balraj, Senior Director, Head of Fleet Operations East, A.P. Moller Singapore Pte Ltd (Maersk) • Capt Md Kamal Hossain, Team Lead, Marine Operations, Hong Lam Marine • Capt. Jagadeesan Natarajan, General Manager, Orient Marine Co., Ltd. (Singapore Branch) (Mitsui & Co Subsidiary)

23 Oct: Session 3 (Building a Cyber Safe and Resilient Maritime Ecosystem)

Time	Programme
13:25 - 14:25	Presentations by Panellists on Building a Cyber Safe and Resilient Maritime Ecosystem
14:25 - 15:25	Panel Discussion: "Building a Cyber Safe and Resilient Maritime Ecosystem" • Mr Anthony Lim, Fellow, Cybersecurity, Governance & FinTech, Singapore University of Social Sciences, (Moderator) • Mr Ong Chin Beng, Deputy Director (Maritime Cybersecurity) and Chief Information Security Officer, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore • Mr Daniel Ng, CEO, CyberOwl

	• Mr Ron Fong, Head of Fleet IT, Pacific Carriers Limited • Mr Li Xin, Head of IT Security, PSA Corporation Limited
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23 Oct: Session 4 (Enhancing Maritime Safety through Technology)

Time	Programme
16:05 - 16:55	Presentations by Panellists on Enhancing Maritime Safety through Technology
16:55 – 17:55	Panel Discussion: “Enhancing Maritime Safety through Technology” • Mr. Jimmy Koh, Head of Pilotage and Digital Transformation, PSA Marine and member of the National Maritime Safety at Sea Council, Singapore (Moderator) • Mr Dennis Khoo, Director (Maritime Systems and Technology), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore • Mr Christian Riis, Director, Marine Safety & Vetting, Rio Tinto • Mr Chakib Abi Saab, Chairman, SafetyTech Accelerator and Chief Technology and Innovation Officer, Lloyd’s Register • Mr Pieter de Coningh, Managing Director, Tidalis APAC Limited

Annex B: International Safety@Sea Awards

The International Safety@Sea Awards are presented by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore each year to recognise outstanding efforts of organisations and individuals who have contributed towards ensuring safer seas. The nominations were reviewed by the National Maritime Safety at Sea Council.

Award Category	Name of Recipient	Point of Contact
Outstanding Search and Rescue Operations in 2022	NYK Shipmanagement Pte Ltd (for search and rescue operation by “Helios Leader” on 7 November 2022)	Deepak Arora General Manager +65 8181 8579 deepak.arora@nykgroup.com
	Pacific International Lines (for search and rescue operation by “Kota Suria” on 9 April 2022)	Capt. Peng Chuxing Deputy General Manager, Quality, Safety, Security & Sustainability +65 9385 6619 chuxing.peng@sgp.pilship.com
Letters of Commendation	Executive Ship Management Pte. Ltd (for search and rescue operation by M.T. “The Chief” on 19 May 2022)	Captain Sumit Bhagat DPA +65 8518 8978 sumitbhagat@executiveship.com
	Yahya Bin Md Desa, Boat Master, Cast Launch Services Pte Ltd	John Lim Chuan Wei Operations Manager Cast Launch Services Pte Ltd +65 9177 5650 john@castlaunch.com.sg
	Capt Mohd Salleh Ahmad Sarwan, Specialist (Navigation & Shiphandling) & Special Projects, SMA	Ida Heryani Sohdi Manager Singapore Maritime Academy, Singapore Polytechnic +65 9654 5969 ida_heryani_sohdi@sp.edu.sg
	Pacific Carriers Limited	Gaurav Kapoor General Manager

		Pacific Carriers Limited +65 8399 7738 gaurav.kapoor@pacctanker.com.sg
	Rio Tinto	Malvick Ong External Affairs Rio Tinto +65 8186 8124 malvick.ong@riotinto.com
	Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp	Dannis Lee Managing Director Yang Ming (Singapore) Pte Ltd +65 9735 0142 dannislee@sg.yangming.com

Details of the Awards

Awards	Criteria	Evaluation
(1) Outstanding Contribution to Search and Rescue Efforts in <u>2022</u>	Successful and high-profile search and rescue (SAR) operation as required by SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 33, either - Involving an SRS or an SG company; or - For vessel in SG maritime search and rescue region/port water	Voluntary SAR involving an SRS or an SG company on the high seas must: - Consider the challenges during SAR operation including inclement weather faced - Demonstrate substantial diversion or time taken for the SAR Voluntary SAR involving vessel in SG Maritime SRR / port water must: - Consider the challenges during SAR operation including inclement weather faced - Distance to nearest coastline with available assistance
(2) Outstanding Contribution to Safety at Sea (Individual)	Individuals who consistently and substantially demonstrate: Criteria A*:	Outstanding work done by the nominee must be either: Recognised by MPA, NMSSC or NMSSC's safety work groups; or

	Safety in working environment and in engagement with the maritime industry. Criteria B*: Active voluntary contribution & participation in safety at sea initiatives, such as community or ground up initiatives for education and outreach. Providing leadership or setting a personal example in promoting a safety at sea culture.	Recognised by reputable publications or agencies
(3) Outstanding Contribution to Safety at Sea (Corporate)	Organisations who consistently and substantially demonstrate: - For Owners/ Operators of Ocean-Going Vessels: - Safety throughout fleet/organisation - Low incident rates - High safety score - International/ local accreditation for safety of operations - For all Harbour Craft within Singapore waters, MPA-licensed Pleasure Craft under the Singapore Registry of Ships and Regional Ferry Service Operators: - Active voluntary contribution & participation in safety at sea initiatives (e.g., community / ground up initiatives for education and outreach)	For Owners/ Operators of Ocean-Going Vessels: - Outstanding work done by organisation must: - Receive international accolades and recognition by international maritime stakeholders/ organisations. - Demonstrate favourable Port State Control records over a three-year period (e.g., observation per inspection, detention records) - Show improvement in safety KPIs over a three-year period (e.g., Fatality, LTIF, TRCF etc.). For all Harbour Craft within Singapore waters, including MPA-licensed Pleasure Craft under the Singapore

	○ Providing leadership or setting a personal example in promoting a safety at sea culture	Registry of Ships and Regional Ferry Service Operators: ● Outstanding work done by organisation must be recognised by MPA, NMSSC, NMSSC's safety work groups, or recognised by reputable publications or agencies.
(4) Open Category	● Innovation in technology/ systems and design/ training demonstrating safety at sea within the maritime industry ● Reporting Culture	Innovation in technology or systems, and design or training must demonstrate that the innovation or training can substantially improve safety at sea or has been in use by shipping organisations or offshore facilities. For Reporting Culture, there must be a submission of high quality near misses and incidents reporting to MPA.

Translated Terms

International Safety@Sea Week	国际海事安全周
International Safety@Sea Conference	国际海事安全研讨会
International Safety@Sea Awards	国际海事安全奖
Singapore Registry of Ships (SRS)	新加坡船舶登记注册局
2023 International Maritime Organization Strategy on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships	2023年船舶温室气体减排战略
National Maritime Safety at Sea Council (NMSSC)	国家海事安全理事会
Ferry Rescue Exercise (FEREX)	渡轮搜救演习
Ferry Mishap Contingency Plan	渡轮紧急事故应对方案
Green Ship Programme	绿色船只计划
Sail Milestone Achievement Programme (SailMAP)	海员结业持证奖励计划