

**OPENING REMARKS BY
MR PETER ONG
CHAIRMAN, MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
AT THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME AWARDS 2006
TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2006, 7PM
SHANGRI-LA HOTEL**

Mr Raymond Lim, Minister for Transport,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good evening to all and welcome to the Singapore International Maritime Awards 2006. Tonight marks the third year that the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, MPA, is organising this award ceremony. We are indeed honoured by the presence of so many luminaries from the maritime community, both local and overseas. To our overseas guests, I thank you for your strong show of support. I trust you will have ample opportunities during this evening and the rest of Maritime Week to renew old ties and forge new relationships.

Contributions of the AIS and ASL Award Recipients

2 The maritime industry continues to play a pivotal role in Singapore's economy, and tonight's ceremony is a fitting occasion for us to recognise and honour your contributions to Singapore and to the maritime industry as a whole.

3 This year, I am pleased to announce that a total of 23 companies will receive the Approved International Shipping Enterprise (AIS) and Approved Shipping Logistics Enterprise (ASL) awards. I thank all the AIS and ASL companies for their commitment to Singapore. You are a testimony to our efforts in forging closer partnerships with the industry.

Introducing the New Maritime Awards

4 In April this year, I announced MPA's plan to introduce five new award categories for the Singapore International Maritime Awards 2006. The new awards serve to recognise individuals or companies that have made outstanding contributions in niche areas towards the development of Singapore as a global hub port and as an international maritime centre.

5 Briefly, the new award categories are:

- (i) International Maritime Centre (IMC) Award
- (ii) Bunker Award
- (iii) Excellence in Training Development Award
- (iv) Outstanding Maritime R&D and Technology Award
- (v) SRS Ship Owner of the Year

6 Following my announcement, the MPA received very encouraging response to the new awards. At the close of the nomination round in August, we received some 100 nominations of well-reputed companies and individuals across the range of categories. Based on strict assessment criteria, at least three nominees were short-listed for each award category and with a winner selected unanimously by a distinguished judging panel comprising both public and private sector representatives. I will have to request your patience as the award winners will only be announced later tonight.

7 Before I invite my Minister up on stage, I would like to stress that each of these awards demonstrates our deep appreciation and the value we place on your business presence in Singapore, which has contributed to our growth as a maritime nation. This year, we also celebrate MPA's ten year anniversary. We are pleased to present to you, a specially-

commissioned ten year anniversary coffee table book, as a token of our appreciation for your friendship and support over the last decade.

Introduction of Guest-of-Honour

7 Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege to have the Minister for Transport, Mr Raymond Lim as our Guest of Honour tonight. Without further ado, it gives me great pleasure to invite Minister Lim to address us.

8 Minister, please.