

## **MPA Academy and Centre for Liveable Cities Jointly Organise Lecture on Shipping, Cities and their Interdependencies**

A public lecture titled "Shipping, Cities and their Interdependencies" was delivered today by Mr Olaf Merk, Administrator, Ports and Shipping, International Transport Forum (ITF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

2 The lecture, jointly organised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) Academy, the training arm of MPA and the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC), explored relations between ports and cities, recent changes in this interaction, the possible evolution in the future, and the implications for public policy.



3 Addressing about 200 maritime professionals, students and executives from the private and public sectors, Mr Merk shared insights on the impact of shipping on cities and vice-versa; how trends such as mega ships and mega cities affect each other and possibly the need for port authorities to perform new roles to balance economic gains and social costs.

4 Mr Andrew Tan, Chief Executive of MPA, said, "Singapore is one of the leading maritime capitals in the world. Despite the current downturn, the industry needs to be ready and better equipped to leverage the opportunities when the recovery comes around. It is important for us to keep abreast of global trends and their implications in our quest for Maritime Singapore to stay relevant and competitive. We are pleased to partner CLC and ITF to bring maritime experts to share insights on such developments and the impact on public policy."

5 Mr Khoo Teng Chye, Executive Director for the Centre of Liveable Cities said, "Having excellent infrastructure has been key to the success of Singapore as a global shipping hub, while Singapore's highly efficient and reliable supply chain combined with competitive costs is its leading edge. CLC is happy to collaborate with MPA to share contemporary perspectives on the relationship between shipping and cities, as part of CLC's work in sharing knowledge on liveable and sustainable cities."



6 Commenting on Port of Singapore, Mr Merk said, "Singapore is one of the modern success stories. It has managed to transform itself from the world's largest port into a leading global hub for shipping, trading and finance. One of the future challenges might be more competition for the transshipment functions that Singapore has carried out so successfully. Competitors might

be getting their act together and lift regulatory constraints which could challenge Singapore's transshipment hub position."

7 The lecture was moderated by Mr Arjun Batra, Group Managing Director of Drewry Shipping Consultants Ltd.



8 This is the second lecture that MPA and CLC have jointly organised to feature thought leaders and experts in urban solutions to exchange ideas and share knowledge. The inaugural lecture held last year on "Global Trends in Shipping and Impact on Port Cities" was delivered by Dr Martin Stopford, President of Clarkson Research Services Limited.

9 Directing studies on ports, port-cities, port regulation and governance, Mr Merk is also the author of various OECD books including "The Competitiveness of Global Port-Cities". Mr Merk was formerly the Administrator of the OECD Port-Cities Programme. He has directed more than 12 studies on port-cities, including on Shanghai, Hong Kong, Rotterdam and Hamburg. He has authored various port-related articles in academic and professional journals. He is also Assistant Professor at the Institute for Political Science (Sciences Po) in Paris.

## **About MPA Academy**

As the training arm of MPA, the MPA Academy was repositioned in 2014 to be a full-fledged academy with a dedicated premise with a focus on global maritime leadership training. The academy's vision is to be a global learning centre for maritime and port administration. The academy's mission is to enhance the specialist skills and knowledge of MPA officers and to conduct flagship training programmes for overseas port and maritime officials, including supporting the training needs of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a Council member.

## **About the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC)**

The Centre for Liveable Cities is a knowledge centre for liveable and sustainable cities jointly established by the Ministry of National Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. The Centre seeks to bring together Singapore's expertise on sustainable urban development in the areas of good governance, urban planning, effective resource management, quality living environment, affordable housing and sustainable transport solutions. The Centre facilitates the sharing of knowledge and best practices among cities in the region and globally. Visit us at [www.clc.gov.sg](http://www.clc.gov.sg).

## **About the CLC Lecture Series**

The CLC Lecture Series provides a platform for thought leaders and experts in urban solutions to exchange ideas and share knowledge. Previous local speakers include Singapore urban pioneers such as Dr Liu Thai Ker, Mr. Tan Gee Paw and Mr. Philip Yeo. Overseas speakers include Mr. Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of Rotterdam and Mrs Carrie Lam, former Secretary for Development (now Chief Secretary for Administration) of Hong Kong. CLC lectures are usually attended by about 200 participants from the public and private sectors and academia to generate a robust discussion and diversity of perspectives. You may refer to <http://www.clc.gov.sg/Events/clclectureseries.htm> for examples of our past lectures.