

Annex: Quotes from the Industry

Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)

Ms Caroline Yang, President of Singapore Shipping Association, said, “The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the key roles of seafarers in the front line as they maintain the flow of vital goods, such as food, medicines and medical supplies. The Maritime SG care bags are our small token of appreciation to thank our seafarers for their sacrifices and contributions in the global fight against the virus. Let us recognise that seafarers are key workers, essential to shipping, essential to the world.”

Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU)

Ms Mary Liew, General Secretary of the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union, said, “On the 10th Anniversary of the Day of the Seafarer, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to our seafarers for their invaluable contribution to the world, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Seafarers have not only kept the global supply chain moving, but have been crucial in the fight against the ongoing pandemic, transporting daily necessities including medical supplies and protective equipment that help save lives stricken by the virus.

Our hearts go out to all seafarers in these difficult times as the crew change continues to be a major global issue. SMOU has been working closely with our tripartite partners to facilitate crew change and improve guidelines so that this can be conducted safely and swiftly at our ports.

We are here for you and will do our best to help you together with our tripartite partners and international organisations. Stay safe and we wish you strength, courage and solidarity as we move forward through this exceptionally challenging time.”

Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS)

Mr Kam Soon Huat, President of the Singapore Organisation of Seamen, said, “On the Day of the Seafarer, we call on everyone to treat seafarers with respect and dignity. On our part, to show our appreciation to seafarers, who are essential frontline workers, and encourage the shipping companies during the pandemic, SOS is setting aside more than S\$1.5million to help defray the cost of accommodation and meals for seafarers who need temporary rest at the Seacare Hotel during the crew change.”