



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Singapore, 19 August 2024 | **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Volunteer Programme to Enhance Safety Launches at Singapore Safety@Sea Week**

*Working collectively with agencies and community partners to make our waters safer*

Themed 'All Hands On Deck: Safety First!', the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Singapore Safety@Sea Week opens today. Speaking at the opening of the Singapore Safety@Sea Conference today, Mr Murali Pillai, Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Law, emphasised the importance of preparedness, coordination, and responsiveness when managing incidents at sea and the use of technology to enhance incidence response capabilities.

2. Mr Murali also presented letters of appointment to 17 volunteers who have signed up for the new Safer Seas Volunteer Programme (SSVP). The SSVP is developed by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) with support from members of the pleasure craft community and marina managers to augment search and rescue (SAR) efforts coordinated by MPA in Singapore waters. Under the programme, MPA can contact volunteers whose craft are in the vicinity of an incident to request their assistance to search and report sighting of man overboard (MOB) to MPA. As part of the programme, volunteers will receive training, including on how to conduct search at sea for the MOB. Three marinas<sup>1</sup> received letters of appreciation for their staff's participation in SSVP.

3. MPA and the Singapore Civil Defence Force are co-organising the maritime workshops for the first time this year, as part of Singapore Safety@Sea Week. The workshops will feature SCDF's Responders Plus Programme and will be opened to all members of the Singapore maritime workforce, including harbour craft, pleasure craft and regional ferry personnel. The workshops aim to increase the emergency preparedness amongst the community in Maritime Singapore and the half-day session will cover core lifesaving skills like first aid, CPR, use of AED, and the use of fire extinguishers.

4. MPA Chief Executive Mr Teo Eng Dih presented the MPA Safety@Sea Awards for outstanding contributions to SAR efforts to the masters and crew of eight vessels

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<sup>1</sup> The three marinas are namely Singapore Sailing Federation, ONE°15 Marina, and Marina at Keppel Bay.

involved in various SAR efforts in 2023. A total of 153 persons were rescued in these efforts. Please refer to **Annex A** for list of award winners.

5. The panel discussions at this year's Singapore Safety@Sea Conference will share insights on the safety preparations and lessons learnt from the pilot trials conducted in Singapore on the use of methanol and ammonia as marine fuel, as well as discussions on the pressing issues impacting maritime workforce's safety and wellbeing. Refer to **Annex B** for the list of conference session themes and speakers.

6. In collaboration with MPA, the Ministry of Manpower, and key industry partners, the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council is developing the WSH Guidelines on Personal Flotation Devices – Life Jackets. These guidelines provide guidance on the selection of life jackets for different work environments in line with international standards and recommend good practices on their use and maintenance. A four-week public consultation<sup>2</sup> was launched today, after the completion of an industry consultation exercise in July 2024.

7. To test and validate Singapore's operational readiness in the event of a ferry mishap incident, this year's ferry rescue exercise (FEREX) comprises a table-top exercise on 1 August 2024 and a ground deployment exercise (GDX) to be conducted on 22 August 2024. FEREX 2024 will include a seaward exercise off the southern coast of Singapore and a landward exercise at Marina Bay Cruise Centre, involving 12 vessels and over 200 personnel<sup>3</sup> from eight government agencies and industry partners. Mr Murali will observe the GDX together with key personnel from the various government agencies and industry partners.

8. The scenario in this year's FEREX simulates a collision between an electric ferry and a diesel-powered ferry. MPA will activate its ferry mishap contingency plan to test the various agencies' operational readiness to deal with a battery fire, evacuation of passengers, MOB drills, and medical procedures. FEREX 2024 will see the use of aerial drones for surveillance and delivery of life buoy to the MOB, as well the use of an autonomous unmanned vehicle to conduct hull inspections on the damaged ferry. Some of SSVP volunteers will also participate in this FEREX.

9. In conjunction with the Singapore Safety@Sea Week, 17 senior officials from maritime and port authorities from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Middle East, Oceania and International Maritime Organization, are attending the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Port Management Programme (PMP). Organised by the MPA Academy for port masters and harbour masters, PMP covers key topics including maritime safety, port planning, decarbonisation and digitalisation, and emergency preparedness.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tal.sg/wshc/home/media/announcements/2024/public-consultation-for-wsh-guidelines-on-personal-flotation-devices>

<sup>3</sup> The agencies and organisations include the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, Ministry of Health, Singapore Police Force, the Republic of Singapore Navy, Singapore Civil Defence Force, SATS-Creuers Cruise Services, Penguin International Limited and ferry operator Singapore Island Cruise.

Participants will also visit key maritime facilities including the Integrated Simulation Centre and Port Operations Control Centre.

10. This annual Singapore Safety@Sea Week brings together the maritime community to discuss safety at sea and share best practices on maritime safety. More details of the event, including details of the industry's co-located events can be found at [www.safetyatseaweek.gov.sg](http://www.safetyatseaweek.gov.sg) .

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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, 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 2023, Singapore's annual vessel arrival tonnage crossed 3 billion Gross Tonnage and remains the world's busiest transshipment hub, with a total container throughput of 39.0 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

For more information, please visit [www.mpa.gov.sg/](http://www.mpa.gov.sg/)

#### **For media queries, please contact:**

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## Annex A: MPA Safety@Sea Awards 2024

### Winners for Outstanding Contributions to Search and Rescue Efforts in 2023

No.	Name of Recipient	Point of Contact
1	<b>A.P Moller Singapore Pte Ltd</b>  (For the successful search and rescue operations by MAERSK VALETTA to save thirty-four individuals onboard a wooden boat on 25 June 2023.)	Name: Berit Vincentz Andersen Email: <a href="mailto:berit.andersen@maersk.com">berit.andersen@maersk.com</a> Contact: - Designation: -
2	<b>Bintan Resort Ferries Pte Ltd</b>  (For the successful search and rescue operations by ARIA BUPALA to save six individuals in the sea on 22 December 2023.)	Name: Khelijah Nordine Email: <a href="mailto:khelijah@brf.com.sg">khelijah@brf.com.sg</a> Contact: 62401780 Designation: -
3	<b>CMA CGM International Shipping Company Pte Ltd</b>  (For the successful search and rescue operations by CMA CGM URAL to save two individuals from a distressed sailing vessel on 14 December 2023.)	Name: Sharon Chan Email: <a href="mailto:sgp.shachan@cma-cgm.com">sgp.shachan@cma-cgm.com</a> Contact: - Designation: CMA CGM APAC Corporate Comms
4	<b>Columbia Ship Management (Singapore) Pte Ltd</b>	Name: Edwin Rodrigues Email: <a href="mailto:e.rodrigues@csmg.com">e.rodrigues@csmg.com</a> Contact: -

	(For the successful search and rescue operations by CAPE FRANKLIN to save forty-seven and forty-eight individuals onboard a disabled boat on 9 May and 18 May 2023 respectively.)	Designation: -
5	<b>Rio Tinto Shipping (Asia) Pte Ltd</b>  (For the successful search and rescue operations by RTM DJUPLAN to save six individuals drifting on a makeshift raft on 1 July 2023.)	Name: Michelle Lee Email: <a href="mailto:michelle.lee@riotinto.com">michelle.lee@riotinto.com</a> Contact: - Designation: Principal Advisor, Media Relations  Name: Ryan Lim Email: <a href="mailto:ryan.lim@riotinto.com">ryan.lim@riotinto.com</a> Contact: - Designation: Principal Advisor, External Affairs
6	<b>Synergy Group</b>  (For the successful search and rescue operations by IBERIAN BULKER to save nine individuals from a distressed wooden craft on 9 January 2023.)	Name: Vishal Jagdish Srivastava Email: <a href="mailto:vishal.s@synergyship.com">vishal.s@synergyship.com</a> Contact: - Designation: Head – Media & Marketing and Corporate Communication
7	<b>Wan Hai Lines Pte Ltd</b>  (For the successful search and rescue operations by WAN HAI A07 to save an individual from a distressed sailboat on 5 October 2023.)	Name: Julian Ng Email: <a href="mailto:julian_ng@wanhai.com">julian_ng@wanhai.com</a> Contact: 62261588 / 91927660 Designation: Senior Marine Manager
8	<b>Bernhard Schulte Ship Management (China) Co Ltd</b>	Name: Chao Xu Email: <a href="mailto:chao.xu@schultegroup.com">chao.xu@schultegroup.com</a> Contact: -

(For the successful search and rescue operations by WAN HAI A07 to save an individual from a distressed sailboat on 5 October 2023.)

Designation: Press Officer

## **Annex B: Singapore Safety@Sea Conference Panels (19 August 2024)**

### Opening Session Panel: “All Hands on Deck for Safe Methanol Bunkering”

Panellists: **MPA** (Mr Chua Yeng Hian, Senior Deputy Director Marine Services), **PSA Singapore** (Mr Goh Hock Nguan, Assistant Vice President, Sustainability Planning & Development), **Singapore Maritime Academy** (Capt Chatur Wahyu, Director), and **X-Press Feeders** (Capt Mayank Singh, QA Manager) to share about their roles and considerations for safety leading up to the first successful simultaneous methanol bunkering and cargo operation at Tuas Port<sup>4</sup>.

Moderator: Mr Michael Phoon, Executive Director, Singapore Shipping Association and Deputy Chairman, National Maritime Safety at Sea Council (NMSSC)

### Session 2 Panel: “All Hands on Deck for Safe Ammonia Bunkering”

Panellists: **MPA** (Mr New Wei Siang, Director (Maritime Decarbonisation & Net-Zero Pathways), **Fortescue** (Mr Andrew Hoare, Group Manager, Marine), **Singapore Maritime Academy** (Capt Salleh Sarwan, Specialist, Navigation & Shiphandling), and **Vopak Terminal** (Mr Glen Davenport, Vice President, Operations and Technical) to share about their roles and considerations for safety leading up to the world’s first use of ammonia as a marine fuel in the Port of Singapore this year<sup>5</sup>.

Moderator: Capt Vibhas Garg, NMSSC Member

### Session 3 Panel: “All Hands on Deck for Our People’s Safety and Wellbeing”

Panellists: **MPA** (Capt Chong Jia Chyuan, Port Master), **Singapore Maritime Officers’ Union** (Mr Gwee Guo Duan, Assistant General Secretary), **Stellar Shipmanagement Services** (Mr Kelvin Kang, General Manager), and **WSH Council** (Dr Kenneth Low, Chairman of Marine Industries Committee) to share the government, union and industry’s perspectives on the pressing issues to address for maritime workforce’s safety and wellbeing.

Moderator: Mr Ishak Ismail, Chairman NMSSC

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/singapore-is-ready-for-methanol-bunkering-for-container-vessels-at-tuas-port-with-first-successful-simultaneous-methanol-bunkering-and-cargo-operation>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.mpa.gov.sg/media-centre/details/world-s-first-use-of-ammonia-as-a-marine-fuel-in-a-dual-fuelled-ammonia-powered-vessel-in-the-port-of-singapore>