



MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore, 22 September 2023 | **For Immediate Release**

Singapore Retains World's Top Maritime Centre For 10th Consecutive Year

Singapore retained its lead as the world's top maritime centre in the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development (ISCD) Index. This is the 10th consecutive year that Singapore has achieved this.

2. The latest Xinhua-Baltic ISCD index published this year by the Baltic Exchange and China's Xinhua News Agency, ranked Singapore as the leading maritime centre among 43 global maritime hubs. The index provides an independent ranking of the performance of maritime locations on factors including cargo throughput, port facilities, maritime services and business environment. Singapore's strategic location, international outlook and established ecosystem of professional global maritime services, as well as good governance, have contributed to the growth of our international maritime centre serving the global community.

3. Mr Chee Hong Tat, Acting Minister for Transport and Senior Minister of State for Finance, said, "Singapore is honoured to top the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index for the 10th consecutive year. This was made possible by the strong support of our tripartite partners from the industry and unions. We will continue to grow our maritime industry to create more good jobs for our people, and make Singapore the global maritime hub of choice."

4. Mr Teo Eng Dih, Chief Executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, said, "We thank our international partners, industry, the research and enterprise community, as well as unions for the achievement. Together, our strong tripartite relationship has supported the development of Singapore as the preferred International Maritime Centre. We remain committed to fostering an environment that encourages enterprise, innovation, and talent development. We will continue our work with our partners to enhance Singapore's connectivity, advance digitalisation efforts, and accelerate the decarbonisation of international shipping."

5. The Xinhua-Baltic ISCD Index ranking was announced at the 2023 North Bund Forum held in Shanghai and co-hosted by the Shanghai Municipal People's Government and the Ministry of Transport of China. Please refer to the link¹ for more information, and the Annex for additional quotes from our partners from the industry and unions.

<End of Release>

Attachment

Annex: Additional quotes from our partners from the industry and unions

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 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 www.mpa.gov.sg/

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¹ <https://www.balticexchange.com/en/news-and-events/news/press-releases-/2023/singapore-announced-top-maritime-centre-for-10th-year.html>

Annex: Additional quotes from our partners from the industry and unions

Ms Caroline Yang, President of the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) said, “The SSA is delighted that Singapore has maintained this top accolade with the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index Report for a decade now. This is no mean feat and achieved only through the close collaboration between the shipping industry, government agencies like the MPA and other maritime organisations. For us to continue in this position as a maritime capital of choice, we will need to work more closely to deal with the many challenges the shipping industry is facing now, including our ultimate goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. SSA will voice the viewpoints and concerns of the industry in this journey, so that policy decisions are made in a manner that allow for our businesses to thrive for a long time to come.”

Mr Hor Weng Yew, Chairman, Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF), said, “The results from the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index reaffirms Maritime Singapore’s competitiveness as an international maritime centre and a global hub port. Moving forward as the industry transforms, Maritime Singapore will continue to build productive partnerships between the public and private sectors, and strengthen our collective commitment to nurturing talent.”

Mr Ong Kim Pong, Regional CEO Southeast Asia, PSA International, said, “Singapore’s success as the world’s top maritime hub is the culmination of many years of strong partnership and collaboration among the maritime ecosystem players. As a global trade enabler and supply chain orchestrator, PSA continues to extend beyond port operations, innovating new and sustainable digital solutions for our customers. Deepest thanks to our staff, unions, customers and stakeholders for their steadfast commitment alongside PSA to deliver continued service excellence and achieve greater heights as One Maritime Singapore.”

“Jurong Port is honoured to be part of the Maritime Singapore family for topping the 2023 Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index Report for the 10th consecutive year. We are committed to help build leaner and greener supply chains that will reinforce Singapore’s global maritime hub status.”

Ms Mary Liew, General Secretary of the Singapore Maritime Officers’ Union (SMOU), said, “SMOU warmly congratulates the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) on its remarkable achievement of securing Singapore’s top position in the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index Report for an impressive 10th consecutive year. MPA’s unwavering commitment to advancing digitalisation, innovation, and decarbonisation within the maritime industry exemplifies its dedication to positioning Singapore as a leading International Maritime Centre. This achievement reflects the success of our tripartite partnership, and together, we have contributed to the growth and excellence of Maritime Singapore. As we look forward to the future, SMOU remains steadfast in our partnership with MPA and management to elevate the Singapore Maritime Industry to even greater heights.”

Mr Kam Soon Huat, President of the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS), said, "The Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) is immensely proud that Singapore topped the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index for the 10th consecutive year. This award goes beyond our state-of-the-art port facilities and business-friendly environment. It is global recognition for Singapore as a complete maritime hub; one that also supports the well-being of seafarers with support networks and facilities for them such as drop-in centres. SOS remains committed to Maritime Singapore's continued excellence. We will continue to work closely with our maritime tripartite partners to improve the well-being of seafarers."

Mr Chao Hick Tin, Chairman of the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA), said, "SCMA is pleased that Singapore has retained its pole position on the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index for the 10th consecutive year. Even as we congratulate MPA and its Maritime Singapore partners for this excellent result, we recognise that more work needs to be done, particularly in new and emerging developments such as maritime decarbonisation, sustainability and autonomous systems, to reinforce Singapore's position as the leading global maritime hub. SCMA will continue to play our part and will work closely with MPA, the legal fraternity, and partners in the industry and academia to strengthen Singapore's maritime arbitration and law offerings."

Mr Tan Cheng Peng, Executive Director, Singapore Maritime Institute, said, "The Singapore Maritime Institute (SMI) congratulates Singapore for leading the rankings for the 10th consecutive year as a top shipping centre in the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index report. In this regard, research and innovation are vital to push the frontiers of maritime transformation to prepare for the future. As a research and innovation catalyst in the Maritime Singapore ecosystem, SMI will continue its efforts to foster stronger maritime R&D collaboration between industry and academia to support and fulfil Singapore's aspiration to be a leading International Maritime Centre and global hub port."

Capt Chatur Wahyu, Acting Director, Singapore Maritime Academy, said, "Singapore Maritime Academy congratulates MPA for securing top spot for the 10th consecutive year in the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index Report. Your success is due to your strong commitment and relentless efforts to raise the profile of Maritime Singapore globally. We wish MPA continued success and many more accolades in future."