



MEDIA RELEASE

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18th Singapore Maritime Week Opens to Meet Maritime Ambitions

The Singapore Maritime Week (SMW), organised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), returns in its 18th edition with more than 50 events¹ from 15 to 19 April 2024 at the Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre. Themed ‘Actions meet Ambition’, SMW is organised around four pillars - decarbonisation, digitalisation, services, and talent development. More than 10,000 maritime professionals from close to 80 countries², including delegates from governments, port authorities, international organisations, as well as industry experts and thought leaders are expected to attend SMW. In addition, the inaugural Expo@SMW trade exhibition, taking place from 16 – 18 April 2024 as part of SMW 2024, will showcase maritime solutions by close to 50 companies and startups.

2. SMW 2024 was launched by Mr Chee Hong Tat, Singapore’s Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance. Speaking at the Opening Ceremony, Mr Chee highlighted that Maritime Singapore has continued to grow year-on-year – a mark of the industry’s vote of confidence in Singapore, and the strong tripartite relationship between business, workers, and the government. Looking forward, Mr Chee said that Singapore aims to be a global hub for innovation, reliable and resilient maritime operations, and maritime talent, to better serve the current and future needs of our stakeholders and allow Singapore to contribute to global development and sustainability goals effectively.

High-level Engagement at Singapore Maritime Week 2024

3. A maritime dialogue was held on the topic of Supply Chain Resilience, Digitalisation and Decarbonisation. The panel, comprising Dr Volker Wissing, Federal Minister for Digital Affairs and Transport, Germany, Mr Even Tronstad Sagebakken, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway, and Mr Francis Zachariae, Secretary-General, International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) was moderated by Professor Simon Tay, Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs. The panel discussed the challenges the maritime sector faces when dealing with these changes and disruptions, the efforts and measures undertaken by them to prepare the maritime industry and its workforce,

¹ Please refer to www.smw.sg for the full programme guide and list of events.

² Annex A: List of visiting countries at SMW 2024.



and the potential for various stakeholders to work together to address these challenges and capture new opportunities.

4. Other participants of SMW 2024 include Mr Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO); and Mr Sergio Mujica, Secretary-General of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

5. Speaking at his first maritime event in Singapore since his appointment as the Secretary-General of the IMO in January 2024, Mr Dominguez delivered a keynote speech at the Singapore Maritime Lecture that was moderated by Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng, Singapore's Non-Resident High Commissioner to the Republic of Fiji and Non-Resident Ambassador to the Pacific Islands Forum.

6. Secretary-General Dominguez emphasised the importance of ensuring seafarer safety and wellbeing, particularly in the light of geopolitical changes impacting shipping, and highlighted his vision for IMO to flourish as a transparent, inclusive, diverse institution. He also noted the rapid green and digital transition unfolding in the maritime sector, driven by the targets set by IMO Member States in the IMO 2023 GHG Strategy. Mr. Dominguez said: "IMO is on track to adopt mid-term measures by late 2025 to cut GHG emissions, to reach net zero targets. Alongside this regulatory work, there is a need to consider issues such as safety, pricing, infrastructural availability to deliver new fuels, lifecycle emissions, supply chain constraints, barriers to adoption and more. Seafarers will require training to be able to operate new technologies as well as zero or near-zero emission powered vessels safely. We need "early movers" in the industry as well as forward-looking policy makers to take the necessary risks and secure the right investments that will stimulate long-term solutions for the sector. In this regard, we welcome the efforts being undertaken by Singapore to facilitate collaboration among maritime stakeholders, including the MPA-led Maritime Energy Training Facility."

7. SMW 2024 will also bring together MPA's Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC) partners, namely Australia, six ports in Japan, Port of Los Angeles, Port of Long Beach, Port of Rotterdam, and Tianjin, to discuss GDSC initiatives to support IMO's Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emission reduction targets for international shipping. These include the development and uptake of zero or near-zero GHG emission fuels at scale along corridor routes, technologies to accelerate decarbonisation, collaboration to enhance operational and digital efficiencies, as well as updates on key milestones achieved for the Singapore and Port of Rotterdam and the Singapore and Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach GDSCs.



Collective Actions to Meet Ambition

8. Underscoring the importance of collective and collaborative efforts to accelerate the transformation of the maritime industry, MPA will ink several partnerships and agreements with more than 30 partners during SMW 2024 on areas such as training and cybersecurity. These partners comprise international organisations, foreign governments and agencies, classification societies, maritime partners, institutes of higher learning, tech companies, trade associations, and unions. MPA will also be making several announcements related to developments on low-emission maritime energy transition technologies, maritime artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and manpower, over the five-day event.

Building a Maritime Workforce for the Future

9. MPA and 22 partners³, including the leading global marine engine manufacturers, today also signed a Letter of Intent to establish the Maritime Energy Training Facility (METF). The METF, supported by the tripartite maritime community in Singapore, aims to close the skills and competencies gap for the safe operation of new zero or near-zero emission-powered vessels.

10. To be established as a decentralised network of training facilities based in Singapore, METF will tap on an ecosystem of partners' assets and training technologies to train the maritime workforce on the safe handling, emergency response, and incident management of future marine fuels such as methanol and ammonia. The establishment of METF follows from a key recommendation put forth by the Tripartite Advisory Panel⁴, which was formed in early 2023 to identify emerging skills and competencies to develop the maritime workforce of the future.

11. MPA also aims to support and contribute to the work of the Maritime Just Transition Task Force (MJTTF) as one of the institutions rolling out the Baseline Training Framework for Seafarers in Decarbonization – which is under development – through METF. This will directly contribute to the joint IMO-MJTTF work to develop training provisions for seafarers in support of decarbonization of shipping, and complements the IMO's ongoing comprehensive review of the International Convention and Code on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for

³ Annex C: Maritime Energy Training Facility Partners

⁴ The Tripartite Advisory Panel was set up in early 2023 by the Singapore Maritime Foundation and supported by MPA to engage the industry and union stakeholders on emerging and future skills for the maritime industry.



Seafarers (STCW). Singapore is currently chairing the IMO Working Group on the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code, established in 2023 under the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping.

12. With hundreds of crew change conducted daily in Singapore, METF in Singapore is well placed to deliver cost and time efficient crew training for vessel operators and ship management companies as part of their crew change arrangements. METF will be progressively developed by 2026 and is expected to benefit more than 10,000 maritime personnel including seafarers from now to the 2030s.

Five New Members Join the Maritime International Advisory Panel

13. The third Maritime International Advisory Panel⁵ (IAP) meeting, to be convened on 16 April 2024, will discuss how to strengthen the maritime ecosystem and advance maritime digitalisation. Five new members will join the IAP this year, including Mr Ben Palmer, President, Inmarsat Maritime, Mr Nick Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Lloyd's Register, Mr Greg Wilson, Worldwide Public Sector Chief Technology Officer (Government), Microsoft, Mr Bing Chen, Chief Executive Officer, Seaspan, and Mr Abhishek Pandey, Managing Director and Global Head, Transportation Finance, Standard Chartered Bank. The new members will bring in new perspectives to enrich the 16-member IAP's discussions.

Public Engagement

14. During SMW 2024, members of the public can experience MPA's newly refreshed Singapore Maritime Discoveries Tours. These include guided tours to the Singapore Maritime Gallery (SMG), Sea Exploration Tour, Raffles Lighthouse Tour, as well as the Maritime Heritage and Maritime Evolution trails that will take participants on a discovery of Singapore's iconic maritime landmarks around the island. There has been strong interest in the sign up for these tours. To celebrate SMW 2024, selected tours will be free, with Sea Exploration and Raffles Lighthouse offered at a 15% discount off the public tour rates over the weekends from 13 to 21 April 2024. Tickets are limited and public can sign up at <https://www.smw.sg/outreach/singapore-maritime-discoveries>.

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⁵ The Maritime International Advisory Panel was established during SMW 2022 to seek global perspectives on key trends that will shape the future of the maritime industry and identify ways in which Maritime Singapore can contribute and play a role.



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/

About Singapore Maritime Week 2024

SMW is an annual gathering of the international maritime community to advance key industry issues and exchange ideas to bring the sector forward. Driven by MPA, in collaboration with industry stakeholders and research and educational institutions, SMW brings together key opinion leaders and industry leaders through conferences, dialogues and forums.

The range of activities and events organised by MPA, industry stakeholders and research and educational institutions, as well as the cosmopolitan profile of participants, reflect the vibrancy and diversity of Singapore as a global hub port and leading international maritime centre.

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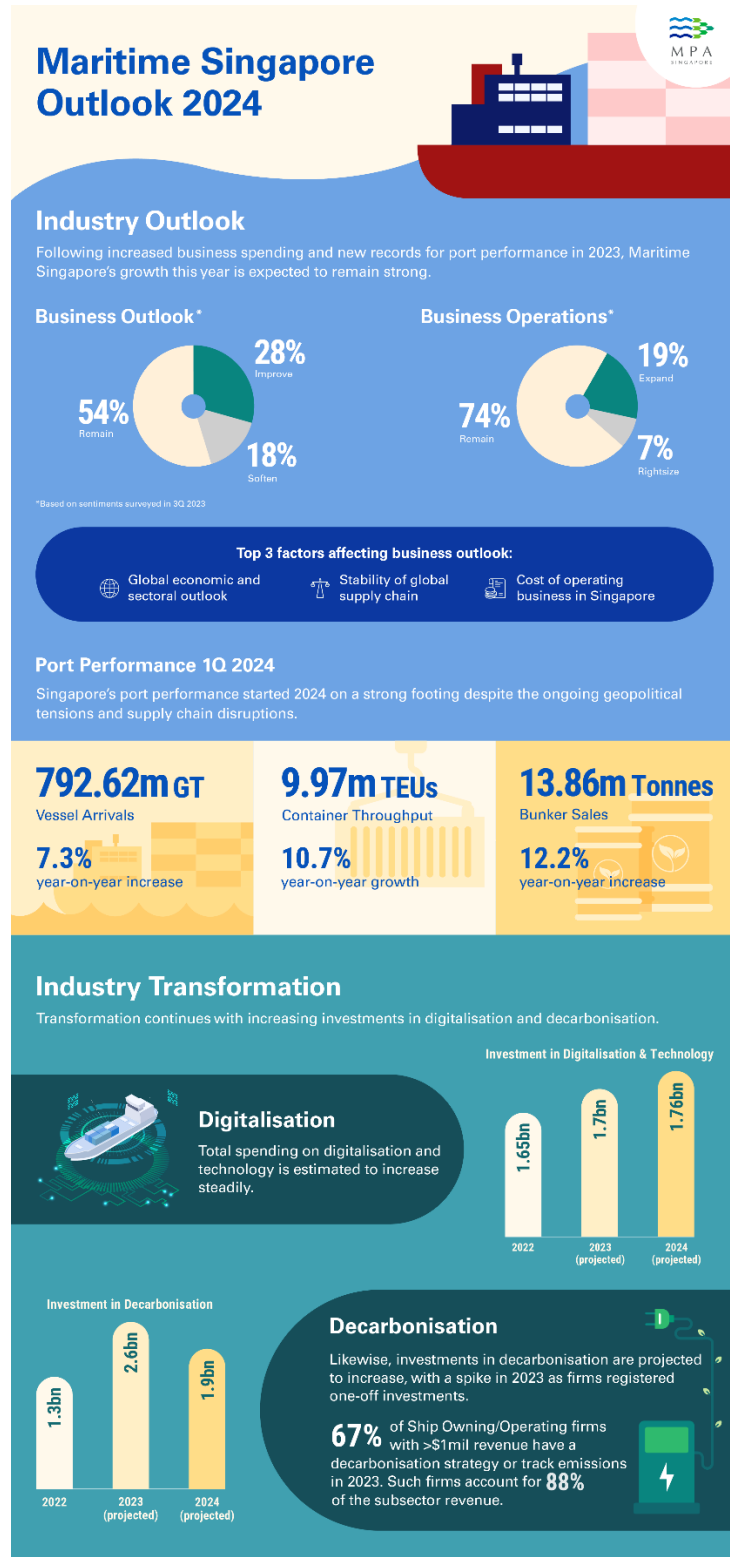
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Annex A – List of visiting countries at SMW 2024

#	Country / Region	#	Country / Region
1	Angola	40	Marshall Islands
2	Australia	41	Mauritania
3	Austria	42	Morocco
4	Azerbaijan	43	Myanmar
5	Bahrain	44	Nauru
6	Belgium	45	Netherlands
7	Benin	46	New Zealand
8	Brazil	47	Nigeria
9	Brunei Darussalam	48	Norway
10	Cabo Verde	49	Pakistan
11	Canada	50	Panama
12	China	51	Peru
13	Colombia	52	Philippines
14	Comoros	53	Poland
15	Cyprus	54	Portugal
16	Denmark	55	Qatar
17	East Timor	56	Romania
18	Ecuador	57	Republic of Korea
19	Egypt	58	Republic of North Marcedonia
20	Estonia	59	Saudi Arabia
21	Fiji	60	Serbia
22	Finland	61	Singapore
23	France	62	Slovenia
24	Germany	63	Solomon Islands
25	Greece	64	Somalia
26	Grenada	65	Spain
27	India	66	Sri Lanka
28	Indonesia	67	Sweden
29	Iraq	68	Switzerland
30	Israel	69	Thailand
31	Italy	70	Turkey
32	Japan	71	Tuvalu
33	Kenya	72	Ukraine
34	Kiribati	73	United Arab Emirates
35	Kuwait	74	United Kingdom
36	Latvia	75	United States
37	Liberia	76	Vietnam
38	Lithuania	77	Zambia
39	Malaysia		

Annex B – MPA’s Maritime Census 2024 Infographics





Annex C – Maritime Energy Training Facility Partners

#	METF Partners
1	America Bureau of Shipping
2	Amogy Inc
3	Baltic and International Maritime Council
4	Fortescue
5	HD Hyundai Heavy Industries
6	International Association of Classification Societies
7	International Chamber of Shipping
8	IHI Corporation
9	International Maritime Employers' Council
10	International Transport Worker's Federation
11	Lloyd's Register Group Limited
12	MAN Energy Solutions Singapore
13	Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
14	Port Officer's Union
15	Singapore Polytechnic (Representing Singapore Maritime Academy and the Centre of Excellence for Maritime Studies)
16	Singapore Maritime Officer's Union
17	Singapore Shipping Association
18	Singapore Organisation of Seaman
19	Singapore Port Workers Union
20	United Workers of Petroleum Industry
21	Wartsila Singapore
22	Wavelink Maritime Institute
23	Winterthur Gas & Diesel