

## **Joint Media Release**

Singapore, 21 November 2023 | **For Immediate Release**

### **IMO-Singapore project on Maritime Single Window delivery at Angola Port completed**

*Single Window for Facilitation of Trade (SWiFT) project successfully  
handed over at Port of Lobito, Angola*

A handover ceremony to mark the completion of the pilot Single Window for Facilitation of Trade (SWiFT) project of the newly developed generic Maritime Single Window (MSW) platform was conducted at the Port of Lobito in Angola on 20 November 2023.

2 The ceremony was held after a successful week-long user acceptance testing session, organised virtually by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), involving officials from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), MPA and Port of Lobito. The new MSW digital system allows the electronic submission, through a single online portal, of all information required by various agencies to ensure efficient clearance of ships during port calls there.

#### **Maritime Single Windows mandatory from January 2024**

3 From 1 January 2024, it will be mandatory for ports around the world to operate Maritime Single Windows for the exchange of information required at the point of a ship's arrival, during its stay and at departure. The change is in line with international shipping's aspirations to accelerate digitalisation and decarbonisation of the sector and is the result of [amendments to the IMO's FAL Convention](#).

4 The SWiFT project, one of IMO's strategic partnerships with donors, was established by IMO and Singapore in March 2021 to support medium-size ports in establishing secure digital interconnectivity with counterparts worldwide, to meet IMO's mandatory obligations under the FAL Convention.

#### **Collaboration to support digital transformation**

5 Under the SWiFT project, IMO and MPA worked closely with relevant Angolan stakeholders, including the Port of Lobito and Agência Marítima Nacional, to develop a functional generic MSW platform configured to the needs of the Port of Lobito. Mr Julian Abril, Head of the IMO's Facilitation Section said: "With single window for data exchange requirements under the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic becoming mandatory in ports from 1 January 2024, the lessons and experience gained from the SWiFT project will contribute towards the implementation of MSWs globally".

6 MPA Deputy Director (Sectoral Systems Development), Mr Gavin Yeo said: "The MSW platform developed under the SWiFT project draws from Singapore's experience in the implementation of our national MSW, digitalPORT@SG™. MPA is pleased to have partnered IMO and the Port of Lobito on this digital transformation journey, which has the potential to enhance the efficiencies for international shipping, port operations and global supply chains."

7 The SWiFT project was supported by Singapore via in-kind contributions and by IMO via the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme ([ITCP](#)) which assists countries in building up their capacities to enable effective compliance with the Organization's regulatory framework.

8 The initiative builds upon an earlier successful project coordinated by IMO that saw successful delivery in 2019 of a [Maritime Single Window system in Antigua and Barbuda](#).

*Read more [here](#) on how the shipping and ports sectors can realise opportunities that the operation of an MSW platform can bring, and potential approaches to designing and implementing one.*

<End of release>

### **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 <https://www.mpa.gov.sg>

### **About the International Maritime Organization**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations for shipping. It was established in 1948 and is devoted exclusively to maritime matters. Its main objective is to facilitate cooperation among governments on technical matters affecting international shipping, such as maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships. The IMO also deals with legal matters connected with international shipping and facilitation of international maritime traffic.

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