

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR WONG WENG SUN,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND GOVERNING COUNCIL,
SINGAPORE MARITIME INSTITUTE
AT THE SMI FORUM 2021,
THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021,
AUDITORIUM, SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC**

Senior Minister of State for Transport, Mr Chee Hong Tat,

His Excellency William Hodgman [*Hotch-mern*],
Australian High Commissioner to Singapore

Distinguished representatives from the Norwegian and Finnish
Embassies in Singapore

Singapore Maritime Institute (SMI) Board and Governing Council
Members,

Mr Soh Wai Wah, Principal and CEO of Singapore Polytechnic,

Distinguished guests and friends,

Good day and welcome to the SMI Forum 2021.

- 1 A very warm welcome to the 11th edition of the SMI Forum, our signature flagship event that has been an important platform for SMI to engage the maritime research community. This year's Forum theme is: 'Maritime Safety in the 4.0 Era: Breaking New Frontiers', which aims to highlight the role of research and development (R&D) towards enhancing maritime safety, while supporting the industry to push new frontiers and position for future growth.

- 2 I was told by the SMI Forum organisers that today's hybrid format has attracted about 80 on site audience and more than 300 virtual participants. We have lined up insightful presentations and sharing on the theme by industry and academia speakers.
- 3 This year, we are honoured to have Ms Jillian Carson-Jackson as our Keynote Speaker. Jillian, who is joining us "live" from Australia, is the President of The Nautical Institute. She will be delivering her keynote address on 'Breaching the virtual frontier: Human machine collaboration'.
- 4 There will also be a dynamic exchange among four industry panellists from BW Group, DNB Bank, QBE Insurance, and Willis Towers Watson on 'The Role of Innovation in Reducing Cost of Risk Management: Underwriting and Green Financing' in the second segment of today's programme.
- 5 We hope the learning and information gained from today's sessions will inspire and equip our participants with the knowledge to navigate the uncertain and challenging landscape today and tomorrow.

Commemorating SMI's ten years of maritime R&D

- 6 This year, SMI is also celebrating its tenth year of establishment since 2011, when we first embarked on our mission to catalyse and promote maritime R&D with the maritime industry and research community in Singapore.

- 7 During our formative years between 2011 and 2016, SMI focused on building maritime R&D capabilities and research talents within the local public institutes of higher learning (IHLs) and research institutes (RI). SMI coordinated the wide spectrum of multidisciplinary research capabilities residing within the four Maritime Institutes @ IHLs. The inaugural national Maritime R&D 2025 Roadmap was also launched in 2013 to enhance awareness and provided a clear direction on the identified research capabilities to be established in Singapore.

- 8 Building upon the foundations laid in its first five years, SMI then renewed its R&D strategies to support the transformation of the sea transport sector between 2016 and 2021. A key strategy was the alignment with the national Sea Transport Industry Transformation Map (ITM) and the establishment of four maritime research Centres

of Excellence (CoEs) at the Singapore Polytechnic, NUS and NTU. This was part of SMI's efforts to deepen core maritime R&D capabilities and groom maritime research talent in Singapore. Maritime R&D was further bolstered in partnership with other agencies such as the National Research Foundation (NRF) as SMI expanded its role as the Maritime Transformation Programme (MTP) Programme Office in June 2019.

- 9 Throughout the past ten years, SMI had worked closely with the industry and research community both in Singapore and overseas. These international collaborative initiatives with strategic overseas research organisations further enriched and facilitated impactful global R&D exchange and open innovation with our CoEs. We shall continue to deepen our bilateral R&D relations with our existing international research partners and forge new ones to expand our knowledge frontiers and global R&D network.
- 10 Today, to commemorate SMI's 10th anniversary, we are pleased to launch a video later as we recap and reflect on SMI's role over the past decade in driving research and innovation in the maritime sector and to build up our local maritime R&D capabilities. The milestones achieved would not have been possible without the

support and collaboration with the pioneers of SMI, Singapore's maritime industry players as well as international research partners.

SMI's next lap

- 11 Maritime Singapore has indeed attained its global status and recognition as a Global Hub Port and International Maritime Centre (IMC) through decades of collective efforts. As our hub port and IMC growth matures beyond 2040, knowledge and innovation would be the new engine to drive future growth of our maritime sector.

- 12 SMI's vision and goal for the next 10 years is to establish Singapore as a world-class Global Maritime Knowledge & Innovation Hub with a refreshed mission to make Singapore a leading global maritime research centre of excellence in three key areas of Next Generation Port, Smart Shipping, and Green Technologies. SMI will share more details in the months ahead, and we invite you to join us in our next lap to deliver greater impact through maritime R&D.

Conclusion

- 13 Before I conclude, I wish to express my appreciation to SMS Chee for your valuable time in gracing the SMI Forum today, and the

government's strong commitment and support for maritime R&D in Singapore. My utmost appreciation as well for the kind support by the various High Commission and Embassies for their companies' research partnership signed with SMI today.

14 I also take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the SMI Board and Governing Council (GC) Members for their contributions towards SMI for the past year.

15 On behalf of the SMI Board and GC Members, I would like to thank Dr. Sanjay Kuttan, who has recently completed his appointment as SMI Executive Director on 31 August 2021, for his invaluable contributions for the past three years. Please also join me to welcome Mr. Tan Cheng Peng as the new SMI Executive Director, who will lead SMI in its next chapter of driving maritime R&D to the next higher level.

16 Finally, I would like to thank all the speakers and panellists, for your kind support and participation in our 10th Anniversary SMI Forum. I certainly look forward to your presentations and sharing. On this note, I wish all of you an insightful and fruitful time this afternoon. Thank you.