



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Singapore, 14 February 2024 | Embargoed until 1400HRS**

### **SMOU Charts a Course for the Future: Relunched Deck and Engine Officer Training Programme Set to Take Flight**

Singapore, 14 February 2024 – Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance, Mr Chee Hong Tat, announced the relaunch of the Tripartite Maritime Training Awards (TMTA) (Deck/Engine) programme, previously known as the Tripartite Nautical Training Award (TNTA) and Tripartite Engineering Training Award (TETA) programme, at the SMOU Wavelink Annual Lunar New Year Luncheon and Hong Bao Presentation on February 14th.

This collaborative effort by the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU), the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), NTUC's Employment and Employability Institute (e2i), supported by the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), is part of a move to invest in the future of Singapore's maritime industry and plays a crucial role in strengthening the Singapore Core.

#### **The Singapore Core: An Anchor for Singapore's Maritime Future**

The Singapore Core represents the pool of Singaporean seafarers who operate on vessels trading internationally. A robust Singapore Core is essential for securing Singapore's maritime success:

- Vast employment opportunities: Opening doors to diverse and fulfilling maritime career paths, both at sea and ashore.
- Maintaining Singapore's position: As a leading International Maritime Hub and global maritime centre.



- SMOU's commitment to tripartism: This commitment to tripartism translates into tangible benefits for all stakeholders. Seafarers enjoy better wages, benefits, and career development opportunities. Employers gain access to a highly skilled and motivated workforce. And the government leverages the collective expertise of all parties to shape sound maritime policies.

### **Developing local seafaring talent with a Renewed Vision: TMTA (Deck/Engine)**

Established in 2009, the TMTA programme has already trained over 400 cadets through 23 cohorts at Wavelink Maritime Institute (WMI), resulting in over 130 Certificate of Competency (COC) holders. To further develop local seafaring talent, the relaunched TMTA (Deck/Engine) programme specifically targets two crucial areas:

- Working adults: Offering career transition opportunities for individuals seeking a fulfilling and rewarding career in the maritime industry.
- Enhanced training: Equipping graduates with the latest skills and knowledge to meet the evolving needs of the industry and ensure optimal performance.

### **Investing in the Future: SMOU's Continued Dedication to TMTA (Deck/Engine)**

SMOU is committed to further strengthening the programme through:

- Decisive action: Partnering with key stakeholders to expand financial support and practical training opportunities for cadets.
- Enhanced partnerships with stakeholders: Providing comprehensive training and support to ensure that a steady pipeline of 120 cadets are trained over the next five years to serve the growing maritime industry.
- Continuous review and adaptation: Ensuring the programme remains relevant and effective by tailoring it to the evolving needs of the industry.



Next TMTA cohort: Commencing in the 3rd quarter of 2024 (September), opening doors to new talent. **SMOU: Steadfast in its Commitment to the Singapore Core**

SMOU remains deeply committed to developing the Singapore Core, as demonstrated by its unwavering support:

Over \$10 million invested: Since the commencement of TMTA, in collaboration with tripartite partners, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), NTUC's Employment and Employability Institute (e2i), and supported by Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) and shipping companies, over \$10 million was invested to develop cadets and bolster their skills.

**Quote(s) from Key Stakeholders:**

"The relaunch of the TMTA (Deck/Engine) programme reflects SMOU's unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of maritime leaders," said Ms Mary Liew, General Secretary of SMOU. "This collaborative effort underscores our shared vision for a robust and thriving maritime sector in Singapore, powered by a skilled and dedicated workforce. The TMTA (Deck/Engine) programme provides a unique platform for individuals to launch fulfilling careers at sea and contribute to our nation's maritime legacy."

**Training Delivered by Wavelink Maritime Institute**

It's important to note that the training for the TMTA (Deck/Engine) programme will be delivered by the WMI, the maritime training arm of SMOU. WMI has a proven track record of providing high-quality maritime education and training, ensuring graduates are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their chosen careers.



### **A Call to Action: Chart Your Course with TMTA (Deck/Engine)**

Individuals interested in joining the TMTA (Deck/Engine) programme are encouraged to visit the WMI website at <https://wavelinklms.com.sg/> for more information. This programme presents a unique opportunity to contribute to Singapore's maritime future and embark on a fulfilling career at sea.

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### **About Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU)**

SMOU was established in 1951. The union has grown from a membership base of about 400 in the 1970s to more than 30,000 members. SMOU is pivotal in promoting good industrial relations between seafarers (members) and their employers, the ship owners and ship-management companies, and the governments through its strong tripartite relationships with the local, regional and international maritime community. It seeks to improve the wages and working conditions of members in the maritime industry through collective bargaining agreements with shipping companies which employ them.

Since 1993, SMOU has helped distressed seafarers claim more than US\$20 million of unpaid wages. SMOU is an affiliate of NTUC and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). Visit [www.smou.org.sg](http://www.smou.org.sg)

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