



PRESS RELEASE

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE MARITIME INDUSTRY

Singapore, 22 November 2006 – The Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) celebrated its 55th milestone amidst the company of more than 1,200 local and international unionists, shipping companies and government officials at a grand dinner at the Raffles City Convention Centre.

The dinner celebrations were officiated by Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC).

In her welcome address, Ms Mary Liew, the Executive Secretary of the SMOU, paid tribute to the tripartite contributions which she believed was a key to the success of Singapore as a Maritime Hub.

She said "I would like to thank the government, the port authorities, the shipping companies, the employers and the union members for working together in unity to ensure the continued growth of the maritime economy which had a positive impact on the job security for the maritime industry."

The celebrations which was attended by more than 60 international guests from overseas unions and the representatives of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) was an opportunity for SMOU to pay special tribute to 5 foreign unionists for their efforts in building solidarity amongst the regional maritime unions and spearheading the development of Euro-Asian maritime relations. The awards were presented by Mr Lim.

The SMOU also presented long membership awards to 4 members who had been with the union for more than 40 years. The longest serving member Mr Abdul Kadeh Bin Talib currently 83 years old, had been an SMOU member for the last 49 years since he joined in 1957.

During the celebrations, SMOU shared its future plans and its new vision for the future. Ms Liew said “SMOU is working towards 20,000 members by 2011 and looking into developing regional training in the region to ensure that quality SMOU members work on board Singapore ships.

Describing the union’s journey over the last 55 years, Ms Liew said, “SMOU has had a long journey but I believe that this is just the beginning of a longer journey ahead.

About SMOU

The **Singapore Maritime Officers’ Union** (SMOU) was established in 1951 to safeguard the interest and well-being of seafaring officers. The primary role of the organisation is to promote good industrial relations between members and their employers, improve the working conditions of members in the maritime industry through the terms and conditions of collective bargaining agreements negotiated on behalf of members and signed with shipping companies which employ them and to advance the cultural, recreational and educational aspirations of its members.

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