



FACT SHEET

The Singapore Maritime Training Fund (SMTF), a collaboration between the shipping companies and the **Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU)** was set up to assist with the requirement for additional training and skills enhancement for maritime officers to prepare them for future challenges in the maritime sector.

- The SMTF was initiated in 2003 by SMOU to help seafarers upgrade their skills and to promote seafaring as a rewarding career.
- The Guest of Honour at the Launch of the SMTF is Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Minister of State for Finance and Transport.
- As at 7 July 2006, the SMTF currently stands at S\$2.3 million.
- The funds were raised through contributions from the shipping companies, direct contributions from the SMOU and fund raising events organised by the union.
- The innuagral recipients of the SMTF were as follows:
 - 3 seafaring SMOU members who received subsidies of S\$11,000 each for their degree program, Bachelor in Maritime Operations (BMO), from the Netherlands Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz (MIWB) in collaboration with the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA). Founded in 1875, the MIWB is a world renowned maritime college named after a gifted sailor, and has well-equipped simulator facilities, laboratories and training vessels catering to top-quality maritime education and training.
 - Another 3 SMOU members from Qingdao in China, who received training grants of up to S\$2,500 per annum, while pursuing their training at the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA). The SMA was formed in 2000 as a result of a merger between the Maritime Technology and Transportation Department of the Singapore Polytechnic and the Maritime Academy of the Port Authority of Singapore. SMA has been conferred the Lloyd's List Maritime Asia Award consecutively for 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2005.

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- The launch was attended by representatives from more than 50 organisations from the maritime industry and affiliates.
- More than 160 people attended the launch of the SMTF.

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