



**ADDRESS BY CAPTAIN SAY, CHAIRMAN OF THE SINGAPORE MARITIME TRAINING FUND (SMTF) FUND RAISING GOLF COMMITTEE, AT THE 5<sup>th</sup> SMTF FUND RAISING GOLF 2007, HELD AT WARREN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, ON 16 AUGUST 2007.**

Guest-of-Honour Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam – Minister for Education & Second Minister for Finance, NTUC Central Committee Members, SMEF Chairman - Capt Francis Joseph, SMOU President, Capt Robin Foo, General Secretary, Mr Thomas Tay, shipping associates, SMOU Executive Committee, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, a very good evening.

Today's golf event is part of fund raising efforts to build up the Singapore Maritime Training Fund (SMTF). This fund is set up for the purpose of providing financial support to upgrade the skills of seafarers as well as to promote seafaring as a career.

The SMTF, a collaboration between the shipping industry and the SMOU, presents an excellent opportunity for SMOU and the industry to develop joint training programmes to enhance the skill of our seafaring officers, improve their competitiveness and

contribute towards Singapore as an International Maritime Centre (IMC).

Before this afternoon's golf event, the SMTF stood at S\$3.0 million. With today's effort, we manage to raise some S\$118,000. This amount would go towards the Fund. This target, far exceeded our expectation, would not have been realized without your generous support. I like to thank you all, the shipping companies, associates, affiliates and all our sponsors. The SMTF now stands at S\$3.1 million.

Since its launch, the SMTF has benefited several SMOU members who have received training grants of more than S\$40,000. More concretely, through the SMTF, the shipping industry and SMOU have collaborated to develop the CadetsPlus programme. This will commence on 20 August 2007. It is a value-added one-month training program that facilitates smoother integration of cadets into the industry with the hope that they would stay longer at sea.

SMOU is a progressive union with a vision. Its members deserve the best, in terms of union protection, welfare and training. A union that takes care of its foreign and local seafaring members alike.

I would like to especially mention that today's event would not be possible without the kind sponsorship and generosity of our main sponsors, Keppel Fels & Ocean Tankers, the hole-in-one sponsors Daimler Chrysler, a Mercedes Benz, One Degree 15 a Marina Club membership and Wavelink Group of Companies. Our thanks also go to the kind and generous sponsors of the golf flights from the many other organisations who have made financial contributions.

On behalf of the SMTF Fund Raising Committee, we would like to thank our guest-of-honour, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, for his presence by taking the time off from his busy schedule to officiate at this event and for actively supporting the SMTF.

On this note, we hope that you'll enjoy the evening's dinner and entertainment. You've worked hard on your game, the night is still young, enjoy yourself.

Thank you very much.

**- Ends -**

---

For more information, please contact:

Wilfred Thiang  
Corporate Communications  
Tel: (65) 63901660 Fax: (65) 62951121  
Mob: (65) 91117838  
Email: [wilfred@smou.org.sg](mailto:wilfred@smou.org.sg)