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## ASMI 43rd Anniversary Celebration



43rd Anniversary Celebration



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## ENHANCING COMPETENCIES, CREATING GROWTH

"Over the last four decades, ASMI has played a catalytic role in serving as the voice of the industry and promoting its collective interests. It also facilitates collaboration with government agencies, tertiary institutions, maritime bodies and other relevant organisations, to advance the development of the industry," said ASMI President Mr Wong Weng Sun.

Mr Wong was delivering his welcome address at the Association's 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Dinner held on 28 October at Fairmont Singapore. He recounted that the Association started off in 1968 with a group of pioneers coming together to develop the local ship repair and shipbuilding industry. Since then, the Association had grown from ten founders in 1968 to 130 members in 2000, and to 232 members by 2010. Its members include shipyards, manufacturers and suppliers of marine and offshore equipment, components and products as well as companies providing engineering services, marine design, inspection and consultancy services.

"Becoming a global leader in the marine and offshore arena is a big achievement for our industry, and a small resource scarce country like Singapore. At the corporate level, many of our members are also leading providers in their respective fields," said Mr Wong. He added that becoming a leader had been a challenge but staying in the lead would pose a bigger challenge for the industry. This was even more so in recent years with mounting competition from shipyards in China, Korea and the Middle East, which have entered the markets for FPSOs and rig building.

Highlighting the theme for the evening, "Enhancing Competencies, Creating Growth", Mr Wong said that to stay competitive, the industry had to focus on enhancing competencies and creating growth. "The twin factors for success will continue to be innovation and competitiveness. This will allow us to capture new opportunities, enter new markets and strengthen our business positions," he said.



ASMI President Mr Wong Weng Sun delivered a welcome address at the Association's 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Dinner.

Mr Wong illustrated on some of the ways in which the industry was enhancing its competencies. He noted that some companies were working in partnership with local research and tertiary institutions on various projects in search for innovative solutions to provide the technological lead. He urged more industry players to leverage on the

slew of government assistance programmes available in research and development, manpower development, IT and other areas, to raise productivity, enhance competitiveness and expand their business.

He informed the audience of more than 1,100 members and guests that ASMI had been working with SPRING Singapore and International Enterprise Singapore to build up its internal capabilities under the Local Enterprise Association Development or LEAD Programme. This programme focused on promoting productivity, raising skills competency, building workplace safety and health capabilities, promoting and branding the industry as well as reaching out to overseas markets.

One of the initiatives under the Association's LEAD programme was to set up the Marine Industry Training Centre in ASMI to make available training resources and facilities, and to conduct customised training for industry members to raise skills competency among the marine workforce. Since its establishment in July 2010 to September 2011, the training centre had trained more than 10,200 workers, majority of whom are from the worker's level. These courses helped to build up the competencies of the industry's workforce by equipping them with the required knowledge and skills to meet the demands of the workplace.

Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) was another key concern and priority for the industry and the Association. Mr Wong said that ASMI was working with the WSH Council to implement the initiatives under the national sectoral strategic plan - "Implementing WSH for the Marine Industry 2018". "The target is to build up a strong safety culture in the industry where risk taking is taboo, and hazards management is part and parcel of the work process".

Mr Wong also announced in his speech that ASMI was working with the Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology or SIMTech and the Workforce Development Agency, to develop a customised Operations Management and Innovation Programme for the marine industry. This training and consultancy programme for process improvement would be rolled out in the first quarter of next year. He urged marine companies to take advantage of WDA's support for this programme to raise their productivity and competitiveness.



The ASMI Anniversary Dinner was attended by over 1,130 guests.

## PARTNERING FOR GROWTH

"The International Energy Agency has projected that even in a conservative scenario, oil demand will increase by more than 15% between 2009 and 2035. Our offshore and marine sector stands to benefit from this, particularly from growing demand in emerging economies," said Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr Lui was addressing the audience at the Association of Singapore Marine Industries (ASMI) 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Dinner held on 28 October at the Fairmont Singapore. The Minister was the Guest-of-Honour at the event.



Minister Lui Tuck Yew greeting ASMI Council members on arrival at Fairmont Singapore.



Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, was Guest-of-Honour at the ASMI's 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Dinner.

Mr Lui spoke about the strong partnership between the industry and the government to sustain the growth of the marine and offshore industry. The Minister said that the marine and offshore engineering industry contributed to about 2% of Singapore's GDP and is a key enabler for the growth of the maritime cluster and other business sectors ranging from logistics to professional services.

"Our marine and offshore engineering industry is a key driver of Singapore's economic growth. From humble beginnings as a basic ship repair station in the 1960s, the industry

has since transformed into a premier ship repair centre and rig building conversion specialist," said Mr Lui.

He highlighted that Singapore now constructs over 70% of the world's jack-up rigs and carries out two-thirds of all Floating, Production, Storage and Offloading vessel conversions. The industry had also expanded into new market niches such as the construction of offshore wind turbine installation vessels as well as the design and manufacturing of high-end oil and gas equipment. He noted that a number of marine and offshore companies had shifted their headquarters to Singapore and established research and engineering operations here.

"Competition from other countries for a slice of the offshore and marine engineering business is intensifying. But I am confident that we can rise to the occasion as we have done in the past," said Mr Lui. He went on to elaborate that the government and the industry, led by ASMI, could work together in three areas - developing world-class manpower, sustaining productivity growth and investing in innovation.

He noted that the government and industry must remain committed to developing a sustainable pool of research and engineering talent. ASMI had provided feedback to guide the institutes of higher learning (IHLs) in designing curriculum tailored to the industry's needs. He urged ASMI members to leverage on the academic programmes offered by the Singapore Institute of Technology, Newcastle University as well as the local

universities to promote marine and offshore careers.

Mr Lui informed that the government, through SPRING Singapore, had supported the Marine and Offshore Technology Centre of Innovation at Ngee Ann Polytechnic with a grant of \$4.8 million over three years. This is to allow the Centre to continue assisting small and medium enterprises with product and system prototyping, process improvement as well as development and testing. He urged the industry to work with the Centre to develop tools and improve work processes to enhance productivity.

The Minister said the industry would have to continue investing in innovation to achieve productivity gains and grow its capabilities and service offerings. He noted that a number of ASMI members had established research & development (R&D) operations in Singapore and lent their support to the growth of marine and offshore R&D centres in the institutes of higher learning. More recently, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, Economic Development Board and Agency for Science Technology and Research came together to launch the Singapore Maritime Institute to drive research and innovation in marine and offshore engineering and other maritime fields.

The Minister concluded his speech by congratulating ASMI on its success in playing the pivotal role of bringing the industry and the government together, and leading the industry's efforts to promote Singapore as a world-class marine and offshore hub.



Minister Lui Tuck Yew (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) with (from left) Mr George Ching, Chairman, ASMI Social and Membership Promotion Committee, Mr Wong Weng Sun, President, ASMI, Ms Winnie Low, Executive Director, ASMI, and Mr Alvin Lim, Director, Sea Transport Division, Ministry of Transport.

# ASMI 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Association celebrated its 43<sup>rd</sup> year of establishment on 28 October at the Fairmont Singapore. The Anniversary Dinner was held with much grandeur and fanfare at the Fairmont Ballroom. Some 1,130 members and their guests attended the function graced by Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The foyer was a bustle of activity during the pre-dinner cocktail reception as guests greeted and engaged in lively banter with one another. The occasion provided an opportunity for ASMI members to meet up with friends, business associates and clients.

The Anniversary Dinner opened to the exciting tempo of the theme song from the hit television series of "Hawaii 5 O". This was in keeping with the celebration theme of "Back to the 60s".

ASMI President Wong Weng Sun then took to the stage to give his Welcome Address, focusing on the key message of "Enhancing Competencies, Creating Growth". This was followed by a speech from the Minister. The evening saw the presentation of several awards – the ASMI Awards and Certified Marine Supervisor Awards.

After the formalities, dinner was heralded in by the banquet team of Fairmont. As guests tucked into the 8-course dinner, they were entertained by well-known local getai singers, the *Baobei Sisters*, who delivered a medley of songs. Local acapella group, *Juz B*, and Filipino singer, *Amy*, also performed their repertoire of songs.

The audience were kept entertained throughout the evening by Show Host Edmund Toh, who engaged them with his games revolving around icons and celebrities of the 60s. Guests were in high spirits as they participated spontaneously in the various games.



ASMI's 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Dinner.



Table draws and lucky draws were conducted intermittently throughout the evening, making many guests happy winners in keeping with the joyous mood. The first prize of an Olympus camera package worth \$1,800 was sponsored by Sembcorp Marine. The second prize winner won a travel voucher worth \$1,500 sponsored by Keppel Offshore & Marine. The third prize of an Acer notebook computer was presented by Reed Exhibitions.

The evening's celebration ended on a high note with mass participation of guests. The finale item saw Edmund inciting and leading a human train, snaking round the ballroom and up the stage to the tune of "We are Family." The atmosphere was electrifying as members and their guests from all over the world let loose and joined the 'snake' that grew longer and longer with each turn. The train of guests finally pit stop at the front of the stage for a mass sing-along of a medley of songs by the Beatles. The audience were clearly having fun and enjoying themselves.

The sumptuous dinner, free flowing beer and wine, topped with excellent company from entertainment to networking throughout the night made the anniversary function once again a resounding success.