

Enclosure 3: Quotes by Tripartite Partners

Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)

Ms Caroline Yang, President of the Singapore Shipping Association, said, “It is the well-being of our seafarers that helps keep global supply chains remain open for essential goods to be shipped into Singapore and around the world. SSA hopes that our contribution to the Singapore Shipping Tripartite Alliance Resilience (SG-STAR) Fund can help ease the grave global crew change issue amid the world pandemic. The SG-STAR Fund aims to support initiatives to help ensure the safe passage of crew from supplying countries. These may include establishing proper isolation facilities and whitelisting qualifying medical institutions to provide safe, accurate, and timely COVID-19 PCR tests. We look forward to the SG-STAR Fund paving the way for greater participation and synergy by the international maritime community to enable safe crew change.”

Mr Michael Phoon, Executive Director of the Singapore Shipping Association and Chair of the Singapore Crew Change Workgroup, said, “SSA welcomes the set-up and dedication of the Crew Facilitation Centre (CFC) for sign-on crew in the port of Singapore. As the chair of the Singapore Crew Change Workgroup, the segregation of holding facilities to manage the different sets of sign-on/sign-of crew is another step forward to help mitigate the current critical crew change issue. We foresee that the CFC, along with other added measures, can boost the confidence and assurance for the shipping community to carry out safe crew change in Singapore.”

Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU)

Ms Mary Liew, General Secretary of the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union and the President of the NTUC said, “SMOU, together with our tripartite partners, have been collaborating to overcome the crew change challenges of seafarers since the beginning of the pandemic. With the new initiative of a dedicated crew facilitation centre which will involve segregating crew in the floating accommodation, we will be able to enhance Singapore's crew change protocol in a safer manner for seafarers and a more sustainable solution for shipping companies. Now with the formation of the SG-STAR Fund, we can help strengthen safe crew change of seafarers from the labour supply countries. This is the result of a committed tripartite effort in the maritime industry which will assist more seafarers to be reunited with their families back home and at the same time, allow fresh crew to sign on safely so as to provide for their families. We would also like to thank the Ministry of Transport and MPA for the continuous efforts to recognise our seafarers as key essential workers. Our heartfelt appreciation to our members and seafarers for keeping the supply chain going during this challenging time.”

Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS)

Mr Kam Soon Huat, President of the Singapore Organisation of Seamen, said, "SOS is heartened that MPA has taken the move forward to ensure safe and timely repatriation of seafarers and getting fresh crew onboard. The streamlined crew change procedures and dedicated facility for sign-on crews are practical solutions to keep the supply chain open and to protect the rights of seafarers. Singapore has sent a strong message to the world that we recognise seafarers as essential workers and we appreciate the crucial role seafarers play in the global economy."