

REMARKS BY MR ANDREW TAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE, CHAIRMAN OF THE 11TH CO-OPERATION FORUM, 24 – 25 SEPTEMBER 2018

Note: CE's remarks are made in his capacity as Chair of the Co-operation Forum, before the adoption of the agenda for the Forum. The Chair usually invites the HODs of the three littoral states, in alphabetical order, to make their opening remarks, before proceeding to table and adopt the Forum's agenda and begin the Forum proper.

Mr Agus Purnomo, Director-General, Directorate General of Sea Transportation, Indonesia,

Dato Haji Baharin, Director-General, Marine Department, Malaysia,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

As the host and Chairman of this Forum, I extend a warm welcome to everyone, especially participants who have travelled to Singapore. I see familiar faces and also new ones. I am heartened that all of you have given your time to attend and participate in this Forum.

Straits of Malacca and Singapore – vital sea line of communication

2 In his speech earlier this morning, Minister Khaw spoke about the importance of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) as one of the

vital waterways in the world. One third of the world's traded goods pass through the SOMS. The SOMS is also a key channel for the transport of oil between the Middle East and the economies in East Asia.

3 We all expect Asia to continue to grow – especially bolstered by China and India. In this growth picture, the importance of the SOMS as a key waterway for global trade with, and within, Asia, will be undiminished.

Strong collaboration on the SOMS through the Cooperative Mechanism

4 Given the importance of SOMS to international shipping and world trade, we share the common objective of keeping the SOMS open, safe and clean. The Co-operative Mechanism provides a valuable platform for all stakeholders of the SOMS to collectively identify opportunities, address challenges and come up with joint solutions that are practical yet innovative. It is worth mentioning again that the Co-operative Mechanism is a real example of Article 43 of UN Convention on the Law of the Sea – where “user States and States bordering a strait [used for international navigation] agree to cooperate on navigational safety and other matters for the strait”.

5 The success of the Co-operative Mechanism has been made possible with the strong support and commitment from all of you: the IMO, user States, industry and stakeholders of the SOMS.

6 On this note, I am happy to share that the littoral States and the IMO have agreed to extend the Joint Technical Arrangement (JTA) on the Utilisation of the IMO Malacca and Singapore Straits Fund for another three years. The extension of the JTA reflects the continued commitment of the parties towards promoting greater support to the Co-operative Mechanism.

Achievements of the Co-operative Mechanism: Co-operation Forum, Project Coordination Committee, Aids to Navigation Fund Committee

7 Since its inception, the Co-operation Forum has generated many ideas. These have been translated into projects, which are then implemented under the Project Co-ordination Committee. 13 projects have been implemented, of which 7 completed. For the 6 on-going projects, good progress continues to be made. These projects are about: analysing risks posed by the wrecks in the SOMS, developing a wreck monitoring database, identifying gaps and future needs for the safety of navigation and marine environmental protection in the SOMS and

monitoring marine oil spills. Over the next two days, we will hear about the progress of these projects, including an update by China on the two workshops that they had conducted in March 2018 under Straits Project 12.

8 Apart from China, the projects have been widely supported by user states such as Australia, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, Norway and the United States. Industry and NGOs such as The Nippon Foundation, the Malacca Strait Council of Japan, BIMCO and International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) have also contributed to the projects. I thank and encourage user states, industry and NGOs to continue their collaboration and cooperation on ideas and projects.

9 The Forum itself has always served as the platform for the littoral States, user States and other stakeholders to surface good ideas. I hope that our discussions over the next two days will continue to inform, educate, and bring about useful collaborations in the SOMS.

10 Apart from the Co-operation Forum and the Project Co-ordination Committee, the Aids to Navigation Fund (ANF) is the third pillar of the Co-operative Mechanism for cooperation. About US\$15 million of the total

contribution to the ANF has been used for the provision and maintenance of AtoNs in the SOMS.

11 The 21st ANF meeting was just held in Malacca, Malaysia, last week and I am sure Dato Haji Baharin, Director-General, Marine Department of Malaysia, and his colleagues would be giving you the latest details on the ANF.

Co-operative Mechanism: looking ahead

12 The operating environment for the shipping industry is growing in complexity. As we begin the 11th Co-operation Forum, I would like to emphasise the two aspects.

13 The first is: for us, as a community, to continue finding joint practical, yet innovative solutions, on navigational safety and environmental protection for the SOMS.

14 The second is: for us to continue to identify emerging challenges to navigational safety and environmental protection in the SOMS, and anticipate how we can address these challenges.

15 The agenda of the Co-operation Forum gives us a platform to anticipate the future of shipping in the SOMS. Technological innovations are changing the way we operate. Digitalisation and automation, the use of intelligent systems – are changing the way in which the modern world operates. A number of presentations will touch on the evolving ways of operation.

16 I look forward to the discussions on these presentations, and to hearing all of your views and experiences over the next two days. Apart from myself, my Assistant Chief Executive, Capt M. Segar and MPA's Special Advisor, Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng, will be the two other chairpersons – for this afternoon's session on the safety of navigation and for tomorrow morning's session on protection of marine environment, respectively. On this note, I wish all of you a fruitful and productive meeting ahead.

17 I now invite the Heads of Delegation of the Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, to deliver their opening remarks.

Thank you.