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14-16 March 2018

Hall A, B, C, D, E & F, Marina Bay Sands | Singapore
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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Marine business in ASEAN set for boost with Asia Pacific Maritime 2018

Singapore to host international conference 14 - 16 March 2018

Thailand strategically positioned for growth

BANGKOK, 7 FEBRUARY 2018 – The 15th Asia Pacific Maritime (APM), Southeast Asia's most established maritime, workboat and offshore exhibition and conference will present its strongest line-up of keynote and conference speakers when it takes place in Singapore from 14 to 16 March 2018.

Over 40 leaders and experts from across the global maritime industry will lead discussions on the major trends and issues shaping Asia Pacific's maritime, workboat and offshore industries, whilst sharing their insights and forecast to help players forge the way forward. The three-day event kicks off with the inaugural APM Leaders' Forum (14 March 2018) exploring topics that matter in the year ahead. This is followed by spotlighting on the vessel market (15 March 2018), specifically the outlook for the tanker market, shifting trends in maritime finance and an in-depth look at Vietnam's growing maritime industry. Day three (16 March 2018) will see industry leaders examine the maritime industry's priorities in marine fuels, the latest hybrid technologies and offshore prospects.

Thailand: Strategically positioned for growth

With multiple strategically located ports and a sound port infrastructure, Thailand's maritime industry is well positioned to grow. Through major investments in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), Thailand not only hopes to develop into a leading ASEAN economic zone, but also transform its Eastern provinces into a land, sea, and air hub with strong connectivity with its regional neighbours.

In tandem with these developments, APM 2018 will provide valuable perspectives on relevant sectors such as marine and fuels from distinguished industry leaders and shipowners such as **KD Adamson**, *Futurist & CEO, Futureautics*; **Peter Sand**, *Chief Shipping Analyst, BIMCO*; and **Capt. Vinay Singh**, *Managing Director, Anglo-Eastern Ship Management (India) and Director, Maritime Association of Ship Owners, Ship Managers & Agents (MASSA)*.

"Asia Pacific Maritime has established itself as a pivotal business platform connecting the global maritime world to Asia. Not only to do business, but to enable discussions on regional developments and major industry shifts, by bringing together business leaders and experts in their respective fields. With the recent developments in Thailand, we see much potential for the industry to leverage the event to gain knowledge to aid in their business strategies, navigate new frontiers and discover new business opportunities," said **Yeow Hui Leng**, *Senior Project Director, Asia Pacific Maritime*.



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Staying ahead of the competition

With a myriad of maritime opportunities that lie ahead for Thailand, some priority sectors that have been rapidly developing are its ports, inland waterways, and shipbuilding. In the face of competition from increasingly automated ports in the region, modernising its maritime infrastructure remains key for Thailand. Discussions on the Kra Canal have also resurfaced, and the potential of which would be tremendous for Thailand.

“One very interesting vision and possible massive game changer is the Kra Canal project that would connect the Gulf of Thailand with the Andaman Sea across southern Thailand. It is envisaged that such a new shipping route will improve and largely slash days of seaborne transport in the region, providing an alternative route to the Straits of Malacca and shorten transit for shipments of oil to Japan and China by 1,200 km,” said **Capt. Michael Elwert**, *Group Chief Executive Officer, Elektrans Group*, who will be shedding insights on the tanker market on day two of the Singapore 2018 APM Conference.

He adds, “The plan is one of the most ambitious and transformational infrastructure megaprojects in Asia – the construction of an estimated USD\$30 billion, 135km shipping canal across Thailand will form part of and support the vision of China's One Belt, One Road initiative. “

Insights from 23 prominent maritime leaders on how the maritime landscape will change in 2018 have been compiled into the #onething2018 e-book that is available for download.

Maturing of Thailand's offshore sector

Although the offshore decommissioning industry is still in its infancy, the increasing number of assets that are slated for decommissioning, along with the stringent regulatory and environmental considerations surrounding offshore operation, makes it a business concern for offshore operators.

“The Thai offshore marine market is showing signs of maturity with the growing numbers of true Thai indigenous owners now winning projects with big players like PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP) and Chevron. The next challenge for them is maintaining high standards in line with IMO and “White List” flags, so that they do not become a low cost flag-of-convenience (FOC),” said **Capt. Mike Meade**, *Chief Executive Officer, M3 Group*. Capt. Mike Meade will be speaking about regional offshore issues at the exclusive Offshore Connect session on Day Three (16 March 2018) of the APM Conference.

Joining **Capt. Mike Meade** in unfolding how current oil prices are affecting the regional offshore industry are **Hassan Basma**, *Founder & Chief Executive Officer, HBA Offshore*; and **Venkatraman Sheshashayee**, *Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director, Miclyn Express Offshore (MEO)*.

Talent-building at APM

Talent remains a critical success factor for the future of the maritime industry. To engage tomorrow's maritime leaders and build talent, APM will hold a new Career & Skills Pavilion for professionals in the maritime industry seeking prospective career, networking, and training and development opportunities throughout the sector. Top talent development agencies participating



include CPP Asia Pacific, Direct Search Asia, Facilitators Network Singapore, Gemini Personnel and Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEST). Gemini Personnel will also be offering a complimentary Workplace Culture psychometric assessment to the first 100 visitors at their booth each day.

Networking at the heart of APM

Also forming the backbone of APM is its networking events, which have been revamped with a more targeted approach. New this year is the series of six thematic networking sessions tailored for visitors and exhibitors of similar interests to meet and forge new partnerships.

The six themes are: *IMO 2020 vision: Preparing for the new global sulphur cap; Best in class marine equipment and fitting; Powering the way forward – next generation marine power; Competing on a global playing field in terms of shipbuilding; The future of maritime shipping – transforming shipping industry with ICT and digitalisation; and Lubricant, coating and corrosion.*

Using the APM Recommendation Tool that crosses data to match common business interests, buyers will be connected to the relevant exhibitors while for exhibitors, the tool actively recommends them to their most targeted audience at the exhibition.

Other events organised for APM delegates to network include the inaugural APM Networking Golf event (13 March 2018) organised in partnership with the Singapore Maritime Network (SMN), which brings together top leaders in the maritime community for both business and leisure connections.

Registration to APM 2018 is now open. Asia Pacific Maritime 2018 will be held from 14 to 16 March 2018 at the Singapore Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre.

More information about APM 2018 is available on <https://www.apmaritime.com>.

Stay connected with us via LinkedIn at <https://lnkd.in/byEMQtd> and <https://www.facebook.com/asiapacificmaritime/>.

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About Asia Pacific Maritime (APM)

Asia Pacific Maritime (APM) is Asia's premier exhibition and conference focusing on shipbuilding & marine, workboat and offshore. Gathering the world's marine, workboat and offshore community in Asia, expect to meet 15,000 visitors and decision makers from Asia, 1,500 international products & services companies from over 60 countries including 18 country pavilions and over 50 industry influencers, all in one single platform to buy, sell, network and learn. For more information, visit the official website at www.apmaritime.com.

Weichai Singapore Pte Ltd is a Gold Sponsor and Joseph Tan Jude Benny LLP is a Silver Sponsor at APM 2018.



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