Tripartite Partners Call upon Ships to Sound their Horns
to Show Support for Seafarers

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU), the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) and the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) are calling upon ships in the Port of Singapore to sound their horns for 15 seconds at 12 noon (Singapore local time) on Labour Day. The maritime tripartite initiative serves as a special tribute to recognise the contributions of seafarers in keeping supply chains robust and maritime trade going amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

2   In Singapore, 1 May marks Labour Day, which is an occasion to acknowledge the valuable contributions of our workers and to reaffirm the commitment of labour movement leaders, employers and the government to safeguard the interests of workers.

3   The International Chamber of Shipping and the International Transport Workers Federation have jointly called upon countries to recognise seafarers as key workers of global trade, and to shed light on the important work they carry out in the ongoing pandemic.

4   Ms Quah Ley Hoon, MPA's Chief Executive, said, "Singapore is grateful to every member of our maritime workforce for their tireless contributions over the years in building Singapore into a global hub port and an international maritime centre. In these challenging times, we wish to show our appreciation to maritime personnel, especially seafarers, and stand in solidarity to ensure that global trade and supply lines stay resilient to support pandemic response around the world."

5   Ms Mary Liew, SMOU's General Secretary, said, "Seafarers are essential service providers of the global supply chain. They play a critical role during this pandemic by transporting essential goods such as food and medicine to consumers and hospitals across the world. On Labour Day, we call on ships to

collectively sound their horns to show our appreciation and solidarity with our seafarers, the unsung heroes of global trade."

6   Mr Daniel Tan, SOS' General Secretary, said, "Seafarers are responsible for delivering more than 80% of the world's exports. They are fundamental to the operations of the global supply chain. Due to travel restrictions brought about by COVID-19, we understand the challenges that seafarers face and have worked closely with employers and MPA to address the crew change situation prudently."

7   Ms Caroline Yang, SSA's President, said, "Most of what we buy and consume are delivered by ships. As a key maritime node in the world dependent on seafarers for the most energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly mode of transporting cargo, let us laud these unsung heroes who are keeping countries supplied with essentials such as food, fuel and medical supplies, not only during the COVID-19 pandemic, but daily, throughout the year."

<p align="center"><End of Release></p>

About the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)
The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) was established on 2 February 1996, with the mission to develop Singapore as a premier global hub port and international maritime centre (IMC), and to advance and safeguard Singapore's strategic maritime interests. MPA is the driving force behind Singapore's port and maritime development, taking on the roles of Port Authority, Port Regulator, Port Planner, IMC Champion, and National Maritime Representative. MPA partners the industry and other agencies to enhance safety, security and environmental protection in our port waters, facilitate port operations and growth, expand the cluster of maritime ancillary services, and promote maritime R&D and manpower development.

About the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU)
 The Singapore Maritime Officers' Union was established in 1951 to safeguard the interest and well-being of seafaring officers. The primary role of the organisation is to promote good industrial relations between members and their employers, improve the working conditions of members in the maritime industry through the terms and conditions of collective bargaining agreements negotiated on behalf of members and signed with shipping companies which employ them and to advance the cultural, recreational and educational aspirations of its members

About Singapore Organisation Seamen (SOS)
The Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) is a global maritime trade union commissioned by the National Trade Union Congress (NTUC) to promote good industrial relations between seafarers and their employers (shipping companies). In addition to helping seamen receive their just reward for their hard work, it also assists members in the retraining and upgrading of their skills in the competitive employment market. Since 1971, SOS has been actively representing seafarers through the Collective Bargaining Agreements with the shipping companies that employ them. It is affiliated to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the Nautilus Federation.

About the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)
The Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) represents a wide spectrum of shipping companies and other businesses allied to the shipping industry. It is a national trade association formed in 1985 to serve and promote the interest of its members and to enhance the competitiveness of Singapore as an International Maritime Centre.

For media queries, please contact:
Mr Stefan Tan
Corporate Communications, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
Mobile: 9784 4122
Email: stefan_tan@mpa.gov.sg

Ms Evelyn Lim
Corporate Communications & Planning Division, Singapore Maritime Officers' Union
DID: 6390 1659
Mobile: 65 9788 4465
Email: evelynlim@smou.org.sg

Ms Germaine Kong
Corporate Communications, Singapore Organisation of Seamen
Mobile: 9232 2388
Email: germaine_kong@seacare.com.sg

Ms Claire Lim
Communications Department, Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)
DID: 6305 2277
Email: claire@ssa.org.sg

Mr Shawn Chew
Communications Department, Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)
DID: 6305 2268
Email: shawn@ssa.org.sg