

COUNCIL  
120th session  
Agenda item 17(d)

C 120/17(d)/2  
31 May 2018  
Original: ENGLISH

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### (d) World Maritime Day

#### **Report on the 2nd Maritime Administrators' Forum IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future 25 April 2018, Singapore**

**Submitted by Singapore**

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document provides information on the 2nd Maritime Administrators' Forum organized by Singapore in support of IMO's World Maritime Day 2018 theme of "IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future"

*Strategic direction, Other work if applicable:*

*Output:* OW 12

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 11

*Related document:* C 120/17(d)

### Introduction

1 Organized in support of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) World Maritime Day theme for 2018, "IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future", the 2nd Maritime Administrators' Forum ("the Forum") built on the success of the first Forum held in 2016. The Forum is part of Singapore's ongoing efforts to promote global maritime leadership training and provides a platform for senior maritime officials from different regions of the world to exchange views and ideas with their peers, especially on the disruptions and challenges in the areas of technology, environment, safety and security.

2 The Forum, held in conjunction with the 13th Singapore Maritime Week, was graced by the Guest of Honour, Mr. Khaw Boon Wan, Singapore's Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister of Transport. Mr. Kitack Lim, IMO Secretary-General, was the keynote speaker. The Forum also featured three other speakers: Mr. Andrew Tan, Chief Executive, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), who made a presentation on

behalf of Mr. Koji Sekimizu, IMO Secretary-General Emeritus; Mr. Marcus Bartley Johns, Senior Trade Specialist at the World Bank; and Mr. Rene Arikas, Director General of the Estonian Maritime Administration. The Forum was attended by over 100 participants including leaders of the industry.

## **Event highlights**

### ***IMO's efforts in driving sustainability***

3 Mr. Lim spoke about IMO's efforts to drive sustainability in shipping, taking into account the opportunities and challenges arising from technological innovations. He opined that this year's theme provided an opportunity to reflect on IMO's development as it marked the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the IMO Convention. Recognizing that shipping was entering a new era, he highlighted IMO's role as shipping's global regulator. In his view, technological advancements offered opportunities for a safer and more sustainable future for shipping. Mr. Lim remarked that these advancements had to be balanced against the potential costs of adoption, for the industry, in terms of personnel, safety, security and the environment. It was also important to take into account the needs of developing countries. Mr. Lim also welcomed Singapore's enhancement of its technical cooperation and training package to IMO and its Member States, which he said would contribute towards improving the ability of developing countries to participate actively as maritime nations.

### ***Maritime governance***

4 Mr. Sekimizu's presentation touched on the historical development of shipping, IMO's achievements in maritime governance and his proposal for a doctorate course on maritime governance of the United Nations (UN) and IMO. He noted that international shipping had made a major contribution to world trade over the past seven decades by providing global networks with low-cost, reliable and the least environmentally damaging form of commercial transport, and that both IMO and the UN had made key contributions to maritime governance. In view of the important role that these organizations played in shaping maritime governance, he opined that establishing a doctorate course on this subject at maritime academic institutions could formally document the past achievements in this area, and enable the lessons gleaned to be applied to today's context and the future.

### ***Global trade outlook***

5 Mr. Bartley Johns from the World Bank shared his insights about the outlook for global trade and the factors affecting trade growth for the maritime industry. He commented that the global trade outlook was influenced by a combination of cyclical and structural factors which, in turn, shaped the trade context for the maritime sector. He opined that long-term structural reforms, such as human and capital investments, would be needed to address the risks of lower potential growth over the next decade. On the other hand, the long-term structural trend of globalization of trade over the past six decades, the growing centrality of developing countries in international trade, and the role of globalization in poverty reduction provide cause for optimism for global trade. He shared three possible strategic responses to such cyclical and structural challenges to global trade: (i) renewing trade cooperation while doing more to address the negative impact of trade openness, (ii) pushing for trade agreements with deeper integration and (iii) tackling low-income countries' high trade costs.

### ***Innovation and technology***

6 With a small number of inhabitants faced with a shrinking working-age population, Mr. Rene Arikas shared his insights on how Estonia embraced technology and digitization to drive greater efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability in public services and the maritime industry. He further shared that digital initiatives and innovations could help to drive enhanced safety, efficiency and sustainability, while reducing the manpower resources required for countries.

### ***Better shipping for a better future***

7 Mr. Tan, Mr. Bartley Johns and Mr. Arikas were joined by Mr. Sobantu Tilayi, Acting Chief Executive Officer, South African Maritime Safety Authority, in a panel discussion rounding off the Forum. The discussion was moderated by Professor Annie Koh, Vice President at the Office of Business Development, Singapore Management University. Mr. Tilayi expressed hope that the South African shipping sector would be able to adapt to the growing importance of data as a consumption item and stay relevant for the future. Acknowledging the importance of the past and the shared heritage of all speakers present, Professor Koh summarized the salient elements to bring better shipping into the future through the harnessing of "**ABCs**": "Agility, Boldness and Collaboration". Professor Koh said that the future of shipping required one to possess the agility to adapt to a fast-changing world, to embrace the boldness to engage in new research and technology, as well as the willingness to collaborate with one another and openly share information.

### **Learning points**

8 Through the presentation and discussions, a number of areas were identified as potential elements needed for the sustainability of the industry in the future. These included:

- .1 Leadership of IMO – Over the past 70 years, IMO had instituted important global standards and made vast strides in advancing safe, secure and efficient and sustainable shipping. It is essential to recognize the importance of IMO's continued leadership as the global regulator and its work with the maritime industry in tackling future challenges.
- .2 Maritime Governance – IMO and the UN have made key contributions to maritime governance through many conventions such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In view of the importance of maritime governance, it is vital to sustain such interest in the next generation of IMO's work to ensure IMO's continuity and relevance, so as to build an enduring and strong system.
- .3 World Trade – Changes to world trade brought on by disruptions in technology and the advent of industry 4.0 will shape the future of shipping. International organizations such as IMO will thus have to keep themselves relevant by understanding these impending trends.
- .4 Leverage on Technology and Innovation – With these many disruptions, it is important for the industry to be nimble and embrace technology and innovations such as digitization. Being agile and adaptable to the technological disruptions could enhance safety and security while driving for greater efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.

**Conclusion**

9 Maritime administrations are faced with many challenges in a fast-changing world. The Maritime Administrators' Forum provides a useful platform for maritime leaders from different parts of the world to gather to discuss important maritime issues and exchange best practices.

10 Singapore intends to organize the Maritime Administrators' Forum every two years as part of our contribution to IMO's work in promoting safe, secure and sustainable international shipping. Further information on this Forum and other events organized by the MPA Academy may be found on the following site: <https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/mpa-academy>.

**Action requested of the Council**

11 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in this document and to comment as it may deem appropriate.

---