

Beacon Of Light For Maritime Industry



By
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Pictures by **Vincent Nghai**

The launch of the Tripartite Nautical Training Award marks the beginning of the reverse of the shortage of trained seafaring maritime officers for Singapore and international shipping companies.

"You are the beacon. Your training progress will be followed and your success will attract other jobseekers into the industry," Singapore Maritime Officers' Union's General Secretary Thomas Tay told the first batch of 20 TNTA recipients on 25 January 2010.

"The companies which have selected you are prompt pay masters and they will look after your welfare. You will not face the kind of misadventures that seafarers in my time encountered," said Mr Tay, who was a Radio Officer.

The tripartite partners for the TNTA programme are NTUC's e2i (Employment and Employability Institute), SMOU, the Singapore Workforce Development Agency and the Singapore Shipping Association.

e2i, SMOU and WDA are collectively contributing \$2.4 million towards the place-and-train scholarship programme which will be awarded to 60 Singaporeans over two years. They will be trained in professional skills to safely navigate multi-million dollar vessels plying the oceans and vital to the global transportation of world trade.

The tripartite partners held a unique job fair

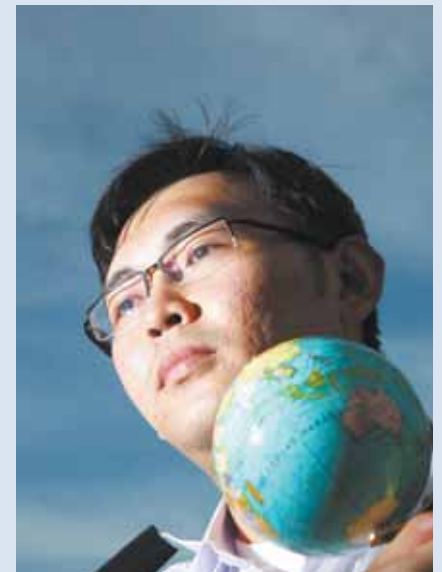


Light At Sea... NSSPL Managing Director Lee Chee Seong points at some of the lighthouses that his five newly appointed cadets may come across later in their career. Behind him is NSSPL Director of Talent Management Yeow Kok Kean.

onboard a ship to give screened applicants a feel of the "office" they could be working in. From 129 who attended e2i's industry preview, 59 were selected for a second interview by SMOU and Wavelink Maritime International and 26 were shortlisted for seven companies' final selection.

The selection of another 20 TNTA recipients will be made in April 2010.

From Portside To Starboard



At 30, Mr Ben Ng (above) is the second oldest successful applicant for the Tripartite Nautical Training Award; he is Komaya Shipping Company Private Limited's choice.

"I earned \$75 per day-shift as a Lashing Specialist with PSA. I have moved from a daily-rated job to a monthly-salaried one. I look forward to a stable job with a possible increasing income," he said.

Mr Ng, who has one sister, had read about TNTA from NTUC This Week which was passed around by his union, Singapore Port Workers' Union.



Speaking From Experience... SMOU General Secretary Thomas Tay (left) and Hong Lam Marine Private Limited's Marine Personnel Manager, Captain Syed Naushad Ali Shah (right) engage new cadet Navin s/o Rajasagaran.

From TNT To TNTA

It was a desk job that he gladly left. Mr Navin s/o Rajasagaran, 23, was a Logistics Assistant at TNT Express Services clearing airway bills when he started surfing the Internet for a job that would offer him sun, sand and sea.

He chanced on the Wavelink Maritime International page, saw the invitation for

applicants for the TNTA (Tripartite Nautical Training Award), applied and was selected by Hong Lam Marine Private Limited.

"Navin has the attributes for a good maritime officer and we will help him realise his potential," said Captain Syed Naushad Ali Shah, Marine Personnel Manager of Hong Lam Marine Private Limited.

Mr Navin, who has two sisters, said his parents are supportive of his choice of career.

"There is the possibility of upward progression, and I believe I will enjoy working under the sun and at sea," said Mr Navin.