

**CITATION FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE STAR
(DISTINGUISHED FRIENDS OF SINGAPORE) 2018**

**MR KOJI SEKIMIZU
SECRETARY-GENERAL EMERITUS OF IMO**

Mr Koji Sekimizu has dedicated more than 40 years of his life to the development of international shipping at the national, regional, and global levels. His distinguished career culminated with his eminent leadership of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as its Secretary-General from January 2012 to December 2015. He was conferred the title “Secretary-General Emeritus of the IMO” upon the end of his term as IMO Secretary-General. He was also awarded the International Maritime Prize for 2016 by the IMO in recognition of his contributions to the IMO and the international maritime community as a whole.

Mr Sekimizu started his career in 1977 in the Maritime Bureau in Kyushu District of Japan. He rose to become the Deputy Director of the Safety Standards Division, Maritime Technology and Safety Bureau of Japan in 1986. He then served in various positions in the Maritime Safety and Marine Environment Divisions of the IMO from 1989, before being elected as Secretary-General of the IMO in 2011.

During his term as Secretary-General, the IMO successfully implemented a number of key initiatives that set the foundation for the transformation of the international maritime sector in the areas of maritime safety, security, anti-piracy, and sustainable shipping. Major revisions were made to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG), and International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) was also made mandatory. These initiatives definitely strengthened the global maritime sector for future growth and to deal with emerging challenges.

The development of a new International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (commonly known as the Polar Code) is also Mr Sekimizu’s brainchild. The initiative supports safe and environmentally friendly shipping in the Arctic and Antarctic waters. Under Mr Sekimizu’s leadership, the IMO contributed to addressing international concerns about the protection of the polar environment and the safety of seafarers and passengers, with the introduction of mandatory new regulations.

Given Singapore's status as a hub port State, littoral State of a key international waterway, and an international maritime centre, as well as the key role the maritime industry plays in our economy, the achievements and progress made at the IMO under Mr Sekimizu's leadership for the development of international shipping are particularly significant for us. Our maritime sector, including the Port of Singapore, has thrived as a result.

Working with Mr Sekimizu, Singapore has benefitted very much from opportunities to contribute to the work of the IMO, and to partner the IMO in various initiatives.

Specifically, Mr Sekimizu was a strong advocate for the establishment of the Cooperative Mechanism on the Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) under the auspices of the IMO, and personally attended the Singapore Meeting in 2007 at which the Cooperative Mechanism was launched. He also played an instrumental role in the development of the Marine Electronic Highway (MEH) for the SOMS, an important tool to enhance navigational safety in this busy strait used for international navigation. Mr Sekimizu also lent strong support to the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and its formal recognition at the IMO. His endorsement of the ReCAAP as a successful model for government-to-government co-operation against piracy and armed robbery against ships has inspired similar initiatives in other regions, most notably in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden where many commercial vessels faced such challenges.

Mr Sekimizu continues to be a strong supporter of the MPA Academy. During his term as Secretary-General, Mr Sekimizu worked with Singapore to enhance the Singapore-IMO Third Country Training Programme (TCTP), which has provided in-kind assistance to developing IMO Member States. Since 1998, over 2,000 participants from close to 100 States have benefited from the Singapore-IMO TCTP. Mr Sekimizu was also the keynote speaker for the Singapore Maritime Lecture in 2012, as well as the inaugural Future-Ready Shipping Conference co-organised by the IMO and MPA in 2015. With his support, the Singapore Maritime Lecture and Future-Ready Shipping Conference have since developed into platforms for leading professionals, industry, policy makers, and thought leaders to deliberate on new and emerging issues in the maritime sector.

Even after his departure from the IMO, Mr Sekimizu continues to contribute to the promotion and development of Singapore's maritime sector and Singapore's international maritime profile and standing, in his concurrent appointments as S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) - MPA

Distinguished Visiting Fellow and Special Advisor to the MPA Academy. He continues to share his experience and knowledge at the MPA Academy's various flagship programmes, such as the Advanced Maritime Leaders' Programme (AMLPG), as well as at international conferences and events organised by the MPA.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and contributions to the development of international shipping, for his contributions to Singapore, and the friendship forged with Singapore, the President of the Republic of Singapore is pleased to confer the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) 2018 on Mr Koji Sekimizu.

(as at 21 September 2018 8.25pm)