



For Immediate Release

## Inaugural World Congress on Maritime Heritage to Set Sail at Resorts World Sentosa from 13 to 15 March 2019

- *Hundreds of international leaders, industry professionals, and researchers across government, maritime, heritage, archaeological, and ocean conservation communities will gather at Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore for the ultimate goal of securing a sustainable future.*
- *Congress to commemorate the Singapore Bicentennial with theme of 'Connecting with the Past to Navigate the Future'.*



**SINGAPORE, 1 March 2019** – Discovering our deep maritime heritage to lay a stronger foundation for more sustainable development of maritime industries and greater efforts towards ocean conservation will form the key focus at the **inaugural World Congress on Maritime Heritage 2019**. The three-day Congress, co-organised by the Consortium for International Maritime Heritage (CIMH) and Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) will be held from 13 to 15 March at RWS. With its theme 'Connecting with the Past to Navigate the Future', the Congress is set against the backdrop of the commemoration of the Singapore Bicentennial.

The event aims to bring together a diverse global array of maritime constituent groups, institutions, and stakeholders, including government leaders and economists, as well as shipping, heritage, archaeological, and ocean conservation communities. It will provide a unique opportunity for all to form new partnerships towards achieving a common objective: securing a sustainable future through better understanding of our common maritime heritage.

The Congress will address the current state of the shipping industry, examine the sector's past influence on global trade and cultural influences, illuminate signature undersea archaeological and exploration activities, and connect these communities to provide a window into the future.

Mr Terry Garcia, Chairman of the Consortium for International Maritime Heritage, said: “The world today is a legacy of our maritime heritage. The first World Congress on Maritime Heritage provides an unprecedented opportunity to re-discover our past through the lens of our shared maritime heritage and examine how the factors that affected the past can inform the future.”

The Congress will be graced by government leaders and key figures across the maritime sector, including Dr Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Communications and Information, Singapore; Mr Kitack Lim, Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization (IMO); Dr Koji Sekimizu, Secretary-General Emeritus, IMO, and Dr Ahmed Mohammed Salem Al-Futaisi, Minister of Transport and Communications, Oman.

Mr Kitack Lim, Secretary-General, IMO, said: “Since man first took to the water in boats, society has depended on shipping for food, transportation and energy. The oceans are our shared heritage, and it is important to connect with the past in order to see our way towards the future. This Congress will be the forum for that discussion as the ocean’s stakeholders will gather to identify how we can successfully move forward.”

The Congress coincides with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Singapore, a major global hub and important gateway for shipping, finance, and commerce today. With its strategic location along the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, the maritime industry has been central to the history, rise, and development of Singapore.

Topics covered in the Congress include:

- How the ocean is a pathway to a sustainable future
- The discovery of heritage through exploration, archaeology, and historic investigation
- Tourism and maritime heritage in the global economy; and more.

The Congress will also include a session organised by the newly established World Maritime Heritage Society. Set up in Singapore to honour and embrace maritime heritage, it provides an inclusive platform for educational institutions, maritime societies, NGOs, and government bodies. The programme brings together local and international speakers to share on issues that include developing private and public partnerships for ecological and economic sustainability in fisheries management in Singapore.

The Congress is being jointly organised by the Consortium for International Maritime Heritage and Resorts World Sentosa with support from the IMO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, International Chamber of Shipping, and the Singapore Shipping Association, amongst others.

RWS is also the official venue host for the three-day event which will include a programme held at the revamped [Maritime Experiential Museum](#), the only one of its kind in Singapore dedicated to the

exploration of the iconic Maritime Silk Route. Housing a total of 15 immersive galleries, the attraction holds a combination of state-of-the-art visual projections and multimedia shows. Highlights include the Jewel of Muscat, an Arabian ship which made a tumultuous 138-day voyage from Oman to Singapore in 2010 using ancient navigational methods with a crew of 15, and the Typhoon Theatre which simulates a sinking ship in a treacherous storm.

To register and/or find out more on the programme and speakers, visit [World Congress on Maritime Heritage 2019](http://WorldCongressonMaritimeHeritage2019.com) (wcmh2019.com).

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## **ABOUT THE ORGANISERS**

### **ABOUT THE CONSORTIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE**

The Consortium of International Maritime Heritage (CIMH) is a non-profit organisation formed with the purpose of raising public awareness of our connection to the ocean through understanding our maritime heritage. The goal is to develop new – and enhance existing – mechanisms to connect the public with its maritime roots. The Consortium is dedicated to developing and supporting maritime heritage programming that can serve as focal points for a wide array of constituent groups to share culture values and experiences that shed light on how we are interconnected by the world’s oceans. Rediscovering the past through our shared maritime heritage allows us to collectively better navigate a sustainable future. Maritime heritage is the history of human involvement with the ocean and coastal lands and waters. It includes the history of ships, seafaring, marine transportation, navies, ports and communities, immigration, tourism, traditional maritime practices and trades, fishing, the marine environment, lighthouses, submerged cultural resources, museums and educational organizations, the arts, literature, law and history of human involvement with the sea. As a new organisation the Consortium is currently focusing on its first effort, the inaugural World Congress on Maritime Heritage 2019.

For more information, please visit [www.cimheritage.org](http://www.cimheritage.org).

### **ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA**

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Asia’s premium lifestyle destination resort, is located on Singapore’s resort island of Sentosa. Spanning 49 hectares, RWS is home to world-class attractions including Universal Studios Singapore, S.E.A. Aquarium, the Maritime Experiential Museum, Dolphin Island and Adventure Cove Waterpark. Complementing the adventure and adrenaline of its theme parks and attractions are six unique luxury hotels, the world-class Resorts World Convention Centre, a casino and the Asian flagship of a world-renowned destination spa. RWS offers award-winning dining experiences and exciting cuisine from around the world across its many renowned celebrity chef restaurants, establishing itself as a key player in Singapore’s vibrant and diverse dining scene and a leading gourmet destination in Asia for epicureans. The integrated resort also offers world-class entertainment, from original resident productions to concerts and public shows such as Crane Dance and Lake of Dreams. RWS has been named “Best Integrated Resort” since 2011 for eight consecutive years at the TTG Travel Awards which recognises the best of Asia-Pacific’s travel industry.

RWS is wholly owned by Genting Singapore, a company of the Genting Group. For more information, please visit [www.rwsentosa.com](http://www.rwsentosa.com).



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### Note to Editors

- For a full list of speakers, visit <https://wcmh2019.com/>
- Photos can be downloaded from <https://app.box.com/v/WCMH>
- All photos are to be attributed to **Resorts World Sentosa**



DR JANIL PUTHUCHEARY

Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Communications and Information.

Dr Janil Puthucheary will deliver an opening speech on 13 March as part of the inaugural World Congress on Maritime Heritage at Resorts World Sentosa.



MR KITACK LIM

Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization.

Mr Kitack Lim will deliver a keynote address on “The Ocean as the Pathway to International Commerce and the Global Economy”.



Resorts World Sentosa, the co-organiser and official venue sponsor of the Congress, is home to The Maritime Experiential Museum. The museum is the only one of its kind in Singapore dedicated to the exploration of the iconic Maritime Silk Route, and features 15 immersive galleries, including the Vessels Gallery (left). PHOTO CREDITS: RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA.