

Report on 1983 Batch of Singapore Polytechnic Marine Graduates



(photo taken in 1983)

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We rode the same “train” together for 4 years during our SP days. After our cadetship, we were enlisted into the army and after ROD, many went on their own way. Along the way, some manage to meet one another, as they go about their busy work and family life. Like a waft of air, 30 years have passed.

As at Jan 2013, all are doing well. 5 became Chief Engineers while many went abroad to earn their degrees. They are:-

- 1) Chang Keen Cheong ex-ABS Country Manager, now runs his own business, focusing in the Myanmar market).
- 2) Eugene Low Kiah Kiah currently heads ABS's safety, environment & security certification division in Singapore.
- 3) Joseph Mak Yew Keen (who got his BSc Mechanical Engineering from Newcastle University, UK and MSC

Electrical Engineering from NUS) was Plant Director with Wyeth, GlaxoSmithKline and Nestle.

- 4) Tan Sey Jong is with Eagle Tankers, and
- 5) I am 5th person with the Chief Ticket to further my studies and obtain my BBUs from Monash University. I am currently the Country Manager and Director of the ALMACO Group, a Finnish company, and we build the complete living quarters for marine and offshore vessels.

I have updated the particulars of all my classmates recently in preparation for our reunion on 5 Jan 2013. I can report that 21 of my 40 classmates obtained further degrees including eight with Masters and one with a Doctorate.

Among us we have Dr. Foo Kok Seng who is currently the Executive Director of KOMtech as well as Offshore Technology Development at Keppel FELS, Keppel Offshore & Marine Division. We also have Ong Eng Kok who in 1986 signed on with the Republic of Singapore Navy. During his 26 years of service, he held various key appointments including Commanding Officers of three RSN warships and the Head Naval Inspectorate. While with the Navy, he obtained his M.Sc. (Safety, Health & Environmental Technology), National University of Singapore in 2010. He retired in 2012 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. 14 of our class of 40 are still in the marine and marine-related industries. Those who are not include a pilot, CFO, professional engineer, international lawyer, owner of a chain of childcare centres and a head-hunter. Three have migrated, to the USA, Canada and Australia.



(Our reunion on 5 Jan 2013 to celebrate our 50th Birthdays)

Our class gathers typically twice a year during our children's school holidays and festive seasons. Our most recent gathering was on 5 January 2013. About 150 classmates, batch-mates, spouses and children, former lecturers and guests attended making the reunion our largest to date.

Submitted by Lim Thiam Kwee Lenz
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