

MR KENNETH KEE

SNAMES Honorary Fellow



The Humble Engineer

1. WHAT DRIVES YOU IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE AND HOW DOES BEING WITH SNAMES TIE IN TO WHAT MAKES YOU MOTIVATED

I graduated with the first batch of students who studied Marine Engineering at the Singapore Polytechnic in 1961. Ever since then, I have pursued my entire career in the maritime industry. That amounts to almost 6 decades! A passion for learning, keeping up to date with best practices, a strong fraternity and developing the next generation kept me driven professionally. Personally, many of my close friends are also from the industry. SNAMES, with its commitment to connect and develop maritime professionals, very much ties in with this community-building aspect. I am also motivated by giving back, hence my continued engagement with SNAMES for the past forty years.

After my sea-going service, I came ashore in 1973 as a Superintendent with Neptune Orient Lines Ltd (NOL), the National Shipping Line of Singapore until it was sold a few years ago. Incidentally, 1973 was also the year when the Society of Naval Architects Singapore (SONAS) was formed with Mr Tan Kim Chuang, a Naval Architect, as the first President.

The older members may remember that the constitution of SONAS was amended in 1981 to admit Marine Engineers and the Society was renamed as the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers Singapore (SNAMES).

I joined the Society as a Corporate Member on 20 January 1981 and have been with SNAMES all the way! My joining certificate was signed by Mr Cheng Huang Leng, who was the President from 1981 to 1983. Apart from Mr Cheng, SONAS and SNAMES also counts many well-known professionals in the maritime industry as past Presidents and Vice Presidents. These include the late Mr Chua Chor Teck (a Naval Architect, who rose from very humble background to Managing Director of Keppel Shipyard), Mr Choo Chiau Beng (another person who studied Naval Architecture), Mr Charles Foo (a Marine Engineer) and many others.

As the President of SNAMES from 2009 to 2012 and Immediate Past President from 2012 to 2014, I am closely associated with SNAMES and still represent the Society in the Technical Committee for Bunkering, previously under SPRING Singapore and now under Enterprise Singapore (ESG), since 2009. The work of the Technical Committee has produced a number of Standards for Bunkering in Singapore.

2. WHAT ARE THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL WORKING LIFE

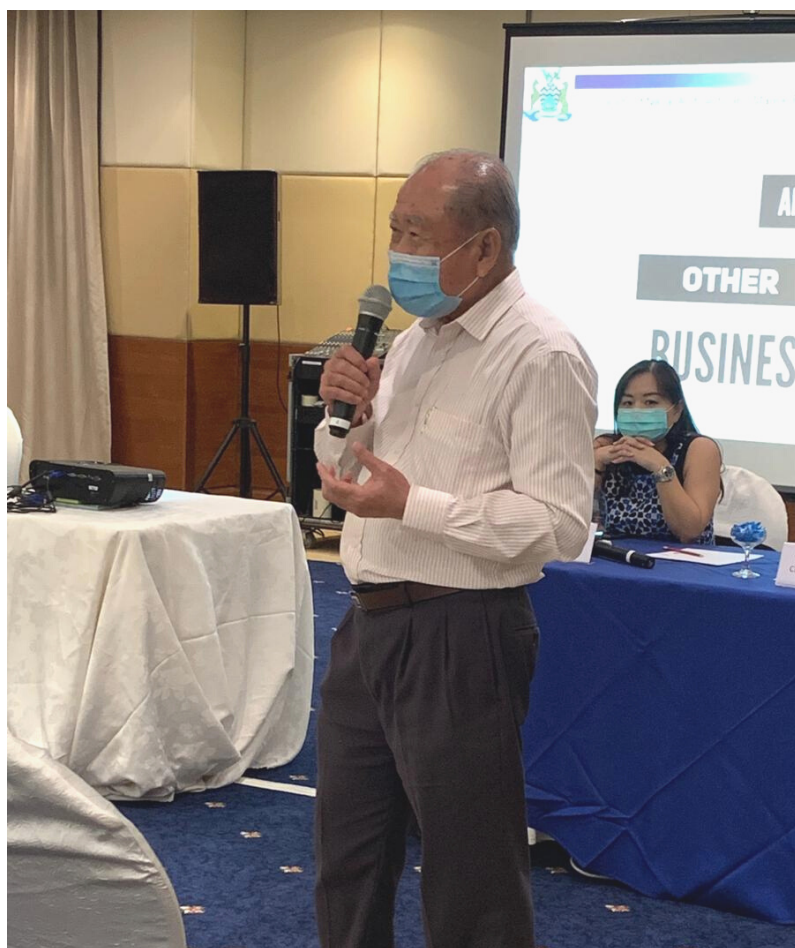
Below are some memorable moments of my working life: -

- A 37-day journey in 1967 on an old general cargo ship sailing from Cochin in Southern India to Halifax in Canada via the Cape of Good Hope, as the Suez Canal was closed due to war in the Middle East.
- Managing a team of Site Superintendents for the construction of five fully cellular container ships (for NOL) in a Japanese Shipyard in Kure, Japan for a period of about two years in 1979 and 1980.

Having had the honour of being appointed General Manager of Neptune Shipmanagement Services Pte Ltd, NOL's ship management arm in 1987 and thereafter establishing NOL's own bunkering services capability in the form of Neptank Bunkering Services Pte Ltd in 1990.

3. WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS IN YOUR CAREER

- Joined Petroships Pte Ltd, a local tanker owning and operating company as its Managing Director in 1996 and serving in this position until 2009.
- Even during retirement, I was offered a job as a Technical Advisor in another local tanker owning and operating company in 2011, a position which I am still engaged and enjoying!



"A 37-day journey in 1967 on an old general cargo ship sailing from Cochin in Southern India to Halifax in Canada via the Cape of Good Hope, as the Suez Canal was closed due to war in the Middle East. "

4. WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT SNAMES HAS DONE WELL IN AND WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITY GROWTH FOR SNAMES

SNAMES is the only "home-grown" Society for maritime and engineering professionals and its membership is recognised by many maritime employers and associated professional institutions.

5. DO YOU THINK THAT BEING PART OF SNAMES HELPS COMPLEMENTS OR SUPPORTS INDIVIDUALS PROFESSIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT

SNAMES has been a steadfast pillar of support to maritime professionals through its various activities, which serve to keep abreast with ever-changing technology. The networking opportunities which SNAMES provides is invaluable as well – I have mentored and connected many younger professionals with others in the industry.

6. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO NEW SNAMES MEMBERS IN TERMS OF BENEFITING AS A MEMBER IN SNAMES

I encourage Managers, Engineers and Technicians working in the maritime and related industries to join SNAMES to keep up-to-date with new technologies and developments through its numerous technical talks and seminars, as well as staying connected with one another through social and networking events. As a SNAMES member, you enjoy special privileges such as use of the facilities in the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club with your family as well as to meet other Maritime Professionals. In addition, you will also access various opportunities to enhance your professional knowledge such as the various technical talks, conferences and training courses, many of which are offered at a discount. All these benefit our members by providing a very well-rounded experience as a maritime professional.

7. OTHER THOUGHTS

Going forward, I hope SNAMES can work with the Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES) to enable its members to pursue Chartered Engineer status. SNAMES can perhaps also invite banks/financial institutions, insurance companies and legal firms to join as Corporate Members and to share knowledge in different areas with members. This will probably attract more people to join the Society.

I also hope my humble and interesting life-long career in the marine and shipping industry will encourage more young people to join the industry and SNAMES. Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank SNAMES for conferring upon me the status of an Honorary Fellow.

With best wishes to SNAMES in all its endeavours.

Kenneth Kee