



SNAMES

SOCIETY OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS & MARINE ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE

DELIVERING 50 YEARS *of* MARITIME EXCELLENCE



OBJECTIVES *of the* SOCIETY

THE OBJECTIVES OF SNAME ARE TO:

Facilitate the exchange of ideas and information on the practical and scientific aspects of design, construction, operation, repairs and maintenance of marine machinery, structures and vessels and related fields

Improve marine machinery, structures and vessels and all that specially appertains to them

Promote the professions of naval architects, marine engineers and associated maritime professionals in Singapore



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Chapter I

STEEL CUTTING

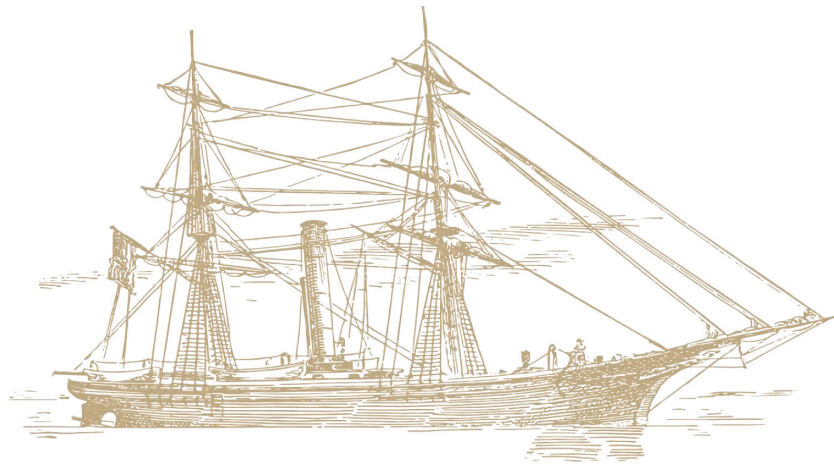
SUPPORTING SINGAPORE'S INDUSTRIALISATION

"Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore."

(attributed to Andre Gide)

In the beginning was an industrial estate.

And then a yard.



Singapore's industrialisation programme began with the establishment of Jurong Industrial Estate, Singapore's first industrial estate, in 1961. This project, under the leadership of then Finance Minister Goh Keng Swee and Singapore's economic advisor, Dr Albert Winsemius, was part of Singapore's economic development plan. The Economic Development Board (EDB) was established that same year to encourage foreign companies to establish factories in Jurong.

Then came Jurong Shipyard which started operations in 1964 and was officially opened in 1965. In tandem with Singapore's industrialisation and the birth of the shipping industry was Singapore's investment in talent, namely the education of naval architects and marine engineers who were trained overseas in the UK, sponsored by the Colombo Plan. This was the beginning of the maritime industry in Singapore.

In 1973, the Society of Naval Architects of Singapore (SONAS) emerged as a professional body to cater to the needs of Singapore's ship repair and shipbuilding industry. In 1981, SONAS opened its doors to marine engineers, giving birth to the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Singapore (SNAMES).

Singapore's early maritime pioneers include SNAMES members: David Chin, who spent 56 years in the industry, honoured with the MPA's Individual International Maritime Centre Award, and Colombo Plan Scholar, Cheng Huang Leng, who returned from the UK in 1971 to teach at Singapore Polytechnic. This is their story.

THE STORY OF SNAMEs

“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.”

Henry Ford

Our Beginnings

The growth of Singapore’s maritime sector was facilitated by a convergence of several factors, one of which was the recommendation by a United Nations Industrial Survey Mission visit in 1960 to focus on the possibility of creating a ship repair and shipbuilding industry.

It was around then that Singapore tapped into the scholarships offered by the Colombo Plan, established on 1 July 1951 as a cooperative venture for the economic and social advancement of the people of South and South-East Asia. As Singapore was targeting the growth of its ship repair industry, it realised it needed naval architects and marine engineers to provide the supporting infrastructure for the industry. Subsequently, a large number of the Colombo scholarships that Singapore received from 1966 onwards were taken up by students going to the UK and other overseas destinations to study primarily these two subjects. (Singapore stopped receiving Colombo Plan scholarships in 1988 when it was no longer recognised as a developing nation.)

This development resulted in a returning pool of many young men who entered the maritime industry as pioneer naval architects and marine engineers in the shipyards. Chua Chor Teck, one of the titans of Keppel Shipyard, would be the one who championed the establishment of the Society of Naval Architects Singapore (SONAS) in 1973. The first president of SONAS was another naval architect, Tan Kim Chuang.

Keppel Shipyard started its apprenticeship scheme in 1969 and Sembawang Shipyard did the same in 1972. This apprenticeship scheme brought together naval architects and marine engineers working in the same shipyards. This was how David Chin met Chua Chor Teck, who later campaigned for SONAS to admit marine engineers, primarily to grow its membership numbers. And thus was born the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Singapore (SNAMEs) in 1981.

DAVID CHIN



In 1967 David Chin was given a Keppel Scholarship to study Mechanical Engineering at Newcastle Polytechnic, UK. He received First Class Honours in his Newcastle Polytechnic Mechanical Engineering course but it is from his friends that we learn of this feat as David Chin is a humble person who does not mention his own achievements.

David Chin recalls: “In the 1960s, the Singapore government focus was on shipyards, the basis of manufacturing and industrialisation. Shipyards became an important part of Singapore’s economic development. So the government decided to reserve all Colombo Plan scholarships for the shipyards. All 10-12 Colombo scholarships were allocated to courses not taught in Singapore.