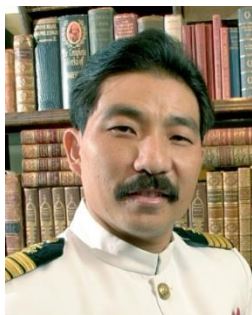


FREDERICK FRANCIS**Head of International Maritime Programmes Division, Singapore Maritime Academy Singapore Polytechnic**

Capt Frederick Francis first went out to sea in 1978 as a deck cadet officer in Neptune Orient Lines (American President Lines). Midway, he served his National Service in the Singapore Navy where he was awarded Best Recruit and Outstanding Soldier. He resumed his merchant marine career climbing up rapidly and at the age of 29 was promoted to captain. He commanded several types of foreign-going merchant ships for a period of five years before stepping ashore. He then joined the Singapore Polytechnic as a lecturer. In 2001, under a scholarship, he read law at Cardiff University and was admitted to the Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M) in Legal Aspects of

Marine Affairs. He earned a distinction for his dissertation and topped the module on Marine Insurance.

He is an accomplished writer with seven books to his name including his memoirs titled, 'Diary of a Sailor' and is one of the principle authors for the Maritime Heritage of Singapore book and Halsbury's Laws of Singapore, Shipping volumes. He is also a marine environmental researcher and a certified diver. He regularly immerses himself in competitive sports including soccer, swimming, basketball, volleyball, netball, international chess, scrabble, bowling, darts and triathlons and also competed in ironmen competitions. On the legal aspect, he has mediated and apportioned blame for collision, is an expert witness in arbitration and litigation cases, and was an IMO-ASEAN legal consultant.

One of his key focus areas is on embracing the maritime heritage. He is the Founding Commodore of the Youth Skipper Flotilla Society and has initiated several maritime heritage projects showcasing it to the public and to schools. He does extensive research on the maritime silkroad and has completed three projects funded by the National Heritage Board. His fine balance in sports, academic, professional consultancy, and volunteer work is indeed conducive not forgetting the fact that he is a regular blood donors.

He serves on many professional bodies and has been accorded many awards including the PSA (Port of Singapore Authority) Commendable Act award, the USCG (United States Coast Guard) Public Service Commendation award and Certificate of Merit, Outstanding Soldier award, Green Buddy award (three times), Innovative & Creativity award, R&D Commendation award, Singapore Red Cross Certificate of Commendation (for more than 100 donations), etc.

Embracing Maritime Silk Road Heritage from Ground-up with the X-factor – From Passion to Focus & Belief!

This is the journey of how a few volunteers took on the task of not just rescuing the remaining native boats and artefacts from the defunct Sentosa Maritime Museum but also doing restoration, preservation and storylines on each of the items. It was a reflection on what our government has asked for- a ground up approach to set-up a maritime heritage museum and centre in Singapore. This will show how the *Youth*

Skipper Flotilla (YSF), Singapore's first and only home grown uniform group, has managed to get this done and obtained maximum funding from the National Heritage Board. The YSF became a registered society in 2011 and have been moving forward ever since and engaging schools and the public with several maritime heritage initiatives. Most importantly, YSF shows how they were able to embrace the youth of Singapore to play their part and give maritime heritage the X-factor.