

TAN SRI FRANK TSAO



Tan Sri Frank Tsao Wen-King

Founder and Senior Chairman, IMC Group

Tan Sri Tsao is the Founder and Senior Chairman of the IMC Group. He is also a much respected and acclaimed veteran in the shipping industry.

Tan Sri Tsao graduated with an economics degree from St. John's University, Shanghai in 1945. He started his career working in family-owned companies engaged in banking, transportation and international trade in Shanghai. He then ventured into shipping companies in Hong Kong, co-founding Great Southern Steamship Co. Ltd in 1949 and in 1966, founded International Maritime Carriers Ltd (IMC). In 1995, he handed the operational reins of the business to his son, the current Chairman, Mr Frederick Tsao, who has transformed IMC into an established player with interests in the Strategic Business Areas of Industries (maritime and industrial solutions), Lifestyle/Real Estate and Investments. IMC has been operating from the Singapore headquarters since 1991, employing more than 6,800 employees representing 18 nationalities in 15 countries.

Throughout his long and illustrious career, Tan Sri Tsao has played a pivotal role in shaping the growth of the maritime industry and in promoting maritime education and research in Asia. In Singapore, he has been the Chairman of the Centre for Maritime Studies at the National University of Singapore (NUS) since its inception in 2005 and in 2007, he played a key role in establishing the permanent secretariat of the Asian Shipowners Forum (ASF) in Singapore. He partnered the Malaysian Government in 1968 to help establish its first national shipping line, and set up

training institutions and scholarships in China to help needy students attain higher education and nurture maritime talents.

His other accolades include being the first Asian recipient of the Commodore Award (Lifetime Award) from the Connecticut Maritime Association of the US in 2002, "Personality of the Year" by Lloyds Maritime Asia in 1999, Silver Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong SAR Government in 2006 and "Lifetime Achievement Award" by Seatrade Asia in 2008.

Tan Sri Tsao also holds various appointments in Asia, among them Chairman, Suntec City Developments Pte Ltd (Singapore); Economic Advisor to Weihai & Qingdao City, Shantung Province, China; and Member, Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council. His other past and present affiliations include:

- Patron, NUS Business School International Resource Panel - National University of Singapore
- Advisor, Singapore Economic Development Board (1991-1993)
- Member, Election Committee of the HKSAR of the PRC (800 members) - Representing Transport Industry (1998 & 2000)
- Member, Selection Committee of the First Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (1997)
- Honorary Consul of the Republic of Cyprus in Hong Kong (1980-1995)
- Member, Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council
- Chairman of Hong Kong Shipowners Association (2003-2005)
- Chairman of Shipping Committee-Hong Kong Port & Maritime Board (1998-

2003)

- Honorary Consultation Professor of Shipping, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Senior Advisor to Qingdao Ocean Shipping Mariners College, Shantung Province
- Founder of Malacca Maritime Academy
- Founder of Unithai Shipping Group, Thailand
- Chairman: Nippon Kaiji Kyokai Hong Kong Committee (1991-1996)
- Chairman: Bureau Veritas Asia & Australia Regional Committee (1992-1995)
- Chairman: Lloyd's Register of Shipping, East Asia Committee (1987-1994)
- Independent Non-Executive Director, China COSCO Holdings Co., Ltd. PRC