



**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**29 AUGUST 2008**

**SINGAPORE CONFERS PRESTIGIOUS HONORARY CITIZEN AWARD ON MR RATAN N. TATA AND TAN SRI FRANK TSAO**

Singapore will be honouring Mr Ratan N. Tata, Chairman of Tata Sons Ltd, and Tan Sri Frank Tsao Wen-King, Senior Chairman of IMC Group, with the 2007 Honorary Citizen Award for their valuable contributions to the country.

2     The award is the highest form of recognition given by the Singapore Government for outstanding contributions to the country's growth and development. It is conferred on those who have made a significant impact in the areas of business, science and technology, information communications, education, health, arts and culture, sports, tourism, community services or security.

3     Mr Wong Kan Seng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, said, "Singapore welcomes global talent who can add value to Singapore. Mr Tata and Tan Sri Tsao are exemplary business leaders who have helped propel Singapore's economy, making significant and extensive contributions to the development and diversity of our country. The award is a reflection of Singapore's gratitude for their valuable contributions."

*About Mr Ratan N. Tata*

4     Mr Tata has had a long association with Singapore and is a strong advocate of the country. He was instrumental in expanding and diversifying Tata's operations in

Singapore from steel manufacturing to information technology, from precision engineering to auto components, and others. Over the years, Mr Tata's business acumen has helped Singapore tap into higher value-added growth sectors.

5 On being named Honorary Citizen, Mr Tata said, "I am deeply honoured to receive the Honorary Citizen Award from the Singapore Government and I am pleased to have been able to play a small role in the development of Singapore's economy. It is not only a privilege for me, but also for the Tata Group. I want to take this opportunity to thank Singapore for her support and may our future collaborations bring forth greater synergies."

*About Tan Sri Frank Tsao*

6 Tan Sri Tsao has played a pivotal role in shaping the growth of the maritime industry and in promoting maritime education and research. In particular, Tan Sri Tsao has been a strong advocate for Singapore, championing its development as an international maritime centre. Under his directions, IMC moved its operational headquarters and bulk shipping operations to Singapore in the early nineties.

7 "I am very pleased and honoured to receive this highly prestigious award. Singapore has become a very important maritime hub and IMC has grown along with it. The conducive environment in Singapore has enabled IMC's businesses to thrive. I am glad to play my part in the development of Singapore's prominent position on the global maritime map. This would not have been possible without the strong support of the Singapore Government, industry players and other institutions, and I share this award with them," said Tan Sri Tsao.

8 This is the fifth year Singapore is conferring the Honorary Citizen Award. President S R Nathan will confer the Honorary Citizen Award on the two recipients at a ceremony to be held at the Istana on 29 August 2008.

9 The fact sheet on the Honorary Citizen Award and biographies of the recipients are attached in Annex A.

## FACT SHEET ON THE HONORARY CITIZEN AWARD 2007

### About the Honorary Citizen Award

- The title of Honorary Citizen is a national award conferred by the Singapore Government to recognise and acknowledge the contributions of foreigners who have rendered extensive and valuable services to Singapore and its people, or who have made a significant impact in the areas of business, science and technology, information communications, education, health, arts and culture, sports, tourism, community services or security.
- The Honorary Citizen Award is the highest form of national recognition for a non-Singaporean and ranks ahead of existing awards - the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) Award and the Public Service Medal (Friends of Singapore) Award.
- 2007 is the fifth year this prestigious award is being conferred.
- The title of Honorary Citizen is conferred for life.

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### Honorary Citizen Award recipients 2007

- Mr Ratan N. Tata  
Chairman, Tata Sons Ltd
- Tan Sri Frank Tsao Wen-King  
Senior Chairman, IMC Group

### **Honorary Citizen Award recipients 2006**

- Mr Lee R. Raymond  
Retired Chairman and CEO, Exxon Mobil Corporation
- Dr Heinrich von Pierer  
Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Siemens AG

### **Honorary Citizen Award recipients 2005**

- Dr Tsutomu Kanai  
Chairman Emeritus, Hitachi, Ltd.
- Dr Robert A. Brown  
President, Boston University

### **Honorary Citizen Award recipients 2004**

- Sir Richard Brook Sykes  
Rector of Imperial College London

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- Mr Lodewijk Christiaan Van Wachem  
Former President, Royal Dutch/Shell; Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Royal Philips Electronics; Chairman of the Board, Global Crossing Ltd; and Chairman of the Board, Zurich Financial Services and Zurich Insurance Company.

## **Honorary Citizen Award recipients 2003**

- Dr Sydney Brenner  
Distinguished Research Professor of the Salk Institute in USA  
2002 Nobel Prize recipient
- Mr Pasquale Pistorio  
President and CEO, STMicroelectronics

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Ratan N. Tata

### **Chairman, Tata Sons Ltd**

Heading the Tata Group since 1991, Ratan N Tata is the Chairman of Tata Sons, holding company of the Tata Group, and major Group companies including Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Power, Tata Tea, Tata Chemicals, Indian Hotels, Tata Teleservices and Tata AutoComp. He is also Chairman of two of the largest private sector promoted philanthropic trusts in India. During his tenure, the Group has further expanded its global reach, with its revenues growing over 13-fold to \$80 billion on an annualised basis.

Mr Tata joined the Tata Group in December 1962. After serving in various companies, he was appointed the Director-in-Charge of The National Radio & Electronics Company Limited (Nelco) in 1971. In 1981, he was named Chairman of Tata Industries, the Group's other holding company, where he was responsible for transforming it into the Group's strategy think-tank and a promoter of new ventures in high-technology businesses.

He is associated with various organisations in India and abroad in varying capacities, some of which are:

- Chairman, government of India's Investment Commission
- Member, (Indian) Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry
- Member, National Hydrogen Energy Board (India)
- Member, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (India)

- Serving on the International Investment Council set up by the president of the Republic of South Africa
- Serving the British Prime Minister's Business Council for Britain
- Member, International Advisory Council of Singapore's Economic Development Board
- Member, Asia-Pacific Advisory Committee to the board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange
- Member, international advisory boards of the Mitsubishi Corporation, the American International Group and JP Morgan Chase
- President, court of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Chairman, council of management, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai
- Member, board of trustees of Cornell University and University of Southern California, and the Foundation Board of the Ohio State University
- Member, Global Business Council on HIV / AIDS and the programme board of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's India AIDS initiative

Mr Tata received a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture from Cornell University in 1962. He worked briefly with Jones and Emmons in Los Angeles, California, before returning to India in late 1962. He completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School in 1975.

The government of India has honoured Mr Tata with two of its highest civilian awards, the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan. He has also been conferred an honorary doctorate in business administration by the Ohio State University, an honorary doctorate in technology by the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and an honorary doctorate in science by the University of Warwick.

## 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-

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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

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