



## MARITIME AFFAIRS: WINTER 2017: FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

The maritime environment in the Indian Ocean Region, and the larger Indo-Pacific, is today characterized by an unusual complexity. While the seas and oceans offer the greatest potential for the development and socio-economic well-being of humankind, they also bear upon, beneath and over them, the greatest challenges to peace in the region. One of our primary aims at the National Maritime Foundation, is to constantly monitor the strategic environment in India's neighborhood, and to offer national policy makers various options for ensuring India's continued constructive and peaceful use of the maritime domain. As can well be imagined, these are busy times for us.

In consonance with India's sustained maritime reach, we have also sought to expand our horizons, through collaborative efforts with partners all over the world. Our dialogue partners dot the vast geographical span from China to the United States, and offer us the opportunity to gain enriching perspectives on current security and developmental issues in the maritime domain. With the aim of expanding this canvas, the National Maritime Foundation is looking at new partnerships that can add greater granularity to our understanding of the maritime domain.

Our 'flagship' event the Annual Maritime Conference will assume a new avatar in early 2018, when we will conduct the first of a series of annual 'Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogues'. The maiden edition of this dialogue will be focused on challenges and opportunities for India in the Indo-Pacific region. As always, we look forward to your active involvement, participation, and unstinted support for this event.

I also take this opportunity to encourage scholars, academics and practitioners to contribute to the 'Maritime Affairs', the biannual journal of the National Maritime Foundation. Through this journal, we hope to sustain a healthy discussion and debate on matters of maritime importance that resonate across the seas and borders.

I wish each of you, our readers, patrons, and stakeholders smooth sailing and happy tidings, in the New Year ahead.

Admiral RK Dhowan, PVSM, AVSM. YSM (Retd.)  
*Chairman, National Maritime Foundation*