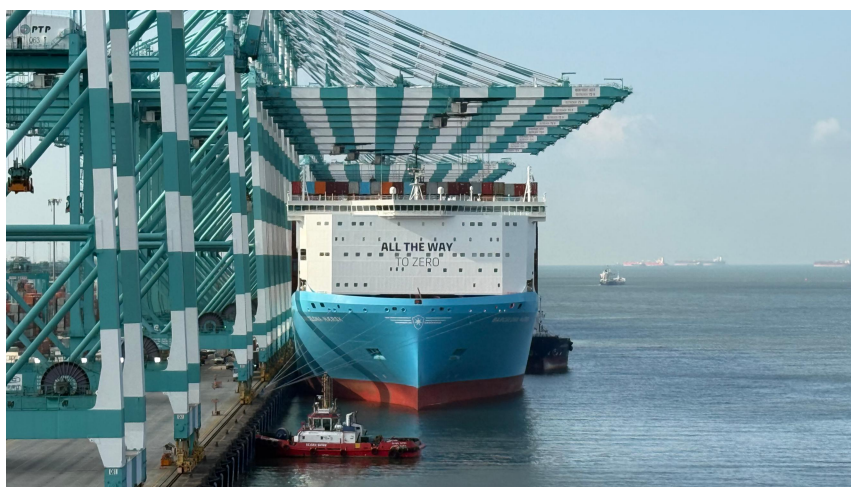


A Summer at Sea: Two Months with Dad on a Maersk Vessel

By the daughter of Second Engineer Zhang Peng, Singhai Marine seafarer

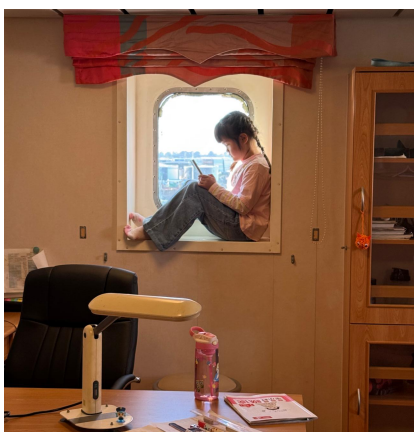
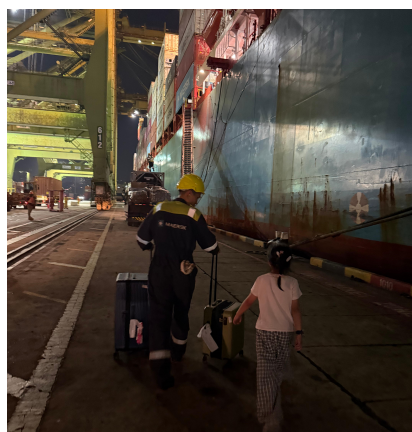


I would like to thank Maersk for giving me the chance to live on board with my mum and dad for two whole months!

I knew my dad (a Singhai Marine seafarer and Second Engineer with Maersk) worked on a big ship, but I used to think he was the one steering it. So when Mum told me we could actually live on Dad's ship for two months and travel abroad, I was over the moon. The moment it was confirmed, I shared the news with all my friends — they were so “jealous” 😊.

Packing for the voyage, I made sure to bring my paintbrushes because I love drawing.

I also remembered to pack Dad's favourite snacks.



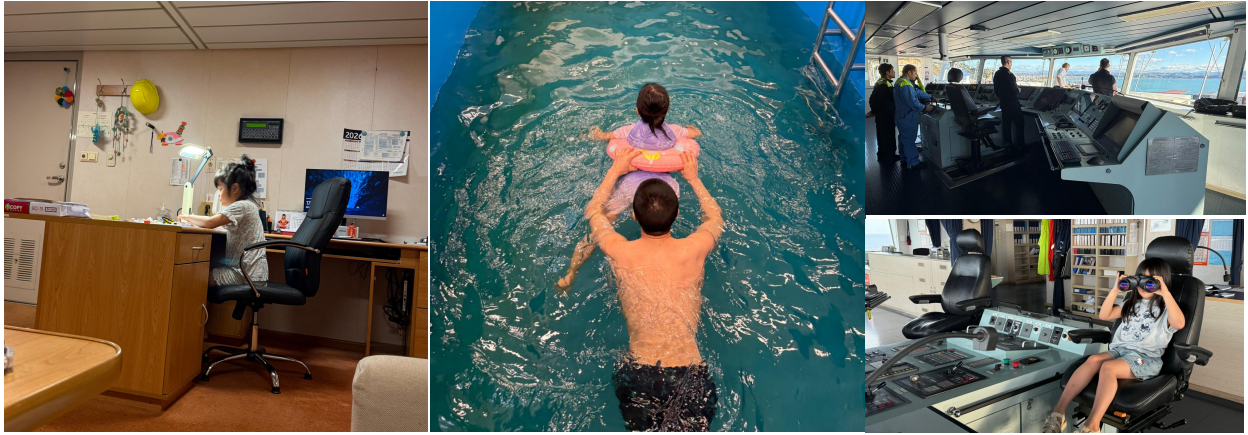
When the car finally reached the quayside, I realised Dad's ship was far bigger than I had imagined — almost larger than my school. Dad's cabin was a small suite, not particularly spacious, but just right for the three of us. Every morning I would draw the curtains to see the blue ocean; sometimes I even spotted rainbows.



Dad's colleagues on board were all foreigners. They always smiled at me warmly and were very kind. I picked up a few simple English greetings too.



Life on board followed a gentle rhythm. I usually woke up around eight. In the morning, Mum would have me do some homework, and then I would draw or listen to stories. When it was hot, Dad would fill the indoor swimming pool with seawater, and I would splash around by myself — so much fun! When Dad wasn't busy, he would take us around the ship and explain what everyone did.



The food was quite tasty at first — I especially loved the pasta and curry chicken. But after a while, I really started missing Chinese food.

Dad even caught a few small fish and crabs for me. I always waited by the window hoping to see dolphins, but sadly I never did. However, I did see flying fish — and they really do fly!



The weather at sea changed a lot. It was scorching when we first came on board, but after about ten days it turned cold. The sunrise and sunset were especially beautiful because there was nothing but open sea in every direction.



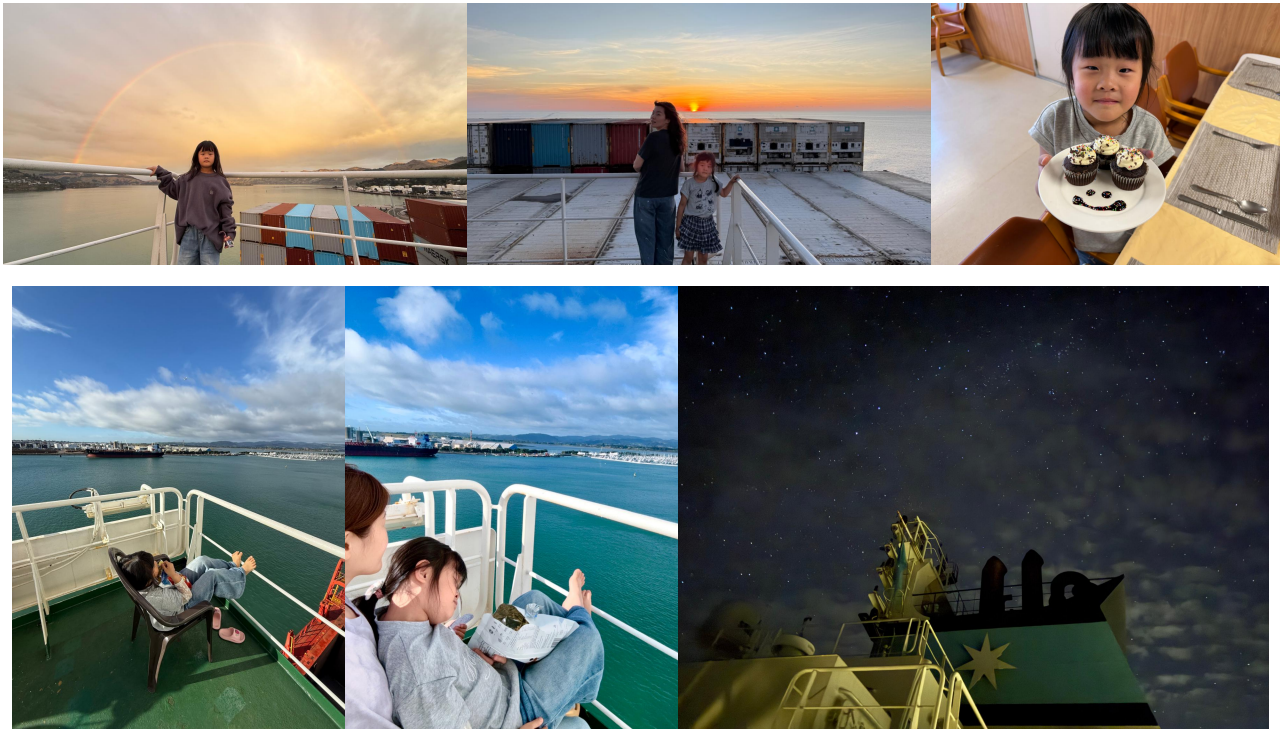
There was internet on the ship, so I could listen to stories. Mum had also downloaded some cartoons for me before we came aboard, and I watched them every day.

Dad took Mum and me to visit the engine room. It was full of all kinds of machinery, very noisy and extremely hot. After one round, I was sweating all over.



Dad always wore his work clothes when on duty. At work, Dad looked very serious and focused. I often saw his uniform completely soaked through — it made my heart ache.

Before, when Dad said he was busy, I thought he was just being lazy or playing on his phone. Now that I've seen it with my own eyes, I know he works in such a noisy, sweltering place. It really is hard work.



I felt happy every single day. My favourite thing was sitting outside our cabin with Mum and Dad after dinner, feeling the sea breeze and watching the sunset.

We did encounter rough seas and strong winds, but I wasn't scared and I didn't get seasick at all. Everyone said I was very brave.

I also called my friends on my smartwatch often, sharing all my experiences with them.

These two months living with Dad have made him feel more lovable and more real to me. He is no longer just the father on a WeChat video call, but someone who plays with me, tells me stories — someone I can see and touch.

If I had the chance, I would go on board with Dad again. Having both Mum and Dad with me, and seeing scenery I could never see at home — I just hope next time I get to see whales and dolphins.

Mother's Thoughts



I think the biggest change in my daughter is that she has become more understanding. She has seen how hard her father works and is no longer as wilful as before. Watching the two of them enjoy the view together from behind — I know this trip was worth it. What comforts me most is that she finally understands her father and knows that earning a living is not easy.



Father's Letter of Gratitude

Having my family on board makes me incredibly excited and gives me a deep sense of peace. I am grateful for the support from Maersk and Singhai Marine. To me, Maersk is not just a large company, but a caring family that looks after its people.

To all department and personnel involved,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who made my family's recent stay on board possible and incredibly pleasant. My wife and daughter have completed their two-month voyage with us, and this has been an immensely memorable and precious experience for our entire family.

We are fully aware that arranging for family members to join an international voyage requires extensive coordination behind the scenes, alongside a welcoming environment on board. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to:

The Shipboard Management Team & Crew: I am deeply grateful to the Master, Chief Engineer, and all my fellow officers and crew members for their warm hospitality and understanding. The harmonious living and working atmosphere they cultivated made my family feel genuinely welcomed and at home throughout their stay.

Crewing & Documentation Department: Thank you for your efficiency, guidance, and patience in handling the prior approvals, documentation, and travel planning, which made the application process seamless.

Port Agency : Thank you for the well-organized transport arrangements during their embarkation and disembarkation.

As a seafarer, having my family close by during this period has been an immense source of comfort, greatly easing the challenges of long periods away from home. This unforgettable journey truly reflects the company' s core value and excellent shipboard leadership.

Please accept my deepest thanks once again. This support reinforces my dedication to ensuring the safe, compliant, and efficient operation of our vessel moving forward.

Wish the company continued prosperity and all colleagues ashore and afloat smooth sailing.

Best regards,

2E Zhang Peng, on behalf of my family