

Issue No. 6 (April 2009)

samudra

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the Singapore Organisation of Seamen and Seacare Co-operative Limited

Mica (P) No. 099/03/2009



SSA President

**Bares The Facts At
SOS Dialogue Session**

Issue No. 6 (April 2009)

samudra

52 Chin Swee Road #09-00
Seacare Building Singapore 169875
Tel: 6379 5666 Fax: 6734 5525
Email: sosea@seacare.com.sg
Printed By: Photoplates Pte Ltd

■ www.sosea.org.sg ■ www.seacare.com.sg



seAcAre

contents



Features

- 3** SSA President Bares the Facts on the Current State of the Shipping Industry
- 6** Mr Mohamed Idris Is SOS New President



Industrial Relations

- 8** Asians Unite in Taipei
- 10** KPI Comes To Town
- 12** 280 Seafarers Welcome SOS IR Officer On Board
- 13** SOS Dashed into Action to Help Seafarers Involved in Grievance Case

Membership

- 14** Strengthening General Branch Membership with New Recruitment Strategies
- 15** SMS Expands Benefits and Extends Coverage



Welfare and Social Activities

- 9** Seacare Drop-In Centre for International Seafarers Features 15 New Computer Games
- 20** Union Extends Help through NTUC Benefit Payout
- 20** Members Go Cha-Cha-Cha
- 20** Upcoming Events



Training

- 18** More Help Offered Under SPUR and NETF
- 19** Technology at Sea



Seacare Focus

- 22** SOS GS and Seacare Chairman Re-appointed to CCFC
- 23** Magnum Marine Services the One-Stop for Maritime Support Services
- 26** Seacare Manpower Turns to Women



SSA PRESIDENT BARES THE FACTS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY

Dialogue session opens up opportunities for questions and answers amidst the gloom affecting the maritime industry.

The facts are out – growth is in the negative and globally, unemployment is in the highs. Singapore, being a globalised port state, is exposed to the risks and feels the impact of the downturn on the shipping industry.

SOS and Seacare invited the President of Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) Mr Teo Siong Seng, over at Club@52 on 13 February 2009 to share with the union leaders and staff how the economic changes are affecting the maritime industry and how best we can together emerge stronger and build up our strength as a union and shipping business enterprises.

Mr Teo reported that the decline has been noted since July last year but many in the industry predicted that the slowdown was due to the Beijing Olympics that led to the dip in the export of cargo. However, September 2008 saw the USA sub-prime market bursting its bubble affecting every sector from banking to shipping, leading to the latest estimate of 7% of the world's container fleet being laid up.

"Shipping always lags a few months behind the trade. So when trade volume is down, shipping goes down even faster," said Mr Teo.

The question on whether ship owners will continue to run their ships or lay them up was raised at the Dialogue session with concerns over seafarers losing their jobs as a result of the downturn.



"Some ship owners believe that it is better to let a ship run than to lay it up because to re-activate the ship, it can cost them up to \$1 million," said Mr Teo.

The SSA President also explored possibilities for the market to pick up speed. He mentioned that for shipping to return, the world trade has to firstly, improve and bounce back. However, Mr Teo also added that the big market for Asia is in Europe and USA, and that "these markets will take a longer time to recover."

On Recovery and the Employment Front

And while the shipping world is still on its long road to recovery, it was a positive sign to hear the SSA leader breathe new hope through his firm support on staff training and upgrading and persistent reminder on how management and ship owners should not turn to cutting manpower as a first directive to reduce costs.

After SPUR was announced SSA rushed in to work together with the Workforce Development Authority to ensure that all the SSA courses that have been conducted can qualify for SPUR. To date, all 12 courses under the SSA Executive Development Programme are covered under SPUR.

"The whole move is to try and urge the shipping community not to lay off the staff as the first resort. So far, in the shipping industry, we have not heard of any major lay off. Globally, we know that there is a huge percentage of sailing personnel but since the end of last year till now we are seeing that the supply is not so tight and this is mainly due to two reasons. Firstly, it is due to many ships being laid up. Secondly, there are a lot of new buildings that may not be able to deliver because ship owners cannot get the financing."

"I believe that Asia will lead in this recovery. And I think that countries like China and India are very important – I think our government is doing the right thing by asking the enterprises to focus on planning for the future. And this is in terms of training and upgrading," said Mr Teo.



While the focus now is on companies trying to remain productive given the industry and economic gloom, questions about the ongoing plans to recruit more sea-going personnel including the fate of new maritime graduates become even more pressing – Are we going towards the right direction? Have plans and efforts on

building up the seagoing manpower been thwarted due to ships being made redundant or the inability for companies to hire more?

More importantly, the shipping community should be aware of the future and prepare for the upturn, by getting more seafarers to remain relevant and maritime students to look up and stay in tune with the needs of the maritime industry.

"I think that it is important that we in the shipping industry, along with the unions, distinguish ourselves from the other industries, show that we do care for the new maritime graduates who are trying to enter the industry at a time like this," added the SSA President.

Union's Take

Through the dialogue, SOS and Seacare caught an in-depth view of perspectives from the shipping companies, the challenges they face and how these also affect seafarers and maritime unions.

SOS General Secretary Mr Leow Ching Chuan expounded on SOS' views and explained on the purpose of the session:

"For the past few months, SOS has been meeting representatives from the shipping companies along with the SSA members to see how best we can jointly go through this downturn together. We are in the same boat as the ship owners and that is why we are here this morning, to share our common problems and to see if there is anything we can supplement each other, with the same objectives."

Excerpts of the Q&A Session

Q: *As the Managing Director of Pacific International Lines Pte Ltd (PIL), what did your company do in the past to tackle the long down periods and what are some of the activities that can help you pick up the fastest, in the long term?*

Mr Teo: We have never seen a crisis so bad. In times like this, it is important to know your strengths and weaknesses. Our strength

has always been in trade – in areas such as Africa and Middle East where it is very difficult to operate with a lot of uncertainties for example, Aden where we take up three-quarter of the port. So we have to remind our staff on safety. It is also important to keep our staff together. The management must share the same vision



on how we want to overcome this crisis and the whole company must work as a team.

Q: *Looking at the industry as a whole, Singapore has developed itself very well as an International Maritime Centre (IMC). If we are going to develop ourselves as an international hub, based on your experience, what do you think are the capabilities Singapore could concentrate on especially in the present situation and what are the opportunities for the enterprises here?*



Mr Teo: To further enhance our position as an IMC, especially in times like this, is to make sure that we continue to develop all the supporting services. I still think that there can be growth and to ensure we have this staying growth we must make sure that we have the manpower – at all levels, whether it is the clerk, manager or lawyers and that is why it is important that people should not

get rid of their staff so fast. They can go on extended leave or SPUR courses, I believe that recovery will come faster than what we think it will be.

MR MOHAMED IDRIS TAKES OVER MR TAN JING BOCK AS SOS PRESIDENT



SOS has appointed Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim to take on the post of President for the Union with effect 6 April 2009. Mr Mohamed Idris will take over the helm from former SOS President Mr Tan Jing Bock who has stepped down to make way for new leadership in the Union.

Mr Mohamed Idris, who was the Vice President of SOS has had a long, fruitful working relationship with the outgoing President.

"The Union has benefited from Mr Tan Jing Bock's contributions especially in the area of members welfare and in reaching out to the seafaring community and beyond. Working alongside a unionist like him has been a fulfilling journey for me and I hope that I can continue to uphold the high standards of leadership that he has set here in SOS," said Mr Mohamed Idris.

The new SOS Executive Committee also sees some familiar faces moving on to new appointments. This signals the growth and progress the Union is moving towards, bringing in fresh new leadership styles vital for teamwork to achieve current and future objectives of the Union.

Comrade Tan Jing Bock joined the fledgling SOS in 1976. Nine years into his ordinary membership of SOS. Comrade Tan's keenness to help his fellow seamen and affinity to union work gained him recognition and election to the SOS Executive Committee as Assistant Secretary in 1985. In his new role, Comrade Tan showed himself to be a capable and dedicated union officer. He was elected Vice President in 1988 and then President in 1991.



As President, Comrade Tan has been wholeheartedly involving himself in welfare activities for members and their dependents as well as other needy Singaporeans.

Comrade Tan was also appointed to various committees in the NTUC.

Mr Tan stepped down as the President of SOS on 2 April 2009 and further left the employ of the Union on 15 April 2009. SOS greatly appreciates Mr Tan's past service as President and Senior Welfare Manager of the SOS.

SOS NEW LINE-UP OF LEADERS FOR THE TERM ENDING 2011

Advisors	LIM BOON HENG GRACE FU HA I YIEN ARTHUR FONG ZULKIFLI BIN MOHAMMED
President	MOHAMED IDRIS BIN MOHAMED IBRAHIM
Vice Presidents	BON SHEUN PING MOHAMAD BIN ABU BAKAR
General Secretary	LEOW CHING CHUAN
Executive Secretary	KAM SOON HUAT
Asst. Secretaries	NAZARUDIN BIN NANDOK SEE BOON KWANG
Treasurer	LEE VAN CHONG
Asst. Treasurer	SIM HOR PHENG
Ordinary Committee Members	RAJ MOHAM RAJA MD SAID BIN RAJA MD SHAFIK LIM THIZI CHEE LOH SUAN HIN NORANI BIN MD RAIS DANIEL TAN KENG HUI
Alternate Committee Members	MICHAEL THAM SIANG HOCK MOHAMMAD BIN KODRASONO KAMIS BIN HUSSAIN TAN BENG KIAT LIM ENG SENG
Trustees	LEOW PENG KUI MAJOR ABBAS BIN ABU AMIN OW KEE HENG
Internal Auditors	AHMAD BIN HJ REPAHI TANG TENG LUNG





ASIANS UNITE IN TAIPEI

The Asian Seafarers' Summit and Norwegian / Asian Seafarers' Committee (NASCO) meetings aimed at forging closer cooperation among Asian seafarers' unions is back again. This time it held its 26th Asian Seafarers' Summit and 19th NASCO meetings in Taipei on 16 and 17 February 2009, hosted by National Chinese Seamen's Union. Representing SOS at the meetings was Executive Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat.

While the last meeting held in Manila concentrated on issues such as education, training and shortage problems of Asian seafarers and "Flag-of-Convenience" (FOC) Campaign policy reviews, this year's summit saw greater developments in the same area, with heightened concerns raised over the safety of seafarers.

With piracy and armed robberies on the rise, the need to address the safety and welfare of seafarers was raised, where members were invited to take note of updated information pertaining to the damage of piracy, the revision to the IBF high risk areas and the rights and compensation to seafarers. A discussion on

the appeal through channels of various levels from the union's viewpoint in order to secure the health and safety of seafarers onboard was also held during the Summit.

An issue of contention was raised on the future upward revision of the IBF and TCC agreements. Members called on Asian Seafarers' Unions to be firm and united in the fight for the Asian voice to be heard, as the future of the ITF policy to a very large extent will be determined by Asia.

Both the Asian Seafarers' Summit and NASCO meetings were successful in putting forth issues closely linked to seafaring supplies and welfare of seafarers. An annual feature in the calendar of participating unions, the event provides the platform for active discussion and cooperation amongst Asian union representatives who are all keen to promote better working conditions for all seafarers.





SEACARE DROP-IN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS FEATURES 15 NEW COMPUTER GAMES



A games section is the latest addition to the Seacare Drop-In Centre for International Seafarers, located at #01-00 Pasir Panjang Terminal Building, to boost its range of services especially for seafarers.

One computer cubicle has been designated as the games section, having been installed a total of 15 types of games – from sporting ones like the “Tennis Titans” to mind-boggling puzzles; and games that will excite racing games enthusiasts. There will be something for everyone who would like to spend some of their time to de-stress and engage in some form of brain exercise.

“The IT department is looking forward to seeing the response and gathering feedback from the visitors and see how best we can deliver our services with these new features or improving the current ones,” said SOS Industrial Relations Officer Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar.

The Drop-In Centre has recently also installed two Local Area Network (LAN) ports to give easier access for seafarers who would like to use their own personal laptops while at the Centre. These



new features enhance the service level at the Drop-In Centre and both Seacare and SOS hope that seafarers who drop by the Centre can maximise their stay there, learning and relaxing before embarking on their next journey.

KPI COMES TO TOWN



SOS played host to its counterparts from Indonesia – officials from the Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia (KPI) who were in Singapore from 1 March to 5 March 2009.



KPI General Secretary Mr Mathius Tambing, Chairman of Organisation and Welfare of KPI Mr Edison Hutasoit and Chairman of KPI-HAL Special Unit, Mr Arifin Pohan were part of the KPI team who dropped by at the Seacare Building for a meeting with the SOS leaders followed by a lunch reception hosted by the Union.

The team also visited the International Drop-In Centre for Seafarers located at the Finger Pier Building as well as SOS's very own Seacare Drop-In Centre for International Seafarers at Pasir Panjang Terminal Building. There, the SOS officials had the chance to introduce to the delegation the services and leisure facilities available for seafarers who want some time to relax and be connected with their families back home via the land line telephone, international calls, private soundproof telephone booths, web cameras, headset and microphone as well as internet connection via three computer units.

The KPI delegation also checked out the accommodation facilities available at the Singapore Mariners' Club which offers quality serviced apartments for seafarers who wish to extend their stay in town.



Also hosting the KPI team was the people at The Mission to Seafarers (Flying Angel) – a mission from the Anglican Church which meets the social and spiritual needs of seafarers regardless of race, language or creed. The Mission to Seafarers' Care Centre, located at the Jurong Port provided a homey experience for the guests to engage in conversations and discussions with the people behind the scenes who run the drop-in centre.

The delegation headed home on 5 March 2009. The visit has not only provided the Union with the chance to show the KPI officials the services available for international seafarers when they are here in Singapore, but also tightened the union-to-union relations between SOS and KPI through the exchange.

"We are glad to have them over, aside from formal meetings and discussions, our guests were also invited to visit the various drop-in centres and other facilities available for seafarers who call at our ports. Our KPI friends also had the time to do some sight-seeing here. It was a good and balanced exchange programme for them,"

said Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim, then Vice-President, SOS.



280 SEAFARERS WELCOME SOS IR OFFICER ON BOARD

SOS Industrial Relations (IR) Officer Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar is at it again. Ship visits are a cup of tea to him; having done so for a long time, Mr Mohamad is a familiar face to many seafarers who look forward to having him on board.

Ship visits are also akin to a personal mission he believes in and will continue to serve despite his busy schedule. Beyond the passing of gifts, news and welfare issue updates, what matters most to seafarers is the personal touch and physical presence from the IR Officer that makes it all different.



From January to March 2009, IR Officer Mr Mohamad; packed with Seacare towel sets, calendars, posters, his smile and drive to reach out and help the seafarers with any emerging issues, set out on board a total of 27 vessels and touched base with 280 ratings, from various countries such as China, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

"Ship visits are more than just dropping by and handing out gifts to our seafarers. It is about being there and communicating our care, with a simple hello, a conversation and a sharing session," said Mr Mohamad.

With this simple belief and ship visits being a way of expressing the care the Union has for the seafarers, SOS continues to carry out its duty – to protect all seamen, ascertain their rights to approved working conditions and ensure that they are always in safe hands.

SOS DASHED INTO ACTION TO HELP SEAFARERS INVOLVED IN GRIEVANCE CASE

Unpaid wages, low fuel for vessel operation, rations running out, sub-standard working conditions.

These are issues facing some 15 seafarers and four trainees working on board the Karla Omayra. Out of the 19 crew on board, eight are ratings from the Philippines and Russia.

The Karla Omayra has been on anchorage since 9 February 2009 and the Master as well as the crew raised the alarm that they have not received their wages for up to five months – totaling up to US\$157,915.

The maritime unions in Singapore, the SOS and SMOU, responded promptly to help out when informed by the ITF. On 27 March 2009, SOS IR Manager Mr Daniel Tan and IR Officer Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar went on board the Karla Omayra. SOS and Seacare



donated 10 dozens of Seacare mineral water to the crew who would have to remain on the vessel, which was arrested on 28 March 2009.

Prior to this, the four trainees were repatriated, leaving behind 15 crew members.

“The unpaid salaries, poor welfare and safety negligence were issues SOS finds most disturbing especially when all these concern lives at sea. We brought in drinking water, counselled the crew members and discussed appropriate measures to be taken with the relevant authorities,” said SOS IR Manager Mr Daniel Tan.

“We hope that the issues will be resolved quickly and the seafarers can receive their wages and return home soon,” added IR Officer Mr Mohamad.



STRENGTHENING GENERAL BRANCH MEMBERSHIP WITH NEW RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES

SOS Membership and Organising Committee are on a lookout for employees working in maritime related companies to join the Union as General Branch members.

The Committee is embarking on a brand new strategy – to allow the junior staff from shipping companies which have Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Union and other employees from shipping related companies to join the Union. With this change in admission criteria for membership, the new strategy is poised to be an exciting one.

New members will receive \$15 NTUC FairPrice vouchers and a year-end gift from SOS. In addition to these SOS benefits, new SOS General Branch (GB) members will also be given the NTUC U Card to enjoy the NTUC privileges as well as receive 888 link points.

As of March 2009, there are a total of 236 SOS GB members who are employed under various Seacare Group of Companies. The team will continue to engage the new employees under the Seacare Group to join as GB members, but in time to come, they will also look into more opportunities to work with the Industrial Relations Officers to communicate the benefits of GB membership to our associates and encourage more to join the Union through our various recruitment exercises.

With these strategies in the pipeline, SOS aims to reach the target of having 500 SOS GB members in the near future.



SMS EXPANDS BENEFITS AND EXTENDS COVERAGE MORE CLINICS FOR INDONESIA ...

From the time the Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) was first introduced to SOS members in March 2005, it has since provided free basic medical examination and dental benefits to SOS members. On the overseas front, efforts to reach out to its foreign members has expanded and extended over the years ... and is growing healthily.

"This is what SOS and Seacare hope to eventually achieve – to improve its benefits and to make medical and dental care services and facilities available to all its members right at their doorstep." Ms Mariana Amad, SMS Manager



INDONESIA

When SMS was first introduced to Indonesian SOS members on 1 December 2006, it was welcomed with open arms. Since then, the Union and Seacare have been continuously looking into ways to improve the benefits under this scheme for its Indonesian members and their dependants. A new revision to the scheme that commenced last December added six more benefits covering medical consultation, PAP smear test, dental consultation, tooth filling, tooth extraction and reimbursements of up to Rp100,000 per person for purchase of medication.

Now, two branches of Indosehat 2003 Clinic will provide the SMS benefits to members and their dependants starting 1 March 2009. The newly SMS appointed clinics, located in Tanjong Periok and Bekasi joins Klinik Baruna, to encourage the SOS Indonesian members, most of whom reside around the vicinity of Jakarta to utilise the benefits. The new addition extends the number of SMS facilities in Indonesia to three.

MORE CLINICS IN INDONESIA



SMMC/Klinik Baruna

Jln Cikini Raya No 60 R/S
Jakarta 10330
Tel: (021) 3141040 / 3141059
Fax: (021) 3151065

Operating hours:

9.00am to 6.00pm (Monday–Friday)
9.00am to 2.00pm (Saturday)

SMMC/Indosehat 2003 Clinic

Jl Cilincing Raya No 74
North Jakarta
Tel: (62) 21 441 1281
Fax: (62) 21 4483 0763

Operating hours: 24 hrs

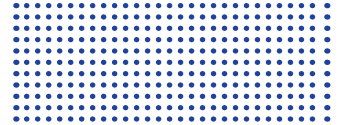
SMMC/Indosehat Cikarang Clinic

Jl Beruang
H1 No 185–187, Jababeka Plant II
Bekasi
Tel: (62) 21 925 3538

Operating hours: 24 hrs

For more information on the SMS, SOS Indonesian members can contact:

Mr Sonny Pattiselanno, SMS Liaison Officer, c/o Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia (KPI), Jln Cikini Raya 58 AA/BB, PO Bok 3087, Jakarta 10330
Tel: (62) 21-3141495, Fax: (62) 21-3141491, Email: sms@seacare.com.sg



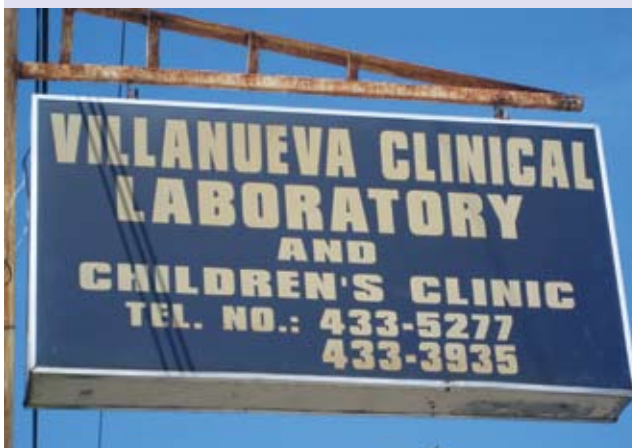
... AND THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINES

For SOS members from the Philippines, the SMS which was first introduced in March 2005, has benefited not just themselves, but also their dependants. Last December, improved benefits under the revised SMS meant that SOS Filipino members and their dependants were entitled to more free medical benefits.

These included additional benefits of PAP smear test, dental consultation and simple tooth filling, over and above the other medical and dental benefits. Members are entitled to reimbursement up to Php 500 per person for medication purchase from SMS appointed clinics or any pharmacy.

In an effort to extend its boundaries to cover more of its members, SOS is pleased to include the SMMC/Villanueva Clinical Laboratory from the province of Negros Occidental. The new addition joins the current list of 10 clinics spread throughout other provinces, making available medical benefits to as many SOS members and dependants in the Philippines.



MORE CLINICS IN PHILIPPINES

MANILA

SMMC/Galenus Clinic Inc.

3rd Floor Ferguson Park Tower
M H Del Pilar Cor
A Flores St
Ermita, Manila 1000
Philippines
Tel: (63) 2 528 4185
Fax: (63) 2 536 9716
Operating hours:
8.00am to 5.00pm (Monday–Friday)
8.00am to 12.00 noon (Saturday)
Closed on Sundays & Public Holidays

SMMC/Micah Medical Clinic

Diagnostic Laboratory
3rd Floor Marc Building
1971 Taft Avenue
Malate, Manila
Philippines
Tel: (63) 2 536 5289 / 536 5900
Fax: (63) 2 536 5280
Operating hours:
8.30am to 5.30pm (Monday–Friday)
8.30am to 12.30pm (Saturday)
Closed on Sundays & Public Holidays

CEBU

SMMC/Gillamacs Diagnostic

and Medical Laboratories Inc.
Main Branch
Don Gil Garcia St
Capitol Site Cebu City
6000 Philippines
Fax: (63) 32 416 6000
Operating hours:
9.00am to 6.00pm (Monday–Friday)
9.00am to 4.30pm (Saturday)
Closed on Sundays & Public Holidays

CAVITE

SMMC/Illano's Medical and Dental Clinic

Ilano Building I, Unit 4, 5 & 6
Nuevo Avenue, Imus, Cavite
Fax: (63) 46 471 3428 / 471 5051
Operating hours:
8am to 12pm & 2pm to 5pm
(Monday–Friday)
8am to 12pm
(Saturday, by appointment only)
Closed on Sunday & Public Holidays

ILOILO

SMMC/Medicus Diagnostic Center

and Medical Clinic for OFW
Health Partners Condo Clinic Building
San Rafael
Benigno Aquino Avenue
Mandurriao, Iloilo City

Tel: (63) 508 4058 to 60
Fax: (63) 33 508 6365
Operating hours:
6.00am to 5.00pm (Monday–Saturday & Public Holiday)
Closed on Sundays

SMMC/Medicus Diagnostic Center and Medical Clinics

Jaro Commercial Complex
Lopez Jaena St
Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel: (63) 33 320 4454
Operating hours: 6.00am to 5.00pm
(Monday–Saturday & Public Holiday)
Closed on Sundays

SMMC/Medicus Diagnostic Center and Medical Clinics

Granny's Building
Castor St
Sara, Iloilo
Tel: (63) 33 392 0015
Operating hours: 6.00am to 5.00pm
(Monday–Saturday & Public Holiday)
Closed on Sundays
(Medical Consultation on Saturday only)

ANTIQUE

SMMC/Medicus Diagnostic Center and Medical Clinics

T A Fornier St, Atabay
San Jose, Antique
Tel: (63) 36 540 9846
Operating hours: 6.00am to 5.00pm
(Monday–Saturday & Public Holiday)
Closed on Sundays

CAPIZ

SMMC/Medicus Diagnostic Center and Medical Clinics

Medicus Building
Rizal St, Roxas City
Capiz
Tel: (63) 36 621 2655
Operating hours: 6.00am to 5.00pm
(Monday–Saturday & Public Holiday)
Closed on Sundays

MISAMIS ORIENTAL

SMMC/CMDC Diagnostic Center

Camp Alagar Crossing
Lapasan Highway
Cagayan de Oro City
Telefax: (63) 88 856 3045
Operating hours: 7.00am to 6.00pm
(Monday–Friday)
Closed on Sundays & Public Holidays

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

SMMC/Villanueva Clinical Laboratory

16th Lacson St
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
Tel: (63) 34 433 5277
Operating hours: 7am to 7pm
(Monday to Friday)
7am to 5pm (Saturday to Sunday)
Closed on Public Holidays

For more information on the SMS, SOS Filipino members can contact:

Ms Aimee Sañosa
Manager
Seacare International Phils Inc
911 San Andres St
Corner Leon Guinto St
Malate, Manila
Philippines
Tel: (63) 2 521-6839
Fax: (63) 2 521-7170
Email: smsph@seacare.com.sg

Singapore SMMC

165 Tanjong Pagar Road
#04-19 The Amara, Singapore 088539
24 Hour Hotline: (65) 6222 7728
Fax: (65) 6224 6387
Email: smmc@seacare.com.sg

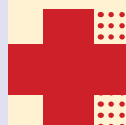
NEW Optometry and Ocular Care Centre

NOOCC Building
300 Margaret Drive, Singapore 149302
Tel: (65) 6471 1771
Fax: (65) 6475 1771
Email: patientcare@noocc.com
Operating Hours: 9am to 6pm
(Mondays–Saturdays)
Closed on Sundays & Public Holidays

Vietnam

SMMC/Australian Clinic & Pathology Diagnostics

273–275 Ly Thai To Street
Ward 9, District 10, Ho Chi Minh City
Tel: (848) 834 9941/42
Fax: (848) 834 9940



MORE HELP OFFERED UNDER SPUR AND NETF



The increase in funding provided by the government – from a subsidy of 80% of course fees to 90% gives a good push to invest in skills training and upgrading through the Skills Programme for Upgrading and Resilience (SPUR).

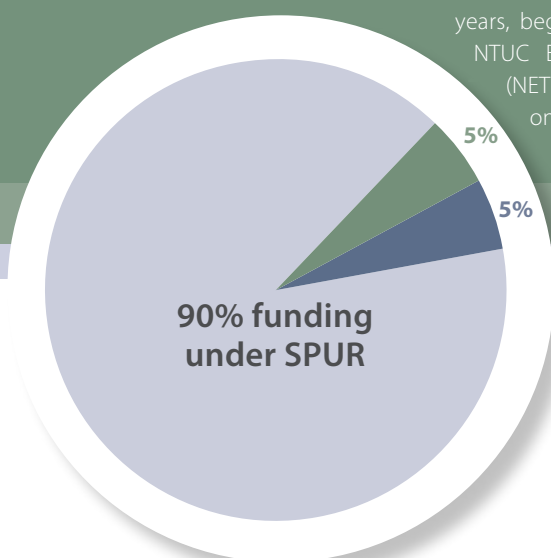
Over 800 upgrading courses under SPUR are available for workers. With training opportunities abundant, supporting not only the employees but organisations as well through the reimbursement of absentee payroll, SPUR is definitely a true example of a collaborative effort – a programme that aims for a win-win outcome. And these varied opportunities were explored by representative from the Employment and Employability Institute (e2i) at a sharing session held at the Club@52 on 9 April 2009 to the staff of Seacare and SOS.

Besides the 90% funding available under SPUR, union members can now look forward to a sweeter offer. Valid for two years, beginning 1 December 2008, the NTUC Education and Training Fund (NETF) allows companies to tap on this fund to cover 50% of the

unfunded course fee when they send their employees for training under the SPUR. This means, out of the 10% of course fee that is not covered under SPUR, half of it can be paid by using the NETF. The Fund is offered to any union member, regardless of nationality and employability status and each member is entitled to \$250 of NETF per calendar year.

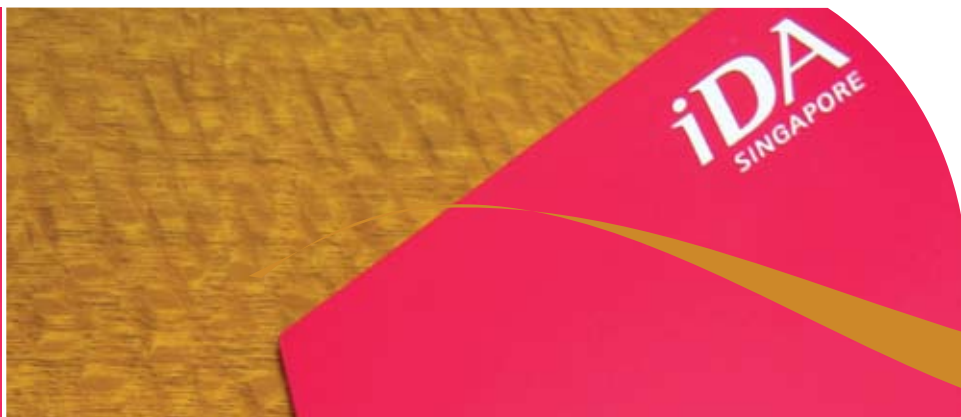
“With SPUR funding, and now the NETF, the course fees is no longer an issue. A big hurdle to training is removed. We like to encourage more members to tap on these opportunities and enrol in training or upgrading course,” said SOS General Secretary Mr Leow Ching Chuan.

For more information on the courses available under SPUR, members can log on to www.wda.gov.sg or call the SOS Training Department at 6379 5671.



5% Co. pays 5% of course fee
5% NETF funds 5% of course fee
90% Funding under SPUR





TECHNOLOGY AT SEA

SOS MEMBER LEARNS MORE ABOUT MARITIME COMMUNICATION THROUGH THE GMDSS GENERAL OPERATOR COURSE

Navigating his way on the new wave of maritime communication technology is SOS member, Mr Mahmod Bin Hj Mohalas, who underwent a 12-day long Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS) – General Operator Course from 16 March to 27 March 2009.

The 42-year-old member, who is currently working as a helmsman, said that the course has certainly helped him to be acquainted with the new equipments and operation system that are being used on board right now.

"We learned how to operate and transmit signals on board vessels using the new equipments on board. I realised that what I knew back then were so much different from how things are being done now," said Mr Mahmod.

And among these changes were technologically advanced equipments introduced to the class using hands-on simulation, including theory and practical aspects of radio telephony and rescue communications and procedures.

"I never knew about satellite communication and other forms of transmitting and communicating using advanced technology. So this course is really good and helps to keep me updated with the new areas of maritime communication," added Mr Mahmod.



GMDSS General Operator Course is offered by SMA and sponsored by the MPA Educational Grant.

Having completed the course, Mr Mahmod is now qualified with a GMDSS General Operator's Certificate of Competency (for all Sea Areas) issued by the Infocomm Authority of Singapore (IDA). The course has enabled maritime practitioners like himself to understand the knowledge and acquire the skills required in the maritime communication and allowed him to possess the ability to operate mobile maritime communication station for all sea areas.

"The course has benefited me a lot and I thank SOS for encouraging me to take up this course. I encourage more members to take this downtime, to improve on their skills and take up courses of their interest," said the satisfied Mr Mahmod.

For more information on the course, members may contact Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) at 6772 1817 or visit www.sma.sp.edu.sg.

UNION EXTENDS HELP THROUGH NTUC BENEFIT PAYOUT



SOS presented a cheque of \$5,500 under the NTUC Gift payout to the wife of Mr Salleh Bin Duan, who passed away on 3 February 2009.

The late Mr Salleh was a member of SOS for 32 years. His wife, Madam Sapiah Binti Ibrahim who currently resides in Malacca, also received a cheque of \$8,000 under the NTUC Unit for Contract and Casual Workers (UCCW) and is appreciative of the help rendered to her.

By extending some aid through the benefit payout to the member's family, we hope to lend a helping hand to the grieving family.

MEMBERS GO CHA-CHA-CHA



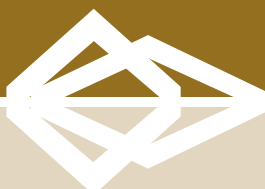

It was time again for the SOS/Seacare Members' Night, an exclusive affair specially organised for members.

This round, a total of 126 members turned up at Club@52, on 28 March 2009 to have some good old fun and networking session with other members over good food and entertainment.

Four performers who delivered Chinese and dialect songs added to the flavour of the night. Almost a must-have item on Members' Night is the karaoke session helmed by the SOS songbirds. But the limelight was shone on the Cha-Cha dance session – a fifteen minute mini workout showcased by the members and the performers, where they let their hair down and cha cha to the beats of the music.

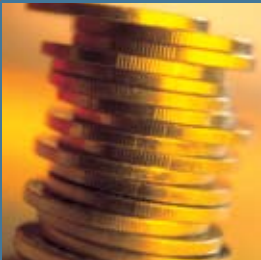
Adding to the song and dance was the Lucky Draw segment where 30 lucky draw prizes were given out consisting of pitcher sets with gift vouchers from NTUC FairPrice and McDonalds.

UPCOMING EVENTS



JULY

SOS Durian Trip (July)
SOS Youth Activity (July)



Seacare Focus



SOS GS AND SEACARE CHAIRMAN

SOS General Secretary and Seacare Chairman Mr Leow Ching Chuan has been re-appointed as a member of the Central Co-operative Fund Committee (CCFC) for a term of three years, with effect from 1 March 2009.

RE-APPOINTED TO CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE FUND COMMITTEE



SOS General Secretary and Seacare Chairman Mr Leow Ching Chuan has been re-appointed as a member of the Central Co-operative Fund Committee (CCFC) for a term of three years, with effect from 1 March 2009.

The CCFC is chaired by Mr Chandra Das and the Committee oversees the administration of the Central Co-operative Fund which was formed to promote co-operative practices such as training, providing aid in the formation of new co-operatives, and encourage the growth of a co-operative society in Singapore.

Since its inception as a Trust Fund in 1979, the Central Co-operative Fund has grown to help co-operatives expand on their operations through the Special Project Grant as well as encourage the growth of new ones by introducing a grant that will help with the starting-up of new co-operatives.

Mr Leow, who also sits in the SNCF Executive Council, is joined by Mr Chan Tee Seng, SNCF Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, NTUC First Campus Co-operative Ltd, Mr Timothy Ng, Treasurer, Singapore Shell Employees' Union Cooperative Ltd and Mr Ngiam Shih Chun, Director, Community Relations and Engagement Division, Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports, in the Committee.



MAGNUM MARINE SERVICES PTE LTD, THE ONE STOP CENTRE FOR MARITIME SUPPORT SERVICES

A comprehensive menu of services under one roof – that is the edge that Magnum Marine Services Pte Ltd offers. For the clients, it means they can have their needs met from one source, a convenience many companies cannot claim to provide.

As the one-stop maritime support services provider, Magnum Marine Services Pte Ltd (MMSPL)'s stake in the international maritime market is strengthened and entrenched.

Since 1 January 2009, when the Land Transfer Division of Seacare MarinePlus Pte Ltd joined forces with MMSPL, the nature of business has been enlarged and redefined.





Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Mr R Chandra Segaran, MMSPL has anchored its position as a leading one-stop service provider with a wide range of services readily made available for all shipowners and ship managers.

The scope of services cover:

- ship boarding services for crew matters
- crew immigration and customs clearances
- airport-to-ship transfer for crew and families
- corporate land transport and transfer for local and international shore staff
- customised support services for foreign shipowners and representatives
- arrangement for medical services and aftercare for crew and their families

Mr Alec Chew, MMSPL Chief Administrative Officer highlighted, ***"We are not here to compete, but to complement the other existing service providers who are already in the market right now. Together, we can improve on the efficiency of service delivery."***

- attendance to crew emergency services while in-port and at outer-port-limits
- customised services for shipowners holding conventions and seminars in Singapore and peninsular Malaysia
- delivery of foreign currency to ships
- other contingency requirements eg repatriation of injured/ deceased crew, lost documents
- supplies of working gears to ship and ship crew
- Singapore MPA Documentation on behalf of Companies and individual sea staff:
Application and Collection of Certificate of Endorsement
Application and Collection for extension of Discharge Book
Application and Collection for extension of STCW Certificate
Application and Collection for extension of GMDSS Certificate.

MMSPL's team of officers are able to provide value-added services because they have the experience, the wide network and contacts and are abreast with issues ranging from port clearances, crew matters, immigration requirements, repatriation procedures to other port documentation and formalities.

Besides providing quality services, MMSPL also understands the needs of ship managers and are able to manage challenging situations within a tight time frame swiftly without delay to vessel sailing schedule.



Bridging The Gap In Ship Operations

MMSPL does more than just land transfer services. Besides providing crew transport, their scope of services cover a far wider range that is dedicated to making the life of shipowners and ship managers easier.



Call them runner, steward, butler, personal assistant, human resource expert – whatever name they go by describes just about what MMSPL does.

Who does not want a hassle-free and fuss-free life, where everything is already arranged for when one embarks or disembarks, whether by sea, land or air? Be it transport arrangements, land transfers, medical services, immigrations and customs clearance, foreign currency exchange, contingency arrangements such as repatriation or emergency services, delivery of working gears to ship and ship crew or other customised services, MMSPL does it in style and with professionalism.

By covering maritime support services, shipowners and ship managers don't need to be bogged down with peripheral work and can focus more on their core business. It's really about **working wise and working smart**, letting the respective professionals do the work they should do and be more efficient in their operations.

MMSPL has the DNA that fits this gap in ship operations. It's high time to boost your business to another level.



SEACARE MANPOWER TURNS TO WOMEN



It is all about empowering women as Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd continues to go strong with its string of recruitment drives and road shows in order to get more women to join or come back into the workforce.

From April to December 2008 and up till March this year, a total of 69 road shows and drives were carried out and during this 11-month period, Seacare Manpower has reached out to approximately 150 job seekers per recruitment drive, which the company organises with the NTUC Women's Development Secretariat (WDS) and Community Development Councils (CDCs) to help more women gain employment.



But for women, juggling family commitment and working life is not as easy as one would like it to be. Many are tied to the day-to-day duties as mothers and time becomes a major factor when it comes to seeking for employment. That is why Seacare Manpower gives its full support to Flexi-Works! which is a joint initiative from the NTUC WDS and Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) in support of organisations that are keen on hiring new employees on a part-time basis or practising flexible working

hours. The scheme offers a grant of up to \$100,000 to support the organisation's efforts in recruiting workers on this flexible arrangement.

"Flexi-Works! provides an array of opportunities for home makers who are willing to return to the workforce but are pulling back because they cannot commit fully to the long working hours. With this scheme, the issue is solved and we not only meet their needs in terms of flexible working arrangements but also cater to the requirements of companies who are also looking into employing workers on part-time basis," said Mr Lee Van Chong, Managing Director, Seacare Manpower.

With this, Seacare Manpower is spurred to further spread its wings and encourage more women to get acquainted with the flexi work arrangements by equipping them with the necessary information and understanding their plight through face-to-face interviews done during the recruitment drives. The Fund also helps Seacare Manpower to create more awareness through their advertising campaigns and promotional strategies.

"We believe that the help given and partnership with the NTUC WDS and CDCs have been instrumental in building up our force and going all out in our mission to encourage women – housewives or those who have been out of the workforce for some time to come back as the demand is out there for them,"

said Ms Sulena Tan, Manager, Seacare Manpower.



Into the Heartlands They Go

Part of the line-up for Seacare Manpower's recruitment drives is to go deep into the heartlands to get more home-makers informed on the services the agency provides and the kind of work available that are suitable for them. Currently, the company has a total of 751 female staff, 332 male employees and 271 part-time staff. Since it first started its operations in 1995, Seacare Manpower has successfully worked with companies requiring staff for administrative positions such as clerk, teacher's aide, customer service personnel or librarian, operations support positions such as laboratory attendant or even technical positions.

The team at Seacare Manpower continues to go the extra mile to spread the message – to some 23 heartland venues and they received positive response, with an average of 50 job seekers registering with the company. In addition to that, NTUC FairPrice supermarkets were also used as venues for the recruitment drives.



Step Out ... for Change

Seacare Manpower is also in support of WDA's programme – the **"Step Out for Change"**, and helps to spread the word and educate job seekers on the initiative, during the road shows or whenever a job seeker drops by the office to register for recruitment.

"Step Out for Change" is a training programme that aims to help women return to the workforce by preparing them in two ways; through personal management skills and by equipping them with the useful information on job search, industries and community information. Among the areas that will be covered during training are time and stress management, building confidence and the management of personal image.

HO CHI MINH CITY HOUSING COOPERATIVE UNION DELEGATION'S



Mr Nik Tan from Chip Eng Seng Corporation Ltd receiving a token of appreciation from Madam Huynh Kim Hoang, Vice-President, Ho Chi Minh City Co-operative Alliance

POWWOW SESSION WITH SEACARE

A delegation from Ho Chi Minh City Housing Cooperative Union (HCU) shared their experience and insight on providing housing the Co-operative way to Seacare on 17 February 2009.



The 16-member delegation was led by Madam Huynh Kim Hoang, Vice-President, Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) Co-operative Alliance and President, Trustee Council of Housing Cooperative Union. They were accompanied by representatives from Chip Eng Seng Corporation Ltd; Mr Nik Tan and Mr Ivan Lim who shared on the development of their project in Vietnam. Also present at the meeting were officials from the Singapore Teachers' Co-operative Society Limited.

HCU is the first housing co-operative union set up in Vietnam and have reached out to many, especially those in the lower income group, to provide them with affordable housing. These houses are managed and owned by the co-operative members themselves, as such, are grounded on co-operative principles.

The Co-operative sees it as their duty to help their members or their children to buy or build the flats or houses with reasonable price; to provide the services related to housing for their members and to ensure the good and proper living conditions for their members.



A lively and insightful session, the exchange of ideas and plans with updates from the Singapore co-operatives, together with views and perspectives shared by the Vietnamese delegates mirrored the bond and relationship shared between HCU and Seacare.

The delegates from HCU were invited to a lunch reception at the Club@52, hosted by Seacare, as a thank you gesture to our guests.





A Total of 17 SMS-appointed Clinics

... Spread Across 4 Countries



- Medical consultation
- Fasting blood sugar check
- Total cholesterol check
- Pap smear
- Dental consultation
- Tooth extraction without surgery



Indonesia

Philippines

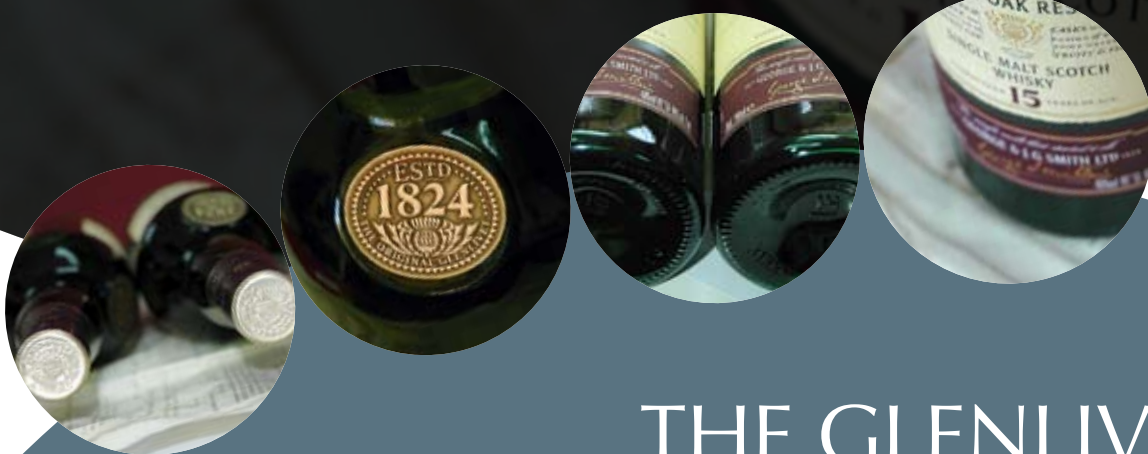
Vietnam

Singapore

We Are Where You Are

For the full list of our SMS appointed clinics, please refer to page 15 and 17

One of Club@52's Best Kept Secrets ...



THE GLENLIVET at just \$299 for TWO bottles.

Don't miss out

on this special offer – share this
secret with your closed ones.

Whisk in your night with this special
feature from Club@52 – The Glenlivet,
a 15-year-old French Oak Reserve, the
single malt Scotch whisky which possesses
intense aroma with fine hint of sweetness,
leading to a long creamy finish, teasing
your palate with its colourful interplay of
fruits and spices.

club@52

Seacare i-ConnecZ Pte Ltd
52, Chin Swee Road, #02-00,
Seacare Building, Singapore 169875
Tel: 6379 5636, Fax: 6836 6285,
Email: iconnecz@seacare.com.sg

Magnum Marine Services Pte Ltd (MMSPL)
bridges the gap in your maritime support needs.

Bridge Over Busy Waters

Looking for a fuss-free and hassle-free life ...
... where all your support needs are met from one stop?

NO MORE Hassle ...

MORE Focus
on your core business;

MORE Efficiency
in your operations.

Our One-Stop Services:

- Ship boarding services for crew matters
- Crew immigration and customs clearances
- Airport-to-ship transfer for crew and families
- Corporate land transport and transfer for local and international shore staff
- Customised support services for foreign shipowners and representatives
- Arrangement for medical services and aftercare for crew and their families
- Attendance to crew emergency services while in-port and at outer-port-limits
- Customised services for shipowners holding conventions and seminars in Singapore and peninsular Malaysia
- Delivery of foreign currency to ships
- Other contingency requirements eg repatriation of injured/deceased crew, lost documents
- Supply and stocking of working gears to ship and ship crew

Our Value Added Services:

- Round the clock service for
 - crew transport services
 - the supply and stocking of working gears for crew
- Personalised and high-quality service specially tailored to meet all your needs
- Competent and professional team who are well versed with port formalities, crew matters, immigration requirements and repatriation procedures
- Safe, reliable and swift execution by our trained and dedicated staff

Magnum Marine Services Pte Ltd

456 Alexandra Road
#02-03 NOL Building
Singapore 119962
Tel : (65) 6371 4634
Fax : (65) 6273 2977
Email : magnumms@singnet.com.sg

Call our 24-hour hotline at 6371 4638 for further enquiries.