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SAMUDRA

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ASSISTANCE
SCHEMES

FOR SEAFARING MEMBERS



SAMUDRA

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STANDING UNITED

– THE SINGAPORE WAY

PRIME MINISTER'S MAY DAY MESSAGE

“2010 has been a good year for Singapore and its workers. The economy grew robustly, and many jobs were created across many sectors. Workers enjoyed good wage settlements and bonuses, and the Central Provident Fund (CPF) rate is going up to 36 per cent. Given this strong rebound, it was right for companies to reward workers fairly. This is the Singapore way, where all of us – managers and workers, employers and unions, Government and the people – stand together in bad times, and share the benefits in good times.

Looking ahead, our prospects are bright, but there are some storm clouds on the horizon. The United States (US) economy is turning a corner. But in Europe, Portugal is now under pressure, after Greece and Ireland. Troubles in these and potentially other European economies will hold back the entire European Union (EU) for some time to come. Japan's recent tsunami and nuclear crises will have some effect on regional economies. Upheavals in the Middle East have already pushed up energy prices and can potentially destabilise a crucial region of the world, with even graver consequences.

Fortunately, Asia should remain stable and vibrant, boosted by China and India. Singapore's economy should continue to do well this year. Our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 8.5 per cent in the first quarter. Businesses are seeing high demand, and needing more workers. Hence, the labour market is expected to remain tight. Firms will have to innovate their products, restructure their operations and upgrade their workers to remain competitive.

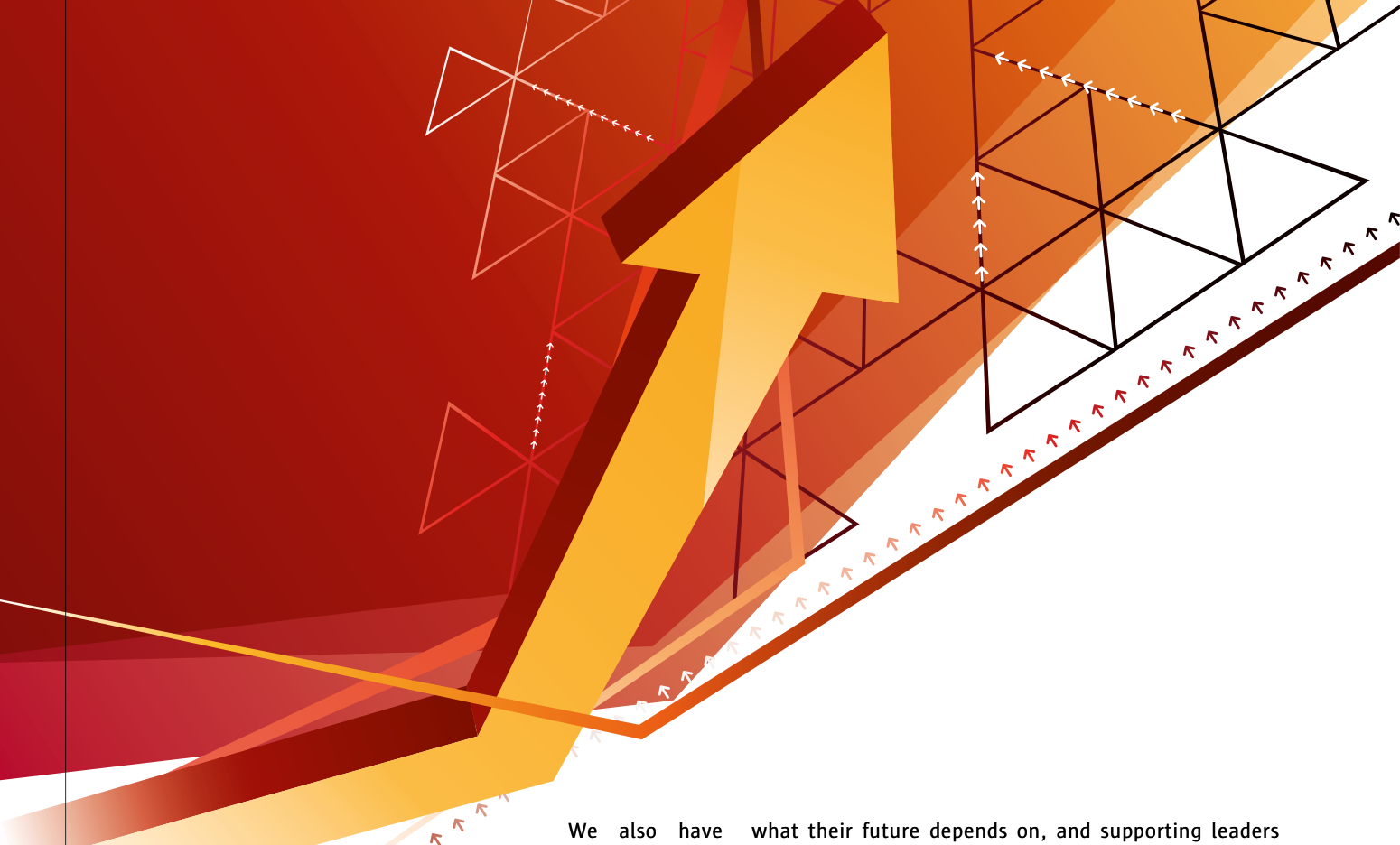
Inflation has been higher than we wished, but hopefully will moderate later this year. The stronger Singapore dollar will help to mitigate imported inflation. Businesses have responded well to the Government's efforts to hold down prices of basic essentials. The \$3.2 billion “Grow & Share” package will help households cope with the higher cost of living. For most lower and middle-income households, the package should more than make up for the higher cost of living this year.



In the long term, how well Singapore does depends on our policies and politics. We have to implement the right policies – to transform the economy, raise productivity and upgrade our workers. We also need the right politics – to produce governments that pursue sound policies, a stable environment for growth and confidence in Singapore's long-term prospects.

Singapore has succeeded for many years because good government and good policies have led to better jobs and better lives, which in turn consolidated support for good government and good policies. We have to keep this virtuous cycle going.

We aim to grow not for its own sake, but so as to raise the standards of living of our people across the board. Without growth, we would lack resources to invest in our future, and to help Singaporeans in need. But even with growth, we must make a concerted effort to enable all Singaporeans to benefit: through social programmes like home ownership, education and affordable health care, as well as through special measures like the “Grow & Share” package when the economy does exceptionally well.



We also have Workfare to enhance the income of low-wage workers, and encourage them to make the effort to upgrade themselves. In addition, the Workfare Special Bonus in the recent Budget will give an extra boost to these workers over the next three years, especially older ones. Over time, we will continue improving the Workfare scheme to benefit more workers.

But the most effective way to keep on raising incomes is through upgrading skills and productivity. The tripartite partners are focused on this, and the National Productivity and Continuing Education Council (NPCEC) is making good progress. The Government is investing heavily in Continuous Education and Training (CET), for both rank-and-file workers as well as professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs). Industry associations, businesses, unions and government agencies are working together, sector by sector, to upgrade jobs and workers' skills. I encourage workers to take up the CET opportunities, master new skills, and benefit from the better-paying jobs that we are creating.

Our politics have looked after the interests of our workers. Politics not just in the sense of parties and elections, but in the sense of Singaporeans understanding

what their future depends on, and supporting leaders who will work with them to secure their future. And in the sense of upholding key institutions like the tripartite partners, so that we are resilient when confronted by challenges, and emerge from crises tougher and more united.

Our unions make a major contribution. The Labour Movement has been a key partner in Singapore's success over the last five decades. In this 50th Anniversary year of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), it is timely for Singaporeans to remember and appreciate the sacrifices and contributions of unions and workers all these years.

This year also marks 50 years of the PAP-NTUC partnership. This unique symbiotic relationship has produced successive PAP Governments that have improved the lives of workers beyond recognition. Workers have had a strong voice in national policy-making, and the NTUC has represented workers more constructively and effectively than in most other countries. Let us continue working together to grow the economy, create more good jobs and secure a brighter future together for many years to come.

I wish all Singaporeans a Happy May Day."



TRIPARTISM – BACKBONE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

“This year, we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC).

We have come a long way. Singapore is a small market, yet our economy is one of the fastest growing in the world. Our population is small, yet our workforce is one of the best and our unemployment rate is among the lowest.

We are not endowed with any natural resources but we educate, train and develop our manpower into our most precious asset. We have limited land with a dense population, yet we enjoy high home ownership and live in a green, clean and safe Singapore.

These achievements have not come easy. They are the result of many years of hard work and team work – by our workers and people, investors and businesses, unions and Government. In bad times, we upturn the downturn together to minimise the pain on our workers and businesses. In good times, we grow the economic pie together and share the gains.

This uniquely Singapore approach to tripartism has served us well. It enables us to keep growing our economy and keep sharing the fruits of our progress with our workers and our people.

Looking ahead, there is much more we want to achieve for ourselves, our families and our children. However, the journey forward will only get harder. The world of the future offers not only exciting opportunities but also daunting challenges and uncertainties like the re-shaping of the global economy, a longer lifespan and a widening income gap.



May Day Message by NTUC Secretary-General Mr Lim Swee Say

To keep succeeding, it is critical that we become FUTURE READY. Our economy must become more productive and innovative, our workforce more skilful and adaptable, and our tripartism more united and stronger.

The same applies to the Labour Movement. Today, we are proud to celebrate our 50th birthday from a position of strength. Our union membership is growing. Our labour leadership is self-renewing. Our standing in the global labour fraternity is improving. But we are not and must not become complacent. We have started the journey to be FUTURE READY by becoming probably the first and only labour movement in the world that is able to serve all collars, all ages and all nationalities of workers as one inclusive movement.

Together, let us keep transforming our economy, creating good jobs and re-skilling our workers.

Together, let us strive for better jobs, better pay and better lives, now and into the future.

Together, let us be **FUTURE READY**.

Happy 50th birthday, NTUC!
Happy May Day, fellow workers of
Singapore!”

LATEST REVISION TO WARLIKE AND HIGH RISK AREAS

Given continuing pirate attacks at the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean and the escalating military operations in Libya, revisions have been made with regards to the status of Warlike and High Risk areas affecting all ITF agreements for FOC vessels.

This was announced and circulated by ITF Maritime Coordinator, Mr Stephen Cotton, on 25 March 2011.

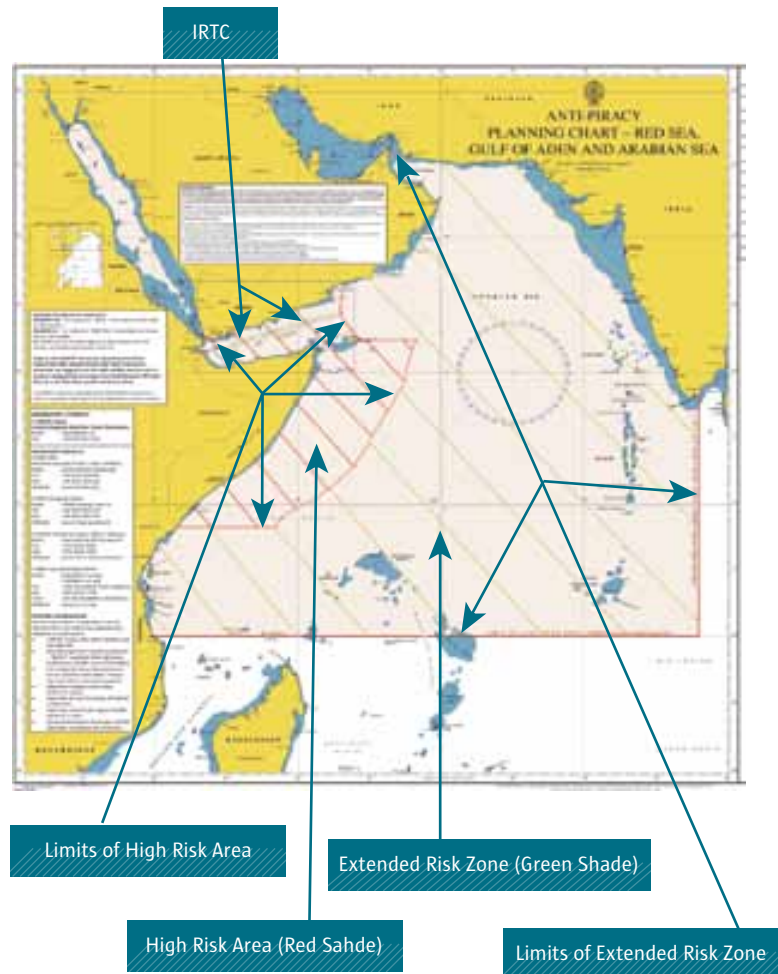
Effective 1 April 2011 this applies to all IBF agreements as well as ITF non-IBF agreements.

Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean

The Joint Negotiating Group (JNG) and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) had agreed to designate, in addition to the existing High Risk Area, an Extended Risk Zone covering a wider part of the West Indian Ocean.

The summary of the terms and conditions applying to the said area are as follows:

1. IBF Extended Risk Zone “The western border of the Zone runs from the coastline at the border of Djibouti and Somalia to position 11 48 N, 45 E; from 12 00 N, 45 E to Mayyun Island in the Bab El Mandeb Straits. The eastern border is set at 78 E, the southern border is set at 10 S and the Northern Border set at 26 N.”
2. The IBF constituents have agreed that during a vessel’s transit of the Extended Risk Zone protection of seafarers through the provision of increased security measures should be adopted. Such measures must be above the latest Best Management Practice level and may include the provision of personnel or systems which appropriately reduce the vulnerability of a vessel.



3. The IBF constituents confirm that the adoption of Best Management Practice is required of all vessels operating under IBF agreements as a minimum standard of protection.

4. Within the Extended Risk Zone the IBF constituents agree to retain the previously designated IBF High Risk Area as it is recognised that the pirate attacks emanate mainly from bases in this region. The Western Border of this High Risk Area runs from the coastline at the border of Djibouti and Somalia to position 11 48 N, 45 E; from 12 00 N, 45 E to Mayyun Island in the Bab El Mandeb Straits. The Eastern Border runs from Rhiy di-Irisal on Suqutra Island to position 14 18 N, 53 E; from 14 30 N, 53 E to the coastline at the border between Yemen and Oman, together with a 400 mile zone off the eastern coast of Somalia, ie from Suqutra Island down to the Kenyan border in the South.

5. In the case of vessels that will transit the IBF High Risk Area outside of the east bound and west bound lanes created under the International Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), seafarers have the right not to proceed with the passage and shall be repatriated at the company's cost with benefits accrued until date of

return to the port of engagement. This entitlement shall only apply in respect of vessels which are bound to enter the IBF High Risk Area, and will not apply in case of crossing the rest of the Extended Risk Zone.

6. Vessels may deviate from the International Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) lanes without affecting the terms and conditions for the seafarers onboard for collision avoidance purposes only, as long as they are returned to the original lanes as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so.

7. During the period of transit of the IBF Extended Risk Zone, outside the area which is designated as High Risk Area, each seafarer shall be entitled to a bonus equal to 100% of the basic wage and a doubled compensation in case of injury or death during which the vessel he is serving on is attacked.

8. In order to assist the military efforts to counter piracy in this region, all vessels that are subject to a confirmed attack should report to international navies present in the area or other relevant authority, to assist in the deployment of naval resources to appropriate areas, where piracy attacks are occurring.

9. Within all of the IBF Extended Risk Zone, including the High Risk Area, the above identified entitlements to double basic pay and double compensation for injury or death will not apply while vessels are alongside a berth, at anchor in secure anchorages off ports or attached to SBM facilities - with exception of Somali waters and ports. It is understood that vessels will have to transit the high risk area in order to proceed to certain ports and as such the bonuses mentioned in above should cease when a vessel is either all secure alongside, brought up to her anchor or fully coupled to a SBM in any port of the IBF Extended Risk Zone, excluding Somalia. Likewise when sailing, the applicability of bonuses etc. should commence when the vessel is "all gone", ie the last line is let go from a berth, when the anchor is aweigh or a vessel has de-coupled from a SBM.

This Revision of the IBF High Risk Area remains in force from 0001Z on 1 April until any further revision or amendment is adopted by the constituents of the International Bargaining Forum.

Area of Warlike Operations in Libya

In recognition of the developments in Libya since the adoption of UN Resolution 1973, the IBF has agreed to designate a warlike operations area covering Libyan waters within 12 nautical miles off the coast line.

Additionally, IBF has agreed to the following:

1. Declare that the territorial waters of Libya as a warlike operations area, backdated to Friday 18 March 2011.
2. War bonus payments of 100% of basic pay be given to seafarers on ships covered by IBF agreements that enter the area, payable in daily increments.
3. Seafarers on ships due to sail to the area be given the right to decline to sail.
4. Review the position jointly, not later than the first day of each calendar month, if not earlier.

ITF MEETINGS

DELIBERATE KEY ISSUES

SOS representatives General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, Executive Secretary Mr Daniel Tan, Manager Ms Sharon Li, and Industrial Relations Executive Mr Tan Kok Heng were in Manila Philippines from 1 to 4 March 2011 for a series of meetings and sessions organised by the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF).

Held over four days, the quartet made active contributions in the Asia Pacific Seafarers' Regional Committee (APSRC) meeting, maritime forum, and ITF Maritime Safety Committee meeting - intensely discussing common issues faced by the international shipping community such as piracy and environmental issues.

The APSRC meeting on day one covered such topics like 'Implementation of the Mexico City Policy', 'Piracy and Armed Robbery', 'Criminalisation', and 'ILO ratifications and developments' while the ITF Philippines forum touched on revised IMO STCW Convention amendments, and the fair treatment of seafarers (including ILO Convention 185).

The ITF Maritime Safety Committee on the final day deliberated on environmental protection in terms of reducing green house gases and emissions from shipping, discussing outcomes of the 42nd ITF Congress in Mexico City, issues on 'Maritime Safety', 'Flag State Implementation on the fair treatment and criminalisation of seafarers', 'Training', 'Occupational Health and Safety', and the 'application of ILO 185'.





SOS-NSSPL SHIP FAMILIARISATION PROGRAMME GIVES REAL TASTE OF SEAFARING LIFE

Over the years, many SOS EXCO and Standing Committee members have migrated to shore-based jobs and have not been updated on developments onboard ships. In addition, some SOS staff do not come from seafaring backgrounds.

In order to keep them up to date with developments in ship technology, industry happenings, and boost staff's understanding of a member's life onboard vessel, SOS has approached Neptune Shipmanagement Services Pte Ltd (NSSPL) as its partner for the Ship Familiarisation Programme.

The programme will have SOS EXCO members, standing committee members and staff living on-board vessels managed by NSSPL for one or more voyages – each lasting between four days to two weeks.

NSSPL have expressed their support for this collaboration and have begun making provisions to accommodate at least two observers on-board for each voyage.

Said SOS General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat:

“ We are extremely grateful to NSSPL for their kind hospitality. The Ship Familiarisation Programme is a pilot programme which seeks to re-orientate EXCO members, standing committee members, and staff on the fundamentals of seafaring. Not only will the live-in stints give us a realistic glimpse into the daily rigors and challenges faced by our seafaring members, but more importantly serve as beneficial hands-on experience in keeping us grounded, relevant and firmly atuned to seafaring life.”





iSPF AT THE TOUCH OF A PEN

Need quick information on the Seafarers' Provident Fund (SPF) but not sure where to start? Now with the exclusive SOS/Seacare pen, accessing quick information on iSPF is right at your fingertips!

What is SPF?

SPF is a savings scheme for SOS qualified members. Established in 2000 as a savings scheme for seafarers, SPF sought to promote continuous employment and loyalty. An internet portal, the Internet Seafarers' Provident Fund (iSPF) was set-up in Sept 2009 to enable members to conveniently access their SPF accounts online and perform basic transactions.

What is it?

An exclusive ballpoint pen which comes in five different coloured casings with a retractable banner that unfurls from the side of the pen, containing notes on how to use the iSPF system in short and simple steps.

It contains a step-by-step set of instructions on how to access the seafarer's SPF account to easily view account details like contributions and withdrawals.

Where can I get one of these pens?

Seacare is currently distributing these pens to shipping companies covered under SOS CBAs.

Interested members can also grab one at SOS/Seacare affiliated drop-in centres in the Philippines office or at the Drop-In centre at Tanjong Pagar.

Who is it for?

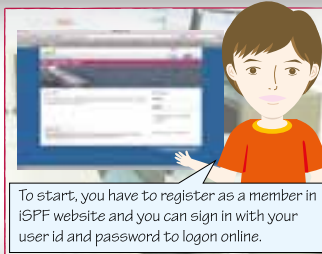
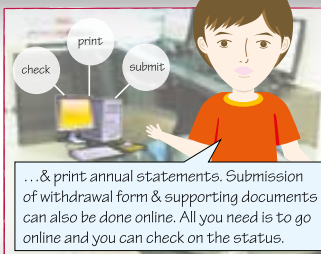
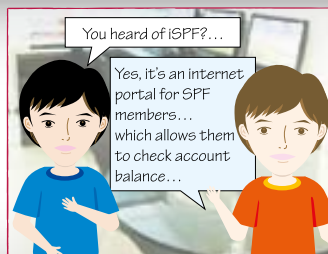
For all seafarers who have an existing iSPF account – especially those who are unfamiliar with the use of the iSPF system.

Seafarers' Provident Fund (SPF)

Seafarers' Provident Fund is a saving scheme for seafarers, established by Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS). The aim is to encourage continuous employment and loyalty of seafarers.



Internet Seafarers' Provident Fund (iSPF)



www.ispf.org.sg

Internet Seafarers' Provident Fund

How do I access my account in iSPF?

On your first login: you would have to register as a member in iSPF website (Click on "Member Registration", fill up all mandatory fields, click on "submit")

The password will be sent to you via email.

With your user name and password, you can logon and update your personal information using "Update My Profile".

How do I check my SPF account balance or print my account statement?

To find out your account balance: Click on "Account Balance Enquiry".

To print your account statement: Click on "Report - Account Statement". Input date (period) of account statement you would like to have and click on "Generate Report".

How can I perform a withdrawal from my SPF account?

Click on "eWithdrawal". Fill up mandatory fields and check all fields to make sure all information provided are correct. Click on the "Continue" button.

Attach supporting documents. Click on "browse", select the file you wish to attach, and click on "Add". Continue the process if you have more than one file to attach.

After attaching all necessary documents, click on "Complete", to submit your withdrawal application.

Once successful, a message to state the successful submission will appear.

Can I check my withdrawal status?

Yes. Click on "Withdrawal Status".

The status of your withdrawal can be found under the different tabs, "In Progress", "Processed" or "Rejected".

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SEACARE DROP-IN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS WARMS MANY HEARTS



From April 2010 to March 2011, 1,112 seafarers from 480 vessels dropped in at Seacare's Drop-In Centre at Pasir Panjang Terminal Building and enjoyed the wide range of services the Centre offers free-of-charge.

An initiative of SOS and Seacare, the popular Drop-In Centre provides a home away from home for the seafarers who are on a lookout for electronic communication services to touch base with family members and friends back home as well as ways to rest and relax before going sailing off to their next destination.

From the data gathered, email was the most popular form of communication with loved ones (932), followed by webcam correspondences (178), tapping on the local area network (LAN) for visitors with personal notebooks (118), and international calls (68). While in terms of gifts and souvenirs, newsletters and flyers were the most popular (1,281) followed by magazines (576), and goodie bags (131). For some seafarers, what they longed for is a pair of listening ears offered by our caring Centre staff.



**HOME AWAY
FROM HOME**





VISITORS



No. of Visitors	1,124
No. of Vessels Represented	480
No. of Shipping Companies Represented	85

NATIONALITIES



Asian	883
European	175
Others	54

VISITS TO SHARE & ENLIGHTEN

SHIP VISIT PROGRAMME REPORT CARD 2010/2011

As long as SOS-Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) vessels are in port or anchorage, SOS will try its best to visit these ships bringing gifts for its crew members. For the past fiscal year dating from April 2010 to March 2011, a total of 81 vessels represented by 15 CBA shipping companies were visited. They consisted of 10 nationalities and 773 ratings.

“These visits are important as it gives us the opportunity to serve our seafaring members, touch base with them, as well as inform them about schemes and services which are conveniently available and at their disposal,” said SOS Vice-President and Industrial Relations Officer Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar, who emphasised the significance of these visits.

“Especially for members who are away for extended periods of time, it is comforting for them to know that there are accessible services and options even though they are frequently out at sea.”

In addition to informing members on SOS’ four schemes –the Seafarers’ Provident Fund (SPF), Seacare Sailors’ Home Scheme (SSS), Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS), and the Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS), Mr Mohamad goes the extra mile of briefing SOS-CBA members on the finer points of tracking and assessing their SPF account contributions, demonstrating how to perform basic transactions, download forms and claim monies corresponding to various age categories.

“Some members inform us that they are unaware of the purpose of SPF. So hopefully through more of such visits, they will be able to grasp these schemes better, spread the word, and tell their co-workers and friends about it.”



No. of	Total
Vessels	81
Ratings	773
Shipping Companies	15
Nationalities	10



PROGRESS NOTES

CONSULT/HOSP. REPORTS

DATA BASE



RIGHT HERE FOR YOU - IN MANILA!

Set up with SOS' CBA Filipino seafaring members in mind, the Seacare International Phils. Inc. Office was launched in 2005 to serve the needs of members through its function as a coordinating office for SOS welfare schemes in the Philippines, as well as offer relevant information and friendly support for members wanting to find out more about these schemes.

Administrative Manager Mdm Jovilla B Chua has been tasked to do precisely this - assisting and responding more effectively to members' enquiries. Samudra speaks to her to find out more about her role in the Seacare International Philippines Office.



Samudra: Tell us how you came into Seacare?

Jovilla: I joined Seacare International Phils. Inc. because I believe that placing experience accumulated from my previous jobs could lead to the betterment of Seacare. I was appointed and confirmed on 1 May 2010 as an Administrative Manager.

Samudra: What inspires and motivates you?

Jovilla: I have been married for 21 years now. My family is so important to me. They are my source of strength, my inspiration and the reason I do what I do. As I aspire to higher levels, I am given greater responsibilities, a heightened sense of leadership and a boost of zest and enthusiasm.

Samudra: Tell us about your role and how you hope to contribute to the advancement of Seacare?

Jovilla: As an Admin Manager, I am tasked to handle personnel concerns such as but not limited to insurance documents processing and accounting works. Document handling and processing is a tedious and complicated task, so it is good that I was trained to be very meticulous and tenacious at work.

Apart from procedural concerns, I also coordinate and process all pertinent licenses of the company to the relevant government agencies. I am regulated by the company to follow-up, process and liquidate these government licenses as necessary.

As for my stay with Seacare International Phils. Inc., I hope to contribute what I can to enable Seacare to become a household name in seafarer welfare.



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SOS Welfare Schemes At a Glance

Seafarers' Provident Fund Scheme (SPF)

Aimed at promoting continuous employment and loyalty, this savings scheme allows eligible SOS members upon the age of 50 and above, to withdraw the provident fund contributed by their employers or shipping companies covered under the SOS Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS)

Formed to provide free medical, dental and optometry services for qualified SOS members, their dependents and the shipping community. Benefits such as health screening, comprehensive eye examination, 12 basic medical consultation and examination & medicine reimbursement are available in Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Clinics in the Philippines are situated in Manila, Cebu, Cavite, Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Misamis Oriental, and Negros Occidental.

Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS)

Provides a steady supply of quality ratings for manning SOS CBA vessels and to cater to the training, retraining and pre-sea training needs of ratings for this purpose.

It has organised courses such as Maritime English, Maritime Technical Skill & Elementary English, Cooks Training, Technical Skill Enhancement Training in China, the Philippines and Malaysia.

Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme (SSS)

Provides accommodation and services for the benefit of SOS members, international seafarers and the shipping community. At present, it comprises the managing of the Drop-In-Centre in Singapore and the Seacare Sailors Home in Mandaluyong, Manila.

SOS Calend

MAY 2011

SOS
Members' Night
(28 May)



JUNE 2011

Overseas
Family
Outing



JULY 2011

● Durian Trip to
West Malaysia

Reception for
Indonesian Members
in Jakarta
(9 Jul)



AUGUST 2011

Visit to
Welfare Homes



SEPTEMBER 2011

● Hari Raya
Celebration (2 Sep)

World Maritime Day
Celebration (with
Seacare AGM)*
(28 Sep)



Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 2011

Study Grant
Presentation
(8 Oct)

NOVEMBER 2011

Deepavali
Celebration (4 Nov)
Seminar/Reception
for PRC Members
in China

DECEMBER 2011

SOS 40th/Seacare
17th Anniversary
Celebrations (9 Dec)
Reception for
Filipino Members
in Manila (16 Dec)

JANUARY 2012

SOS/Seacare Hong
Kong Presentation
cum LNY Celebration
(27 Jan)

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2012

Dialogue with GS
SOS Members' Night
(31 Mar)



SPEAKING TO IMPRESS

POWER PRESENTATION & SPEAKING



His credentials preceded him. A consummate speaker and trainer with over 15 years of experience, conductor of numerous workshops in Singapore and the region, the trainer for the Trainerpreneur programme, and author of “Earnestly Speaking” - a bestseller in public speaking, Mr Ernest Chen developed his own

brand of training programmes and customised programmes for clients.

Thousands of participants benefitted from his programmes and organisations numbering hundreds had sent staff to his flagship programmes.

Twenty SOS staff and PS members had the privilege of hearing the man himself when he engaged them over three days at the Power Speaking and Presentation workshop held on 26, 28 and 30 March.

Held over non working hours, the course equipped staff with skills to deliver convincing presentations and speeches with clarity and confidence.

Topics ranged from ‘Organisation of a Presentation’, ‘Ingredients of an impressive presentation’, ‘Overcoming Stage Fright’, ‘Delivering with style’, ‘First impression, lasting impression’, ‘Thinking and speaking spontaneously’, and ‘Face to face with audiences’.

“Mr Chan elaborated on the finer points and practical tools and techniques we can employ to develop our presentations and speeches. I found these particularly useful.”

- Ms Kathryn Ang, Manager, Seacare Foundation Pte Ltd



“We were captivated by his engaging sessions! We benefitted tremendously and have emerged more equipped in public speaking and conducting presentations.”

- Ms Neo Chui Hoon, Finance Executive, Singapore Organisation of Seamen



RECRUITING NEW TALENT



SOS recently welcomed Ms Eyan Lim, an IT Manager and Ms Cindy Ng, an Executive into its fold on 2 December 2010 and 1 November 2010 respectively. Samudra gets the scoop on the ladies.

Samudra: Congratulations on your respective confirmations on 1 March and 1 February 2011! Can you share with us your source(s) of inspiration and how SOS allows you to realise this?

Eyan: Accomplishment and curiosity drive me. Managing and taking charge of IT-related operations and resources, namely networking, internal systems, IT asset management, help-desk administration, and project management satisfy my curiosity and need for accomplishment. They complement my will to learn and explore new things, and desire to develop myself as much as possible. Positive working experiences also motivate me to do a good job.

Cindy: My role is to co-ordinate and help in the company's organisation of events and execution of tasks. These reinvigorate and inspire me as it breaks the monotony of a regular desk-bound job. I find this very fulfilling.



Ms Eyan Lim

Samudra: How do you hope to add value within your working capacity?

Eyan: I hope to increase the IT system reliability and efficiency of SOS through automated operations and minimal maintenance. These can help to enhance team and individual productivity as well as efficiently drive business and organisational success.

Cindy: Through effective and meticulous administration and coordination work, I hope to facilitate the smooth running of administrative operations and expedite work processes for the betterment of the organisation.

Samudra: What have you noticed so far in your time here?

Eyan: Since joining SOS, I have had the opportunity of working with competent managers and leaders. The top management here is open to ideas and change - providing me with constant opportunities to get better.

Cindy: The working culture here is always willing to explore new avenues in order to remain current, competitive and relevant.



Ms Cindy Ng



SOS MEMBERS' NIGHT

Members were in for a ball of a time as Members' Night descended upon 144 participants at Scarlet City at Ang Mo Kio Hub on 26 March 2011.

In conjunction with Members' Night, an active dialogue session was held with SOS General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat prior to dinner, where members voiced concerns and queried on membership and welfare matters.

In between, SOS Membership and Welfare Manager Mr David Shoo presented on membership services matters - highlighting current and past membership affairs, benefits and events as well as providing a glimpse of plans for the new financial year 2011/2012 before Mr Kam concluded the dialogue with a short Q&A.

Guests were treated to a popular assortment of satays with condiments, "Live" station Korean Hot Stone Cooking with Lamb and Chicken, and a free flow of beverages including soft drinks, juices, beer and house pour spirits.

The emcee, Mr Saiyuti, tickled the crowd with his multilingual jokes; Ms Yati, a Malay entertainer, wowed the crowd with Malay and Hokkien tunes; while a trio of Chinese singers belted English songs as well as multiple Chinese songs in various dialects.

Lucky draw prizes were presented by EXCO members, Mr Kamis Bin Hussain and Mr Loh Suan Hin.

Members were also given the opportunity to show off their vocal prowess in two Karaoke rooms after the event.



NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF CLUB@52

Due to the ongoing construction work on the Seacare Hotel project, which is set to house 16 storeys of well-furnished guest rooms and equipped facilities, Club@52 will be closed till further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

SEACAREFOCUS



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SMMC AND MAGNUM PARTICIPATE IN SINGAPORE MARITIME WEEK'S CROWN JEWEL EVENT



With the conference and exhibition occupying 13,600 square metres of gross space at Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre; more than 6,200 square metres of net used space, booked by 340 maritime and shipping business exhibitors from 40 countries; and a combined attendance of 12,167 people over three days from 60 countries, Sea Asia 2011 was indeed the crown jewel of Singapore Maritime Week (SMW).

According to a press release, the number comprised visitors, exhibitors, conference delegates, speakers and

media. Country pavilions included China, Japan, Norway, Panama, Singapore, Turkey and the UK.

The conference saw the attendance of key figures from the maritime industry and large crowds eager to view the latest products and services offered. More than 6,000 people passed through the exhibition on the first day itself, while participants in the conference hall

were treated to plenty of analysis and insight into the future of the maritime industry in Asia.

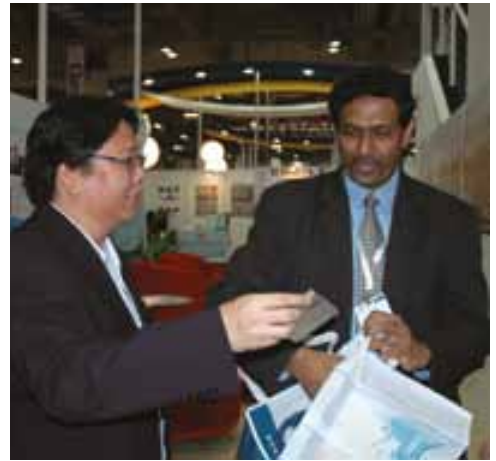
Many gathered to hear expert views and opinions in sessions which touched on current topics like ship finance, technical rules and regulations, sustainable approaches to technology, and LNG activities in the region.

Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean was Guest-of-Honour for the three-day exhibition.





Seacare Maritime Medical Centre Pte Ltd (SMMC) and Magnum Marine Services Pte Ltd (MMSPL) were right there too in the thick of the action as SMMC showcased its range of medical services catered to the maritime industry and MMSPL – its round the clock, one stop logistics service for seamen to enter and depart Singapore without hassle.



Said SMMC CEO Dr Chia Yih Woei,
"We are very pleased with the reception. We managed to speak to a number of interested parties and acquired several contacts. Potential clients came by asking about pre-employment medical examination for seafarers, medical repatriation of crew to their home country, ship call consultations, vaccinations and enquired about the extent and range of our services."



CEO of MMSPL Mr Chandra Segaran was just as enthused. ***"The turnout was excellent. We've had a steady stream of visitors during the three days. It was a good platform for business leaders and maritime industry players to come together, explore business opportunities and network. It helps create insights into the types of maritime services available. This definitely places Singapore on the map as a leading maritime service provider and will do much to boost the industry."***

During his opening speech to mark the launch and opening of Sea Asia, Mr Teo remarked that there was plenty of room for growth in the Asian shipping industry.

“With a concentration of major stakeholders building up in the region, the Asian shipping community must play an active role in addressing common concerns and promote sustainable long term growth,”
said Mr Teo.

Noting how ship finance had shifted eastwards in recent years, Mr Teo maintained that the market still needed more ship services to come to this region.

Citing recent events like the recent earthquake and tsunami which upset global supply chains due to the extensive damage of Japan’s industries, ports and merchant fleet, and rising oil prices due to unrest in the Middle East and North Africa increasing shipping costs, Mr Teo warned of the need to remain vigilant against events that could still threaten global trade even though the maritime industry was benefitting from Asia’s growth.

“A major concern is the growing demand for ship financing and other maritime services to support the industry in a more volatile economy. Many leading maritime service providers have already established offices in Asia to be in closer proximity to their customers but there is still room for them to do more here in Asia.”

“Meanwhile, we still cannot be sure how long it will be before the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant stabilises and we can begin to assess the extent of the damage to commerce, in the short-term, and confidence in the longer term,”
said Mr Teo.

Sea Asia 2011 ended on a high note on 14 April 2011. Sea Asia was initiated in 2007; is held once every two years and is co-organised by the Singapore Maritime Foundation and Seatrade. It has grown dramatically in popularity ever since.

The next Sea Asia will take place on 9 - 11 April in Singapore in 2013.



photo courtesy of Seatrade



photo courtesy of Seatrade

WATERTECH WELCOMES NEW CEO

Mr Lau Wah Ming retired in December 2009 as the Cabinet Secretary and Secretary to the Prime Minister. Having served 40 years in the public sector and received training in systems engineering and business administration, Mr Lau has broad experience in areas such as public policy administration, economic development, finance, human resource management, transport and communications, education, infrastructure, housing and land planning, and in legal policy development.

Currently Chairman of the Bishan Home for the Intellectually Disabled, and independent Director of Allgreen Properties Limited, Mr Lau was recently appointed as Group Chief Executive Officer of WaterTech Pte Ltd; he is also Vice-Chairman and Senior Executive Director on the Board. He is an Advisor with a law corporation, a Principal Mediator with the Singapore Mediation Centre and performs consultancy work for listed companies.



Samudra: What in your opinion sets WaterTech apart from other Water and Wastewater Treatment companies?

Mr Lau: Since 2006, WaterTech has gone through the incubation stages which are quite similar to other start-up companies. Those were the days when founders typically displayed creativity and entrepreneurship with less attention on management controls; and anything goes.

Today, having gained much experience through high and low points, and being governed by a new Board of Directors, WaterTech has evolved into a medium size company with a strong management team which possesses a good balance between innovation and the process culture required to grow a company with discipline.

Although wastewater treatment is still a core expertise, WaterTech is now more than a water treatment company. It has positioned itself and gained strength as an integrated eco-engineering and green technology company. It is an integrator, a packager of systems solutions in water technology, temperature and cold chain management, air pollution control, and related technical fields in the environmental engineering business. WaterTech is also expanding into new greenfield industrial projects overseas.

In China, WaterTech's long established relationships and working experience with state enterprises and local governments provide the company with first-mover advantage, giving it added strengths to embark on projects involving industries and the municipal governments.

WaterTech is particularly strong in the North and North-eastern Provinces, including Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang and Jilin. It is one of the few Singapore companies that have established successful industrial operations there in water and wastewater treatment.

For example, WaterTech completed two 30-year Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) water treatment plants in Inner Mongolia, and is presently operating these two plants as well as a third (O&M) plant in that province. These plants are providing WaterTech with a continuous stream of revenue in the next 20 to 30 years. It is in the process of acquiring two other drinking water plants in a neighbouring province, also on a long 30 year tenure, which will add to the company's revenue growth.

In Singapore, WaterTech has the support of national institutions such as the Ministry of Trade and Industry in SPRING SEEDS Capital Pte Ltd. It has established strategic partnerships with like-minded companies and collaborated with large Government Linked Companies (GLCs) on joint water and eco-engineering projects. These joint projects also include Engineering, Procurement and Construction projects and Upgrading, Repairs, Improvements and Maintenance projects which provide the other part of the revenue stream and the growth in positive cash flow.



In summary, WaterTech's strengths and capabilities include:

i) Technical Expertise

Being able to customise, design, and construct water eco-systems and technical solutions to meet each client's specific needs. WaterTech also possesses the intellectual property (IP) right and knowledge to use and apply two patentable technologies – the Enhanced Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) method to treat wastewater, and a micro-organism technology which among other things could convert waste to premium fertiliser. The latter enables us to provide comprehensive solutions to certain clients in waste treatment projects, for example in situations involving removal of algae growth or treatment of food or agriculture-based waste.

ii) Expertise in Packaging

WaterTech is able to structure and package contractual and financial solutions for BOT and BOOT projects. This expertise is useful especially to SMEs who wish to enter the market for BOOT projects for wastewater treatment plants. Our proven track record in North China has given us the experience and the confidence to help SMEs who are interested in such projects.

iii) Expertise in Operating and Servicing

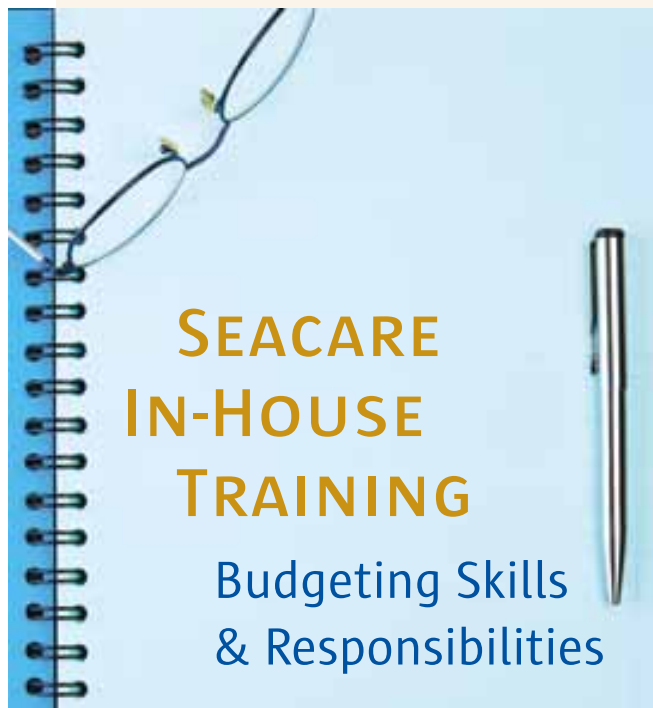
WaterTech provides the complete range of services from design, to construction and repair, to long term servicing and maintenance of water treatment plants. This is part of WaterTech's URIM strategy, to secure long term revenue generation and income.

Samudra: What is its potential?

Having worked closely with its management, engineering and corporate teams, I am convinced that WaterTech has the right business model, management structure and a strong team to continue growing its business. It is poised to cross the inflection point in its growth trajectory and has all the makings to grow into a \$100million SME to qualify for the 1000SME listing. This is in line with Government objectives as outlined in a speech by the Prime Minister recently. The emergence of more such home-grown SMEs will add to the depth and breadth of our local enterprises. We are confident of continuing support from agencies like SPRING SEEDS Capital Pte Ltd and other partners such as KOTA Holdings and Seacare.

Samudra: What is your overall strategy moving forward?

WaterTech's grand growth strategy going forward, in consideration of its current relative medium size as a company, and its unique strengths and capabilities, is to position itself as a strategic Partner to like-minded companies and a Pathfinder/Pioneer. The former role is to leverage on larger partners in joint projects to sustain our revenues, and the latter is to initiate, innovate and generate new growth and new revenue streams primarily in North and North-eastern China. I am excited with the prospect of potential growth, and with the vision of seeing WaterTech developing steadily into a high growth, high profit margin company with increasing earnings and sound positive cashflow.



The in-house talks were organised as part of staff training and development to provide an understanding of what the budgeting process entails. This is to ensure the development of realistic and effective budgets for company/division, as well as understanding how budgets may be used as an effective performance monitoring and measurement tool.

Held on 1 March 2011 at Seacare Building, Division Director for Finance, Corporation and Admin of WaterTech Pte Ltd Mrs Lim-Choo Chai Siang presented on fundamental budgeting principles to management staff of SOS and the Seacare group of companies.

Mrs Lim covered the roles of players in an inclusive budgeting process; essential budget elements such as revenue, cost of sales, direct expenses and indirect expenses; as well as walking through the process of constructing a budget.

GASTRONOMY & RETAIL THERAPY

Seacare Manpower Membership Service Recruiters' Retreat



Ten Seacare Manpower membership service recruiters and five Seacare staff were whisked away to Batam Island for a two day one night retreat from 4 to 5 April 2011.

First up was Batam's first home industry bakery – Authentic Baker's Centre (ABC) which specialises in Kek (cake) and Lapis sold at reasonable prices, whereupon the group sampled pastries amid freshly brewed coffee and tea in air-conditioned comfort.

The trip featured stopovers at a local shop selling fresh local crackers, dried cuttlefish, preserved fruits, etc; traditional Indonesian and Thai massage at Sawadika Refleksi Massage; Thua Pek Kong

Bio" temple – Batam's oldest temple; karaoke at Alishan KTV Club, and shopping at Batam City Square, Nagoya Hill Shopping Mall and the POLO Shop which sold local branded polo shirts and hats at special discounts.

The highlight was the seafood dinner at Golden Prawn Restaurant 933. Located at Bengkong Laut, the restaurant spanned a panoramic view of the north eastern coast of Batam Island, sat a capacity of 4000 guests and served top seafood dishes ranging from fried flower crab with chilli, steamed black garoupa, fish mod soup, and much more.

Truly a gastronomic feast of epic proportions!



GEARING UP FOR INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES

The Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) is gearing for its biggest event next year – the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) in 2012

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives. Its theme “Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World”, highlights the contribution of co-operatives to socio-economic development, in particular recognising their impact on eradicating poverty, generating employment and social integration.

As such, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/136 has encouraged all member States, the United Nations and relevant stakeholders to take advantage and leverage on the IYC to promote co-operatives, raise awareness of their contributions to social and economic development, and promote the formation and growth of co-operatives.

It intends to accomplish this by rallying states to prepare, observe and follow up on the International Year of Cooperatives through the setting up of national committees

to coordinate and plan activities with Co-operatives, Affiliates and relevant organisations.

SNCF has created materials to support Affiliates in promoting and celebrating the year, and will post those materials as well as other news about the Singapore celebration to its website www.sncf.org.sg.

Seacare Co-operative Ltd, a co-operative affiliated to SNCF has pledged its intention to help showcase the good work of co-operatives in order to garner greater awareness and support.

The UN launch for the IYC will be held in New York on 31 October while SNCF will organise a launch during its Anniversary Dinner on 3 December 2011.

THE IYC LOGO

The logo of the International Year of Cooperatives 2012 evokes the definition of co-operative enterprises as autonomous associations of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations, through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

Based on the slogan of the year, ‘Co-operative enterprises build a better world’, the logo features seven persons working together to lift and support a cube. The cube represents the various projects goals and aspirations upon which co-operative enterprises are built, and the achievements that can be attained. The genderneutral figures represent the people factor central to the co-operative model, and there are seven of them, to represent the seven principles of the co-operative movement, i.e. voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, member economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information, co-operation among co-operatives, and concern for community.

As illustrated by the logo, these seven principles work together to allow co-operative members to achieve the goals and desires that they would not have been able to attain through their individual efforts.



- Adapted from Logo Design Guidelines and Waiver of Liability Form, Graphic Design Unit, United Nations, New York

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SOS' WELFARE SCHEMES

Seafarers' Provident Fund Scheme (SPF) •

Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) •

Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS) •

and Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme (SSS) •

SOS Filipino members who need assistance on SOS' Welfare Schemes
may approach any of our friendly staff at our new office.