

Issue No. 2 (August 2009)

samudra

Seacare's Green Business Grows Global with WaterTech



Issue No. 2 (August 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

Training & Skills Development

18 Training Grant Benefit Scheme



Membership

12 Getting Recognition For Their Contributions



Welfare and Social Activities

16 SOS Shows Its Strength & Unity
19 Lending a Helping Hand
20 Family Day at The Flyer
22 Visiting The 'King'



Seacare Focus

24 Seacare Green Business Grows Global With WaterTech
27 Seacare Group Senior Manager is SNCF Youth Chairperson
28 Ready To Save, Ready To Help
30 Seacare Thrift Gets New Assistant Manager



Features

03 National Day Message
06 DSG Heng Chee How Visits SOS
08 The New Leaders at SOS
13 SPF & SMTS Joint Administrative Committee
13 SMS Administrative Committee



Industrial Relations

05 Transport Workers Standing United
14 Forging Closer Ties
14 World ITF Inspectors at Istanbul
16 Strengthening Brotherhood

National Day 2009

Weathering the Storm Together as One United Singapore

Celebrations for National Day this year was a special one – other than having the annual National Day Parade where contingents all marched in with pride; performers danced in perfectly coordinated moves; and national songs were sung together in unison. The Pledge Moment at 8.22 pm on 9 August 2009 was made the highlight of the celebrations this year. It was intended to serve as a reminder that we are one people, which is particularly important in tough times like now in order to survive.



Reciting the pledge together side by side with their right fists placed over their hearts, Singaporeans renewed their belief and commitment to be “one united people, regardless of race, language or religion.” Not only those who were at the celebrations recited the pledge loud and proud, even those who were out on the streets island-wide stopped and took the pledge as well. It was heartwarming to see Singaporeans reaffirming themselves as a single bonded front.

It has been a tough year for Singaporeans, with the global recession hitting hard on the country and impacting lives in many ways. Jobs and wages were cut, unemployment increased. Dark clouds loomed over the hearts of everyone as the economy plunged into a deeper state of deficits and negative growth.



The government then pushed the annual Budget forward and pushed out schemes such as Skills Programme for Upgrading & Resilience (SPUR) to save jobs and reduce unemployment. The worst is believed to be over, but it is still uncertain if everything is back on track now. There are signs of recovery emerging from the economy, but leaders of Singapore warned against being happy too soon.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong delivered in his National Day messages that times are bad and that even though things look like they are improving, everyone must keep on working hard and not relax just as yet. He noted that Singapore has done well and must continue to put in effort to do even better. This year, he

placed special attention on the racial and religious harmony and the importance of maintaining it in order for Singapore to continue to thrive and prosper. He also highlighted the aging population of Singapore and the problems that will arise in healthcare because of it.



Showing photos of the past and present Singapore, Mr Lee presented to Singapore the remarkable changes and progresses Singapore has made in the past 44 years as a nation and stated Singaporeans will continue to improve our own lives but it is only if Singaporeans work together and remain a harmonious and a cohesive society. If we succeed in doing so, Singapore will be able to repeat history and grow into an even better Singapore than it is today.



Let us stand shoulder-to-shoulder, so that whether it rains or shines, we can work together and achieve the best results for Singapore. This is how we build a better and more vibrant nation, and make Singapore a special place that we are all proud to call our home.

~ Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong



While there is no way we can avoid the global downturn, there is certainly a Uniquely Singapore Way for us to upturn the downturn together – as the most united people, as the most united tripartite partners in the world. ~ NTUC Secretary General Mr Lim Swee Say

The 7th ITF Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC), which convened in Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 18 June 2009, saw more than 200 participants representing 82 transport unions from over 20 countries in the Asia Pacific region. SOS Executive Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, President Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim, IR Manager Mr Daniel Tan and IR Executive Ms Ong Kai Jing were among the 15-member Singapore delegation that turned up in full force to deliberate over issues faced by transport workers in the region.

For three days, transport union delegates discussed the current challenges facing workers in the Asia Pacific. Among the concerns raised were problems arising out of the economic downturn, such as job losses, substantial wage cuts, increase in casual, contract and non-socially protected employment.



Women and young transport workers had opportunities to meet together prior to the APRC sessions. While the APRC women highlighted challenges relating to discrimination and lower wages, the young workers identified issues such as fears of discrimination, victimisation for union involvement, lack of knowledge of industrial and political matters, irrelevance of union's role, precarious and flexible work arrangements, family duties and culture, as barriers that hinder the organising of young transport workers in this region. For the first time, the Asia Pacific young transport workers convened for their inaugural meeting, a significant milestone and certainly the start of active participation from young unionists. The resolutions drafted by both the women and young transport workers were presented and subsequently endorsed by the APRC.

Affiliates at the conference thanked Mr Zainal Rampak and Mr Shigeru Wada, who stepped down from their roles as Chairman and Regional Secretary respectively. Mr Hanafi Rustandi from Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia (KPI)

ASIA PACIFIC TRANSPORT WORKERS STAND TOGETHER

was elected as the new Chairman of the Regional Committee, while Mr Mahendra Sharma from ITF Delhi, will assume the Deputy Regional Secretary position.

The highly energised sessions were brought to a close with one key message to all transport unions in the region – If unions stay together, then as with one voice, they stand strong and sustainable even in the midst of the economic crisis.

To get the “feel of the ground” first hand, Mr Heng Chee How, Deputy Secretary General, National Trades Unions Congress (NTUC), met up with SOS and Seacare leaders and top management for a dialogue session held at Seacare Building.



HENG CHEE HOW GETS A

At the session held on 6 July 2009, Mr Heng commended the efforts of SOS and Seacare for their good work in job creation, training and membership. Mr Heng also elaborated on the 4M framework of e2i and the 4D framework of NTUC among other things. He also touched on the re-employment of older workers and how companies could prepare employees for their new job scope before they turn 60.

On membership, SOS shared with Mr Heng the challenges faced by the Union and appealed to NTUC to explore the possibility of “dual union membership” so as to allow the Union to preserve a core membership base. After the mutual sharing of views, it was agreed that the matter be brought up for more deliberation with the NTUC.





FEEL OF THE GROUND

Moving forward, SOS and Mr Heng agreed that having bilateral agreements is a good way to establish strategic relationships for a win-win situation for both the union and its partners.

Mr Heng was impressed with the progress of Seacare and applauded the Co-operative's vision of becoming an integrated maritime entity with a full range of capabilities to promote Singapore as an international maritime hub.

Seacare companies such as Seacare Maritime Medical Centre, Seacare Manpower, Magnum Marine Services, Seacare Landscape and Seacare Environmental had the opportunity to share with Mr Heng how the economic situation was impacting their businesses.

Both SOS and Seacare appreciated the opportunity to hear insights shared by Mr Heng and look forward to more deliberations and sharing in the future.



SOS APPOINTS NEW CHAIRMAN TO FOUR COMMITTEES



Bon Sheun Ping

Chairman, Welfare & Community Services Committee

Four leaders have stepped up to the challenge to take on more responsibilities in leading SOS to a higher level of growth and progress. Each of them has been appointed as new Chairman of the Welfare & Community Services Committee, Membership & Organising Committee, Training & Skills Development Committee and Youth Committee. Some of the Committees, such as the Corporate Communications Committee, have new members joining the team.

"As a former seafarer, I know what life is like out in the sea. There are many perks and adventures; there are also many challenges the seafarers face such as loneliness, danger, worrying about the family back home and more.

SOS has done much and we will continue to do more to improve the welfare of local and foreign members as well as our general branch members. We also look after the family members of our members.

As the new Chairman, I look forward to working with the committee members to further improve the quality of life of our members. Without them, there will not be an SOS. We hope to do this by constantly reviewing the needs of our members and tailoring our welfare benefits to meet their needs.

We also want to continue to organise quality social activities where members can bond with our members as well as their family.

The heart of SOS goes beyond our own members and reaches out the community, for example, the frail and weak, needy families and children with special needs."

Mr Bon joined the SOS in 1974 when the organisation was still in its infancy. Two years later, he was elected to the Executive Committee and has served in various capacities ever since. For 15 years, he held the position of Assistant Treasurer and was elected Vice-President in 1998, a position he still holds. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Seacare Co-operative Limited from 2000 to 2003, and was appointed to the Board of Directors of Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd in 2000. Mr Bon has also been appointed an Alternate Member of the National Trades Union Congress' Workplace Health and Safety Committee for the 2007–2011 term.

Welfare & Community Services Committee Members for the Term 2007–2011

Ex-Officio · Mohamed Idris B Mohamed Ibrahim
Chairman · Bon Sheun Ping

Secretary · Mohamad B Abu Bakar

Ordinary Members · Raja Md Said B Raja Md Shafik · David Sim Hor Pheng · Norani B Mohd Rais · Mohammad B Kodrasono · Lim Eng Seng · Abdul Rahim B Mohd · Tang Teng Lung · Daniel Tan Keng Hui · See Boon Kwang

Alternate Members · Lim Fung Jung · Zakaria B Zahit · Chen Soh Har · Ramjeet Jadoh s/o Dadhibal · Hamzah B Paradi · Ho Yew Chun · Jagan Mohan s/o Velo · Yusof B Abdul Rahman · Rahmat B Abu Bakar · Phua Bak Khin · Hong Sian Beng

Admin Secretary · David Shoo Weng Leong

MEMBERSHIP & ORGANISING

Nazarudin B Nandok

Chairman, Membership & Organising Committee



"By 2011, we want to hit the 20,000 membership mark. This is a tall order but together with the dedicated committee members and staff of SOS, we will meet the challenge head on.

For every member we recruit, we have an opportunity to touch and add value to another life. This drives us to be creative in enlarging the membership pool of SOS and thinking out of the box in our outreach strategies.

SOS membership is attractive. For the monthly fee the members pay, they get back a lot more in benefits, protection and representation. Our task is to get the message across effectively and powerfully.

The Committee will look into expanding the scope of SOS ordinary membership and increasing the cadre membership strength with the inclusion of female cadre members.

Another strategy is to revise the qualifying age and length of ordinary membership for associateship for life.

We also want to intensify our members to recruit more general branch members. So far, our strategies and promotion efforts have worked. We are on the right track."

Mr Nazarudin joined the SOS in 1973, and became a union activist on board the various ships he served. In 1991, he was elected to the Executive Committee and has been its Assistant Secretary for the past 12 years.

He was a member of the Board of Directors of Seacare Co-operative Ltd from 1997 to 2006 and was appointed to its Board of Trustees in 2006 and to the Board of Directors of Seacare Foundation Pte Ltd in 2002. He is also an Alternate Member of the National Trades Union Congress' Employability Development Committee for the 2007–2011 term.

Membership & Organising Committee Members for the Term 2007–2011

Ex-Officio · Sim Hor Pheng, David

Chairman · Nazarudin B Nandok

Secretary · Daniel Tan Keng Hui

Ordinary Members · Kamis B Hussain · Mohamad B Abu Bakar · Woo Kum Leong · Tan Beng Kiat · Raj Moham · Lim Thizi Chee · Phua Bak Khin · Loh Suan Hin · Tham Siang Hock, Michael

Alternate Members · Woon Tian Song · Chew Sian Hai · Chung Keng Meng · Koban Bin Shaik Hussain · Loh Kia Fok · Loh Koy Hoo · Harun B Salleh · Yeng Yin Leong · Mohd B Pakki · Ishak B Ahmad Rosdi · Ahmad B Hj Repahi

Admin Secretary · Thi Ri San, Julia

TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Loh Suan Hin

Chairman, Training & Skills Development Committee



"My role as the Chairman is to find ways to reach out to the members for the purpose of training and upgrading. The world's economy and the employment climate are ever changing; our skills set too needs to adapt, improve and be relevant."

SOS has always believed in investing in training. We want to continue to identify, develop and implement educational programmes for SOS members and other seamen so that they can contribute productively to our SOS CBA shipping companies.

There are many training courses out in the market. One of the tasks of the Committee is to identify, monitor and evaluate new maritime training and education methodologies and systems and how our seafarers can benefit from them. We want to get maximum optimisation of the Union's training fund.

Improving the quality of seafarers also entails the participation of maritime authorities, employers, institutions and other parties who are into promoting seafaring as a rewarding career. The Committee will keep a look out for more collaboration and joint efforts to enhance SOS members' value.

The Committee will also look into ways to enhance the Seacare Maritime Training Scheme for the benefit of the maritime industry."

Mr Loh joined SOS in 1981 and was appointed as Ordinary Member of the Executive Committee in 2005.

He is a member of the Membership & Organising Committee and now takes on the chairmanship of training and skills development committee.

With training as the buzzword of SOS and the labour movement, this committee has a heavy responsibility in helping members improve their employability.

Training & Skills Development Committee Members for the Term 2007–2011

Ex-Officio · Kam Soon Huat

Chairman · Loh Suan Hin

Secretary · Norani B Md Rais

Ordinary Members · Nazarudin B Nandok · Kamis B Hussain · Lim Eng Seng · Raj Moham · Seow Siow Kiat · Ishak B Ahmad Rosdi · Abdullah B Ahmad · Chew Sian Hai

Admin Secretary · Nur Adila Bte Juman

SOS/Seacare Representatives in Attendance

· Mariana Bte Amad (SOS) · David Shoo Weng Leong (SOS) · Haidar B Md Daud (Seacare Evolution) · Sharon Li Ying Ying (Seacare Thrift)

YOUTH

Abdul Rahim B Mohamed

Chairman, Youth Committee



"SOS recognises that we need to reach out to the youth. The future of the Union is in their hands."

As the chairman of the youth committee, I first want to look into ways to unite and understand the aspirations, needs and dreams of the youth and how the Union can tap on their energy and enthusiasm; and harness their creativity to add more dynamism to SOS.

We are on the look out for potential youth leaders to mentor and train; and to deepen their understanding of the labour movement. The committee will also find innovative ways to engage this group of members and to organise events and activities to meet their social and recreational needs."

Mr Abdul Rahim Bin Mohamed is no stranger to SOS. He joined the Union in 1989 and has played a role in providing insightful feedback and suggestions in workshops and dialogue sessions on many occasions. He is also a member of the Welfare & Organising and Corporate Communications Committee.

Youth

Committee Members for the Term 2007–2011

Ex-Officio · Daniel Tan Keng Hui

Chairman · Abdul Rahim B Mohamed

Secretary · Lim Thizi Chee

Ordinary Members · Harun B Salleh · Hamzah B Paradi · Mohammad B Kodrosono

Admin Secretary · Thi Ri San, Julia

Staff in Attendance · Jacquelyn Lam Sze Lin

Corporate Communications

Committee Members for the Term 2007–2011

Chairman · Leow Ching Chuan

Secretary · Daniel Tan Keng Hui

Ordinary Members · Lee Van Chong · Kam Soon Huat · Mohamed Idris B Mohamed Ibrahim · Mohamad B Abu Bakar · Abdul Rahim B Mohamed · Lim Thizi Chee · Chung Keng Meng

Admin Secretary · Jacquelyn Lam Sze Lin

SOS/Seacare Representatives in Attendance · Nur Adila Bte Juman (SOS) · David Shoo Weng Leong (SOS) · Julia Thi Ri San (SOS) · Foo Jee Hwee, Shena (Seacare Co-operative) · Julie Koh (Seacare Co-operative) · Peck Mui Hoon, Eugenia (Seacare Maritime Medical Centre) · Alan Toh Cheng Hoe (Seacare Environmental) · Wang Chia Lim (Seacare MarinePlus/MMS) · Firos Osman Musaji Angullia (Seacare Landscape) · Gillan Teo Wei Yin (Seacare Properties) · Haidar B Md Daud (Seacare Evolution) · Goh Yeow Tin (Seacare Medical Holdings)

THREE FINE GENTLEMEN GETTING RECOGNITION FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

It was a day of excitement and jubilation for three of our comrades when they received the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) Branch Officials Recognition Award from NTUC Deputy Secretary General, Mr Heng Chee How on 8 July 2009 at Orchid Country Club.



Awarded only to those who have made significant contributions towards the labour movement, our very own Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) Vice President Mr Bon Sheun Ping, Assistant Secretary Mr Nazarudin B Nandok and Standing Committee Member Mr Loh Koy Hoo were among the 73 awardees from the 60 affiliated unions to receive the prestigious award.

Mr Bon Sheun Ping joined SOS in 1974 when he was a career seaman. His interest in the work of SOS and commitment to the cause of the union led to him being elected the Vice President in 1998 and an appointment he still holds today. Because of his good rapport and relationships with both the local and foreign seamen, Mr Bon is able to play an active and important role in getting feedback and enhancing the SOS Welfare Scheme making it more responsive to the needs of the members.

For **Mr Nazarudin B Nandok**, who has been with SOS for 36 years, was elected Assistant Secretary in 1998 and holds that post till today. Since his joining SOS, he has been working actively to improve the working environment of seamen and holds an appointment in the SOS External/Industrial Relations Committee. He plays a significant role in improving the terms and conditions of members working on board CBA ships. Mr Nazarudin is regarded as a caring friend to many seamen; representing SOS in numerous

local and international industrial relations meetings and conferences.

Mr Loh Koy Hoo, who has been with SOS since 1976, is one of the many ordinary members who served faithfully behind the scene despite not holding an elected post. With his strong networking skills among the seamen and warm personality, he played a pivotal role in the SOS Membership & Organising Committee in strengthening the membership base of SOS which has grown from 5,000 to 19,500 in less than two decades.

For their contributions and hard work, the three gentlemen were well-deserving of the award and represented SOS on the learning trip to Taiwan which took place from 16 July 2009 to 19 July 2009.

Well done, gentlemen! Thank you for your contributions towards SOS!

SEAFARERS' PROVIDENT FUND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE TAKES ON BIGGER ROLE

The functions of the Seafarers' Provident Fund Scheme (SPF) Administrative Committee (AC) have been broadened.

With effect from 1 July 2009, the Committee also oversees the administration of the Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS). To reflect its added role, the SPF AC is now known as SPF & SMTS Joint AC (JAC).

SPF & SMTS Joint Administrative Committee Sets Up

The JAC serves the following functions and duties:

- To have absolute discretion in the investment of funds collected under the SPF scheme.
- To make and interpret the regulations for both schemes, namely the SPF and SMTS.
- To handle SPF cases which are beyond the authority of the individual companies' representatives.
- To act as the authority on matters regarding the SPF.
- To make recommendations on training and re-training schemes / courses / programs for SMTS.
- To advise the appointed administrator on relevant matters regarding SMTS.

WHO'S WHO

in the Seafarers' Provident Fund & Seacare Maritime Training Scheme Joint Administrative Committee
(1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012)

Mr Kam Soon Huat (Chairman)	Singapore Organisation of Seamen
Mr Daniel Tan (Secretary)	Singapore Organisation of Seamen
Capt Chong Chee Eng	SSC Ship Management Pte Ltd
Capt Mikkjal Poulsen	Torm Singapore Pte Ltd
Capt Pradeep Desawar	Pacific International Lines (Pte) Ltd
Capt Lee Chee Seong	Neptune Shipmanagement Services Pte Ltd
Capt Shahid Murad	"K" Line Ship Management (Singapore) Pte Ltd
Mr Steven Cheong	Glory Ship Management Pte Ltd
Mr David Shoo	Singapore Organisation of Seamen

STRENGTHENING SEACARE MEDICAL SCHEME

To further strengthen the Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS), SOS has initiated the formation of the Administrative Committee (AC) on 1 July 2009.

"I am glad that SOS has taken the initiative to form an Administrative Committee comprising a number of representatives from the shipping company. This will provide a wider scope of how the medical scheme would be better utilised to benefit the members of contributing CA companies," said Chairman of the SMS AC, Capt. Anthony Khoo, who is Senior Manager, Crew Department at PACC Ship Managers Pte Ltd.

SMS was established on 1 March 2005 by SOS to provide its members and shipping companies participating in SMS with medical-related benefits. SMS focuses on three components, namely the SOS Local Members, SOS Foreign Members and Local Shipping Management Staff.

SMS AC is look upon to provide advice, suggestions and recommendations to strengthen and improve the SMS to benefit the contributors to the fund and also majority of the SOS members; as well as to provide advice on the operations and administration of the SMS.

WHO'S WHO

in the Seacare Medical Scheme Administrative Committee
(1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012)

Seacare Medical Scheme Administrative Committee Sets Up

Capt Anthony Khoo (Chairman)	PACC Ship Managers Pte Ltd
Ms Mariana Angel (Secretary)	Singapore Organisation of Seamen
Capt Mukul Bhargava	AP Moller S'pore Pte Ltd
Mr Lim Poh Whee	AET Shipmanagement (Singapore) Pte Ltd
Dr Chia Yih Woei	Seacare Maritime Medical Centre Pte Ltd

The current AC held its first meeting on 23 July 2009 to assess the current SMS benefits. The AC is pleased with the many benefits provided and efforts made currently for SMS. Suggesting ways for improvement, the AC urged SOS to improve on the utilisation rate of SMS Indonesia and continue with the development efforts for SMS in China and India.

SOS FORGES CLOSER TIES WITH...

CSU

SOS was more than glad to welcome unionists from the Chinese Seamen's Union (CSU) when they were in Singapore from 6 to 11 July 2009.

The friendly visit by CSU was a step taken to further strengthen ties and to initiate discussions ranging from training to welfare schemes for seafarers. During the meeting held at Seacare Building, SOS General Secretary Mr Leow Ching Chuan shed light on the Seacare Co-operative businesses and its focus to serve beneficially all seamen and their dependents.



CSU DELEGATES

Mr Zhu Lin Qing, Vice President, CSU & Construction Worker's Union

Ms Wei Wei, Director, Seafarers Affairs Department

Mr Sun Jun, Chairman of Trade Union from Qingdao Ocean Shipping Co Ltd

Ms Yao Li, ACFTU

WORLD ITF INSPECTORATE



For three days, the world's ITF Inspectorate, set aside their duties temporarily and congregated at Istanbul for a crucial seminar. SOS Industrial Relations (IR) Manager and ITF contact person, Mr Daniel Tan, together with some 140 ITF Inspectors from over 90 countries, ITF Secretariat, affiliated unions and guest speakers, met for a time of networking, dialogue and discussions at the ITF Worldwide Inspectors' Seminar on 23 to 25 June 2009.

NCSU

SOS also played host to the leaders from the National Chinese Seamen's Union and dialogued with the unionists regarding the challenges faced by the maritime industry.

The unionists from both countries agreed to work closely and tap on each other's strengths to improve the welfare of seafarers and explore potential joint projects.

The meeting was not all a serious affair. In true SOS style, the Singaporean hospitality came up tops with enough activities to fill both the mind and body with all things Singaporean.

NCSU DELEGATES

Mr Jerry Sun, President

Ms Daphne Su, Director of Secretariat

Mr Chun Der-Ming, Committee Member

Mr Niu Kuo-Cheng, Supervisor



CONGREGATES AT ISTANBUL



The biennial get-together provided opportunities for Inspectors to go over new practices and procedures; to be educated on maritime labour standards; and to build bonds of trust and solidarity with each other.

Focusing on the importance of 'Change for Good', ITF kept delegates up to speed with the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006). This huge undertaking agreed by shipowners, trade unions and governments should come into force in 2011, providing comprehensive rights and protection at work for the world's more than 1.2 million seafarers.

At the seminar, Mr Tan learnt how the MLC 2006 could be applied to improve seafarers' life onboard ship and at home and his role as an ITF contact person. The existence of the convention would have an effect on how problems onboard ships would be resolved. If the ultimate aim is to help the brothers and sisters of the global marine transportation industry, then SOS is all set to embrace the changes with great anticipation.

STRENGTHENING BROTHERHOOD ...



It was a big step forward in the bonding of the band of brothers!

The camaraderie between SOS and the Bangladesh Seamen's Association (BSA) was deepened when SOS had the opportunity to play host to Mr S M Shafiqur Rahman, President of BSA, Bangladesh Seamen's Association (BSA).

Mr Shafiqur Rahman met up with Mr Mohamad Bin Abu Bakar, Vice President of SOS, on 19 June 2009 and was shown warm hospitality by his Singapore counterpart.

Brought around Singapore and shown the various spots such as the Seacare Drop-In Centre, Maritime House Finger Pier and Seafarers Care Centre at Jurong Port., Mr Shafiqur Rahman was impressed with the facilities which were set up specially for the benefit of seafarers and their welfare.

SOS General Secretary, Mr Leow Ching Chuan, together with several SOS colleagues, also showed their warm welcome to Mr Shafiqur Rahman by organising a lunch specially for Mr Shafiqur Rahman. Addressing one another as "Bro", it could be seen that the bilateral ties between the two unions are warm and amicable, so much so that Mr Shafiqur Rahman extended an invitation to Mr Leow and Mr Mohamed Idris to visit Bangladesh with his offer to act as host in return.



SOS SHOWS ITS SPORTING STRENGTH & UNITY



Team SOS placed their muscles to good use and kept the adrenaline pumping as they pushed themselves to the limit at the International Sportsweek for Seafarers 2009, which was held at Yio Chu Kang Stadium from 10 to 13 June 2009.

The event, organised by Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), saw a total of more than 1,300 participants from 10 countries coming forth to join the competition in the name of fun and sports.



It was not only good fun they enjoyed, but also good food with good company as well. An appreciation buffet was held on the last day of the event together with the Prize Presentation and Closing Ceremony.

Team SOS had done us all proud; they bagged not only the Champion for the Tug-Of-War for the Local Team category, they were also the 1st runner-ups for the Telematch event.

The SOS team spirit and camaraderie was commendable and placed the team in good standing.



CLOSE TO \$270,000 WORTH of Training Grants Claimed

Since SOS started offering training grants a decade ago to encourage members to upgrade their skills, more than 668 members have claimed close to \$270,000 worth of training grants.

SOS indeed has in place the right incentives to encourage members with their quest for skills upgrading. The Training Grant Benefit, which assists SOS members by reimbursing the course fees, also supports members with a Training Allowance based on the number of hours of courses attended. As a paid-up member of SOS, you are eligible for up to two Training Grants per year.

Under Schedule II (Seafaring Related Courses) and Schedule III (Non-Seafaring Related Courses), members can choose from a wide variety of courses which the grant covers; ranging from industries such as construction, marine, computer and IT, driving, first aid and more.

Members who are looking for financial support to attend courses to enhance their employability can turn to SOS Training Grant for assistance.

For more information and details on the Training Grant Benefit Scheme and the procedures for applications and claims, you can:

- Log on to www.sosea.org.sg,
- Contact our Training Division Officer today at 6379 5671 or
- Email adila@seacare.com.sg.

Information on course fees and training allowance

- 1) Trainees can make a 100% claim on course fees and training allowance if they pass the course on the first attempt. Otherwise, they will be eligible for only an 80% claim on course fees and training allowance. In addition, members should ensure that they have an attendance rate of more than 75%.
- 2) Training Allowance is capped at a maximum of \$200 per course.

LENDING A HELPING HAND...



... has always been what SOS does for not only its members and affiliates, but also the community.



SOS President, Mr Mohamed Idris B Mohamed Ibrahim, together with Welfare & Community Services Committee Members Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar, Mr See Boon Kwang, Mr Abdul Rahim, Mr David Lim Eng Seng and Mr David Shoo visited the Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA), Community Home for Senior Citizens at Ang Mo Kio Centre on 21 May 2009 to bring cheer to the elderly residents there.

The gentlemen, after a short introductory tour of the place, started interacting with the elderly with an all time favourite karaoke session. It was heart-warming to see the residents sing their hearts out together with the SOS visitors. Following this was a buffet lunch served by the SOS team to the approximately 130 residents.

That was not all. On behalf of SOS, the gentlemen also presented grocery items to the community home to assist in the taking care of the well-being of the residents. Such a gesture comes in timely in an economic climate such as this.

AN EXHILARATING FAMILY DAY

on Singapore Flyer





SOS members and their families were treated to an exhilarating Family Day that got them 'flying' on the world's largest Giant Observation Wheel.

The breathtaking treat on the Singapore Flyer was also extended to 43 children and staff of Jamiyah Children's Home who took in the Marina Bay sights with 'wows' and 'whoas'.

Joining in the Family Day was Mr Arthur Fong, SOS Adviser, and Member of Parliament for West Coast GRC, who described the event as more than going on the Singapore Flyer. "It is about building ties with the family and Union. How resilient we are in a crisis will depend on these ties we have," Mr Fong said.

Applauding SOS's commitment to the members and their dependents as well as community, Mr Fong shared that he found a touching meaning in the event that revealed the heart of SOS. He urged members' children to know more about the Union from the leaders and their parents and appreciate how hard and diligent they have worked to bring SOS to where it is today.

Spread over two Sundays on 7 and 14 June 2009 due to the overwhelming response from the members, the Family Day went beyond the Flyer. The 376 members and their dependents also enjoyed other highlights which included a generous buffet spread, prizes, face painting, games and top notch magic shows that got everyone mesmerised.

"It's a privilege for the children to spend the Sunday in a warm family environment like this. Knowing that there are people still love and care means a lot to them." – Sophian Kayat, Jamiyah Home Supervisor

"I'm very happy because I get to see the tall buildings from this special angle. I enjoyed the magic shows and the food as well." – Ridzuan, Jamiyah Children's Home Beneficiary



VISITING THE “KING”



The “King of Fruits” certainly lives up to its name, with its alluring smell and taste charming a total of 175 SOS members with their spouses to travel to Pagoh, Muar to pay it a ‘visit’.

Waking up bright and early, the aptly named “Durian Trip” started at 7.30 am on 18 July 2009 in the morning, indicating the high level of enthusiasm. Everyone had their minds fixed on lunch, which included not only the much anticipated durians, but also other local fruits such as mangosteens and rambutans.

After the sumptuous durian lunch, it was time for the other favourite activity of all time – shopping! The members and their spouses visited Muar City to look for local products and then continued shopping at Jusco Shopping Centre at Tebrau City. Many of them bought mementos to bring back as gifts and souvenirs for their families and friends. Famished after a packed day of fun and laughter, the big group made their way to a local restaurant for dinner before heading back home to Singapore.





Seacare Focus





SEACARE'S GREEN BUSINESS "GROWS GLOBAL" WITH WATERTECH

Changing the way we live, changing the way we do business, reducing impact on our environment are aspirations that may seem more like a pipe dream, but that's exactly what Seacare aims to do in its investment with WaterTech Pte Ltd, an environmental engineering company specialising in providing integrated systems for water and wastewater treatment.

In fact, Seacare believes that ***"sustainable businesses that participate in environmentally-friendly or green activities to ensure that all processes, products, and manufacturing activities adequately address current environmental concerns is where the future is"***.



WASTEWATER TREATMENT – OUR MAIN STRENGTH

WaterTech Pte Ltd is already into the Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) Projects and the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Projects in Inner Mongolia. Any updates on new upcoming and current projects?

Our objective is to provide eco-friendly solutions using technology for the improvement of the environment – wastewater treatment being our main strength. Going forward, we will continue to develop our main strength and at the same time provide other energy solutions such as climatic and temperature control.



Since last August, when Seacare Foundation Pte Ltd invested in two wastewater treatment projects in Inner Mongolia, with WaterTech Pte Ltd, reports have been nothing short of outstanding.

In an interview with Mr Kong Mun Kwong, Chairman of Seacare Holdings, Mr Goh Yeow Tin, Chairman of WaterTech and Mr William Ng, Executive Director of WaterTech, Samudra was able to catch the fire as they shared their passion and latest developments on environmental solutions.

Currently, WaterTech has projects under negotiations in China, Vietnam, Middle East, Indonesia and Singapore. We will continue to pursue BOOT and EPC contracts, concentrating mainly in China and ASEAN region, the market that has a demand for our services.

FUTURE IS BRIGHT IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Is it mandatory for manufacturing plants with toxic wastewater discharge to have its own wastewater treatment plant? What future prospects do you see in the business of wastewater treatment?

In 2006, Chinese President Hu Jintao, in recognition of the ecological problems China is facing as a consequence of economic growth, placed sustainable development as one of its top priorities. China is moving aggressively, aiming to cut air pollution by 10% by 2010, increase energy efficiency by 20% per unit of GDP and to achieve a 30% reduction in water use (per unit of industrial value added).

In the area of water treatment, China's latest Eleventh Five Year Plan requires all factories to have their own wastewater treatment plant with recycling technologies and all counties to have at least one wastewater treatment plant for the treatment of water from industrial development.

Converting wastewater to drinkable water is potentially a big market but there is a bigger market for converting wastewater to usable water because it is a fundamental process in the eco-rehabilitation process. It's very clear that the prospects for the business of wastewater treatment is looking bright.

We see that other developed countries in Asia are following suit in the move towards decreasing the impact made on the environment.



WATERTECH'S POSITIONING IN GREEN ENERGY MARKET

With global warming and 'going green' issues, what kind of environmental-related opportunities are there for WaterTech to move into?

We are exploring innovative methods of addressing wasteful consumption. An example can be found in the laundry business. WaterTech's laundry recycling system focuses on maximising water and energy savings, through the use of a closed loop system where wastewater from the washer extractors and/or tunnel washers go through a series of filtration and disinfection equipment and return only the best quality water back to the laundry operations. This process recycles up to 80% of discharged water and reduces energy by up to 50%.

Global warming involves an unstoppable rapid change to climatic changes in different parts of the world. Consequently, this leads to extensive changes and realignment in transportation and distribution patterns in businesses especially for food and natural products and their markets. Temperature control will be one of the main factors that will decide the distribution ability of such natural products like vegetables, fruits, meat, etc to their point of consumption.

We believe that water treatment and temperature control technology will be two of the 'must-haves' to support the green movement. WaterTech is positioning itself in this direction. We are laying the foundation to move into areas of clean, eco-friendly refrigeration technology and businesses that will support the reduction of atmospheric pollution.

ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS IN THE PIPELINE

What else in the pipeline, in particular the green business plans?

We have been approached because of our technical experience and marketing skills to represent manufacturers of eco-friendly products. This is a new area we want to explore seriously.

WE ARE READY!

In what ways do you think Watertech is ready to face the opportunities and are confident to develop inroads into the market not just in Environmental Engineering Industry but also in the renewable/green energy market?

WaterTech has the capacity and the technical ability to improve and provide solutions to any environmental-related issue.

We have a team of 25 professionals ranging from engineers, accountants, marketing and technical specialists, contracts and operations manager who are supported by another team of operators and technicians. The advantage of our team is that they are all experienced in their field of expertise and have been working closely for the past 4–5 years.

We now have the expertise to negotiate, finance, build and manage long-term BOOT contracts, having just completed two BOOT projects. Besides working with international brand names, providing eco-solutions to our clients, we are also in demand as specialist contractors.



Chairman of Seacare Holdings, Mr Kong Mun Kwong concluded the interview by sharing this: ***"Seacare's involvement with WaterTech has a broader outlook. By participating in sustainable business with WaterTech, Seacare embodies the heartbeat of the union – responsible in preserving the planet; creating job opportunities for older union members or developing communities to be trained in state-of-the-art and current technologies; while generating responsible profit."***

If businesses can generate profit by promoting eco-friendly, recycling, energy-saving and cost-effective solutions, while caring for the welfare of people. If businesses can run like WaterTech, that'll truly Change The World!

SEACARE GROUP SENIOR MANAGER IS SNCF YOUTH CHAIRPERSON



Outgoing Youth Committee Chairman, Mr Teo Say Hong, who now serves as an adviser to the Committee, has expressed confidence in the capabilities of Ms Lam.

"In order to stay dynamic and relevant, we need to ensure our team remains vibrant, with the right people leading the team. I am confident that Jacquelyn has what it takes to lead us all from here on," said Mr Teo.

SNCF is the national representation of the Singapore Co-operative Movement and is the main body that propagates the principles and execution of co-operatives. Seacare Co-operative Ltd is one of the proud affiliates of SNCF and has worked closely together with them, showing their support with Seacare members serving in various committees to contribute towards the social enterprises movement.

Ms Jacquelyn Lam, Group Senior Manager for Seacare Co-operative Ltd, is elected as the Chairperson for the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) Youth Committee for the term ending in 2011.

Ms Lam is not new to the co-operative scene. Having worked in Seacare for eight years, she has gained a wide exposure of co-operative work and is equipped with knowledge on co-operative practices, code of governance and more.

With the new leadership comes a new wave of change.

Ms Lam shares:

"With the support given and new members joining us, I believe we can work together to contribute to the dynamic Co-operative Movement, especially in the area of getting more youths involved in the different social enterprises. We also want to broaden our reach in mentoring potential leaders and strengthening our core of young leaders."

SNCF Youth Committee 2008 – 2011

Advisers: Teo Say Hong, SNCF Youth Committee, Immediate Past Chairman • Yoshimitsu Nakamura, ICA-AP (Singapore Business Unit), Special Adviser

Chairperson: Jacquelyn Lam, Seacare Co-operative, Group Senior Manager

Members: Trina Ang, AUPE Multi-Purpose Co-operative, Executive Assistant • Wesley Ho, Co-operative of SCDF Employees (COSEM), Honorary General Secretary • Jean Chen, NTUC Fairprice Co-operative, Logistics Executive • Norfarizah Bte Ambiak, NTUC Income Insurance Co-operative, Assistant Customer Service Manager • Sim Kok Peng, NTUC Income Insurance Co-operative, Executive • Mervyn Sek, NUS Multi-Purpose Co-operative, Board Director • Natasha Bte Noorahim, Premier Travel Co-operative, Travel Consultant • Raymond Poon, Singapore Teachers' Co-operative, Management Committee Member & Youth Committee Chairman

Secretary: Jane Chan, SNCF, Executive Officer

SEACARE MANPOWER



We can't predict when or where an emergency will occur, but a group of Seacare Manpower staff is all ready to help if one happens.

After attending the three day first aid course held at the Red Cross Training Centre, the staff is equipped with knowledge and confidence to take the right steps in providing First Aid calmly and effectively.

The 24 participants, ranging from librarians to clerks, from laboratory assistants to teacher aides, are Seacare Manpower contract staff working in different schools. The First Aid course gave each of them the practical skills needed to manage a range of medical and accident emergencies.

The course, organised by Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd, saw them learning in a fun and hands-on way. They had to take turns to act as 'casualties' needing urgent help; and first aiders coming to the rescue. Coughing with a pained expression on their faces, the casualties signaled that they were unable to breathe. The first aiders got into action and put their feet in the T-shaped formation in between their classmate's feet. Placing their fist above the navel of the 'victims', they gave a few forceful thrusts against the stomach and successfully 'saved' their classmates from choking.



Participants also learned how to bandage wounds and cuts, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and other essential skills that will serve them well in times of crisis and need. Their trainer, Mr G Boominathan also taught the participants how to remain calm and steady when handling emergency situations. Seacare Manpower staff contracted to schools now has more to offer. Each of them is a valuable asset in times of urgency.

The first aid course, which was spread over a span of three days on 25 July, 26 July and 1 August 2009, had its second successful run on 29 August, 30 August and 6 September 2009.



We're First Aid Qualified!

INSTRUCTOR: MR G BOOMINATHAN

SCHOOL	TRAINEE	DESIGNATION
1 BEATTY SEC SCH	ROHAYAH BTE MOHAMED	ICT EXECUTIVE
2 BUKIT PANJANG GOVT HIGH SCH	LEE TIAM CHYE	OM ASSISTANT
3 BUKIT PANJANG PRI SCH	TAN ENG YORK	CLERICAL ASSISTANT
4 BUKIT PANJANG PRI SCH	QUAH KOH KHENG	CLERICAL ASSISTANT
5 CHIJ OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY	LEE JEE KHIM	LAB ASSISTANT
6 CHIJ OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE	CHANG MEE HAR	LAB ASSISTANT
7 EAST SPRING SEC SCH	FARIDAH BINTE MOHAMED AZAM	HOMECE ASSISTANT
8 FAJAR SEC SCH	GOH MUI NGNG	PROGRAM COORDINATOR
9 HONG KAH SEC SCH	SHAH AI POH	HOMECE ASSISTANT
10 HONG KAH SEC SCH	ONG LAY WHATT	LIBRARIAN
11 KUO CHUAN PRESBYTERIAN SEC SCH	CHOO MUI LUANG	FOOD LAB TECH
12 MACPHERSON SEC SCH	TAN WEI HSIEN	IT TRAINER
13 MARSILING SECONDARY SCHOOL (CLUSTER FUND)	BOEY SAM TAI JUNE	DATA ENTRY CLERK
14 MONTFORT SEC SCH	LIM GUAT HAR	HOMECE HELPER
15 PEIYING PRI SCH	GOH PENG LIN	LIBRARIAN
16 PEIYING PRI SCH	LEE GUEK ENG	OFFICE CLERK
17 PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE	LEE MUI HUA	LIBRARIAN
18 RED SWASTIKA SCH	TAN HAN KEOW	SCH ATTN
19 SENG KANG PRI SCH	SAM KWAI KHENG CECILIA	LAB ASSISTANT
20 TECK GHEE PRI SCH	KOH LAY CHOO	TEACHER AIDE
21 TECK GHEE PRI SCH	SIM BEE HUAT	TEACHER AIDE
22 TECK WHYE SEC SCH	TAN CHIM KWEE	ADMIN CLERK
23 XINMIN SEC SCH	BAY QIN YAO	ADMIN ASSISTANT
24 ZHENGHUA PRI SCH	NITHIAVANI D/O SILVARAJOO	ADMIN ASSISTANT

SEACARE THRIFT GETS NEW ASSISTANT MANAGER

The latest addition to the growing Seacare family is Ms Sharon Li, Assistant Manager of Seacare Thrift Pte Ltd. A graduate from RMIT University, the avid movie-goer professes that she counts travelling and gaining new experiences amongst her hobbies and fancies a challenge anytime, anywhere.

The fresh-faced lady, who joined Seacare in May 2009 has brought with her not only her capabilities but also refreshing perspectives to help in the growth of Seacare Thrift.

Samudra chats with her to find out more.

Getting new insights and perspectives ...

How have things changed?

Sharon: I was in the banking industry before I moved to Seacare, so it was quite a big switch from the banking sector to the co-operative sector. The banking sector is fast-paced, results-driven and process-oriented. Here at Seacare, the focus is more on the benefits for the members and seafarers, people centered; and the decision makers have to take into consideration what the effects are and how they will impact the people when these decisions are made.

What are your main roles and responsibilities?

Sharon: My main responsibility is to help in the management, operations and administration of the Seacare Provident Fund (SPF) for SOS.

I am also sourcing and planning for training programmes for the Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS). There is a need to explore training options and assess the training needs of our foreign members.

Why did you decide to join Seacare Thrift?

Sharon: Seacare offered me a fresh change and the experience here has been interesting. I am really glad that I took up this offer to join the Seacare Family. I am looking forward to learning more from the team members at Seacare and SOS who are very willing to share their experiences and thoughts with me to help bring more benefits and schemes to our members.





Facilities Available to Seafarers include:

High speed internet access

Telephone Room

Light Refreshments

Library

Daily Newspapers

Reading Materials

The Centre is located next to the bus terminal for easy access.

Attention seafarers! The International Drop-In Centre at Finger Pier has been relocated to a more convenient location for your benefit!

NEW LOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL DROP-IN CENTRE!

The new location of the International Drop-In Centre is at:

**Keppel Container
Terminal Entrance**

ICA Building 2nd Storey

Keppel Road

Tel: +65 6227 5023

**Operating Hours of the
International Drop-In Centre are:**

1000 hours–1330 hours

1430 hours–2200 hours

* The Drop-In Centre is closed for lunch during 1330 hours – 1430 hours.

Seafarers coming from:

TERMINAL	BUS SERVICE
Brani Terminal	Please take Bus Service No. 35
Keppel Terminal	Please take Bus Service No. 8
Tanjong Pagar Terminal	Please take Bus Service No. 8

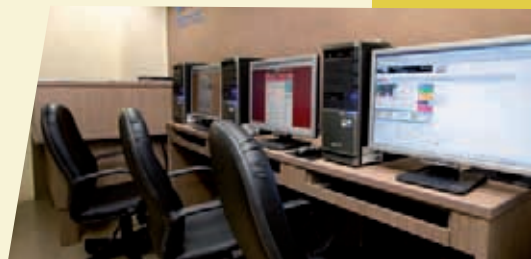
ALL SEAFARERS ARE WELCOME!

A Haven within the port

International Seafarers' Passport To Stay In Touch

Drop in during your next transit at the Pasir Panjang Terminal Building.

- Get connected with our high-speed internet connection
- Reinvigorate yourselves with the refreshments provided at the lounge
- Make overseas phone calls at your own privacy
- Get updates from the range of magazines, periodicals and newspapers
- Catch up on daily news and entertainment from the television or have a chat with fellow seafarers before your next journey



seAcAre

Seacare Drop-In Centre for International Seafarers
Pasir Panjang Terminal Building
33 Harbour Drive
#01-00
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday, 3pm -10pm
Tel: 65 6778 6518