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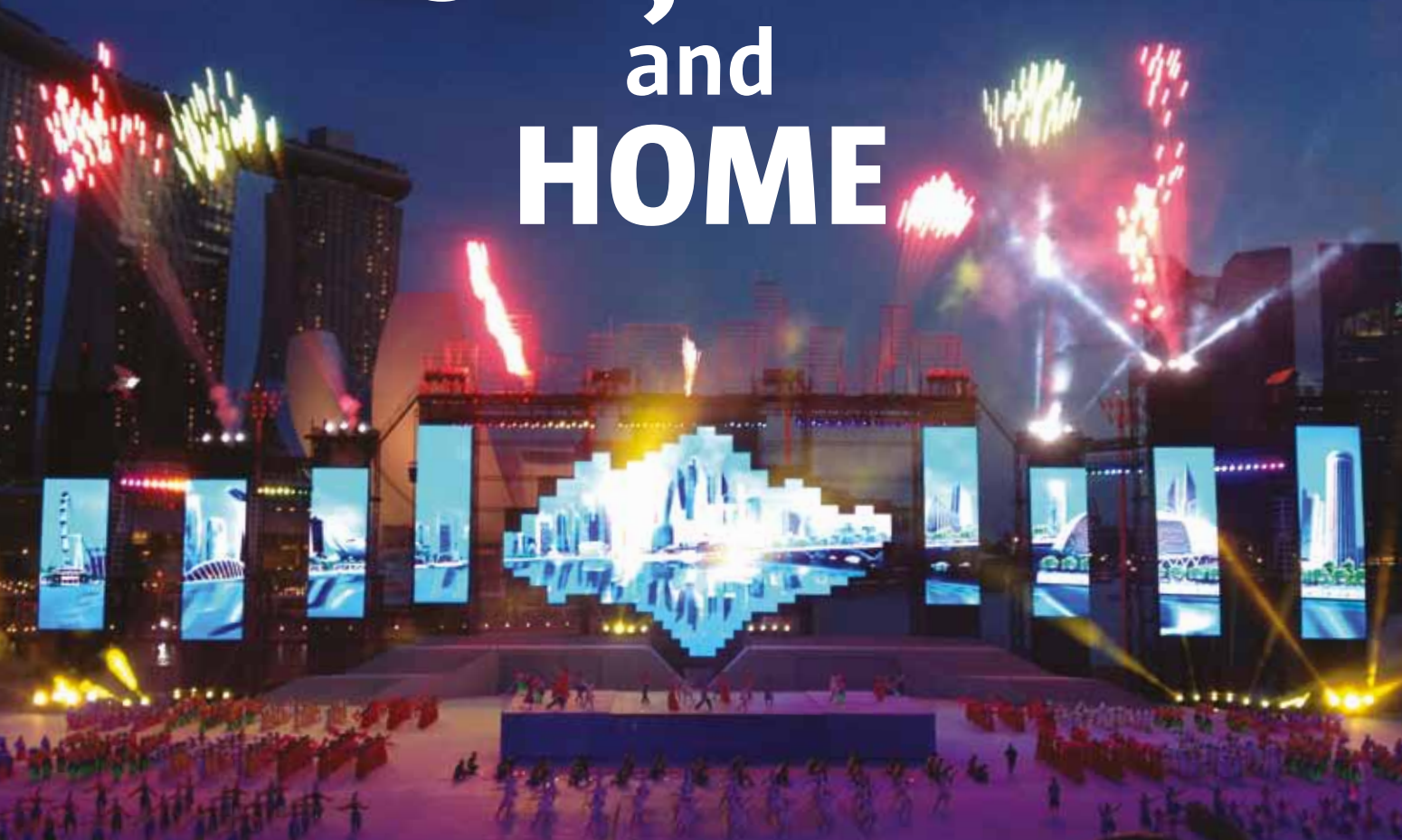
SAMUDRA

A bi-monthly Publication of the Singapore Organisation of Seamen and Seacare Co-operative Limited

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HOPE, HEART and HOME





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SAMUDRA

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PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN LOONG'S NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE 2012



My Fellow Singaporeans,

We celebrate National Day amidst an unsettled world. Europe and the US face serious economic problems. Asia is doing better than other regions, but China and India are slowing down and tensions are simmering in the South China Sea.

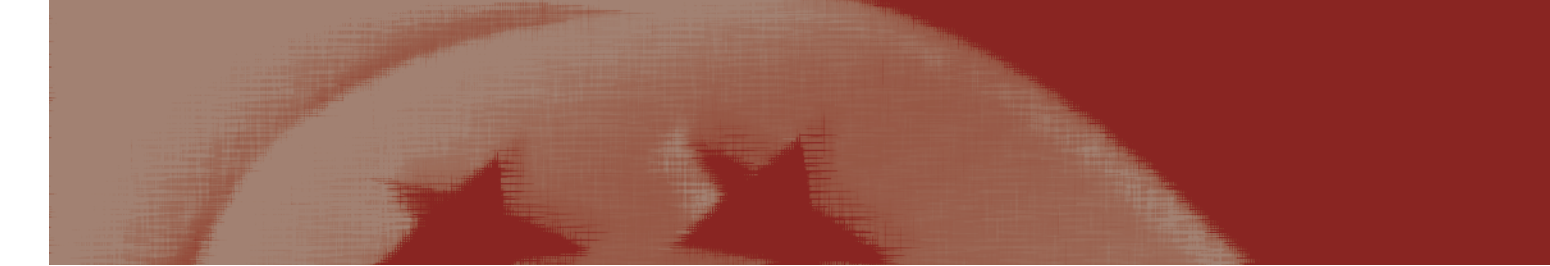
Against this backdrop, Singapore is doing quite well. Our economy grew 1.7% in the first half of 2012 and we are on track for 1.5-2.5% growth for the year. Internationally, Singapore's standing is high, whether with emerging countries like India and China or advanced nations like the US. Domestically, we are clearing the backlog of applicants for HDB flats, building more MRT lines and upgrading our bus services. Our GST Vouchers and U-Save rebates will help lower-income households cope with inflation.

Today Singapore is a success story, but the world is not standing still. The next two decades will be very different. The emerging economies in Asia are advancing rapidly. Breakthroughs in science and technology will transform our lives. Singapore will encounter many new challenges and opportunities.

We must ask ourselves some fundamental questions: What future do we see for Singapore? What kind of home do we want for our children? I believe all of us want to be proud to be Singaporeans, and to live in a successful country that meets our aspirations. What does this mean?

First, Singapore must always offer hope of a better future. We must always be a fair and just society which creates opportunities for all. A nurturing and open environment which gives every citizen the chance to pursue his dreams. A forward-looking community where each generation improves on what they have inherited and hands a better Singapore over to their children. This is the way to root able and enterprising Singaporeans here, and inspire all of us to keep on improving Singapore.

Singaporeans all want the best education, to fulfill their potential and be better people. We will equip them with skills and knowledge to thrive in an uncertain world. We must work with parents to bring their children to more equal starting points for primary school, through good and affordable childcare and kindergartens. We will open up



more pathways in our education system, to fulfill the diverse aspirations of our young. Let us prepare every child for the test of life, not just a life of tests.

Second, Singapore must be an inclusive society with a heart. We uphold meritocracy, to motivate everyone to try their best. But individual achievement must be tempered with a mutual obligation. The successful ones have a duty to contribute back more to society. We need to treat one another with dignity and respect, and to share the fruits of success widely, so that no Singaporean is left out.

We have strived for such an inclusive Singapore for many years. Our home ownership programme gives every citizen, rich or poor, a stake in our nation. Our universal and almost free education system equips every child with the tools to succeed in life. Our healthcare system provides every Singaporean with good quality and affordable care.

But as new needs have emerged over time, we have enhanced our social safety nets. We introduced ComCare to help the needy, and Workfare for low-income workers. Low- and middle-income couples now get Additional Housing Grants to buy HDB flats. In schools, Opportunity Funds enable less well-off students to participate fully in enrichment programmes and study trips.

This year's Budget was a further major step. We introduced new programmes. The Silver Housing Bonus is benefiting our ageing population. Increased subsidies for home-based care are helping more families with elderly parents. These are not one-off gestures, but a carefully designed package which lays the basis for stronger safety nets for the future.

We will build on these initiatives in a sustainable way. The Government will do more but it cannot do everything. Every Singaporean must play his part in creating an inclusive Singapore. This is how we can nurture a united community, and do the best for ourselves and one another.

Third, Singapore must be a home that all of us love. We have built a unique home on our little island, striking a balance between preserving the old and embracing the new. Let us make it even better. A beautiful home with green spaces, blue skies and clear waters, just like here in Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. A cherished home where we build treasured memories and lifelong friendships. A safe home which we will defend.

This feeling of belonging and identity is especially important for an open society in a globalised world. But it is also harder to nurture when we have new immigrants and foreign workers. We are managing the inflow to minimise the strains on our infrastructure and society. But Singaporeans must remain confident and open, and welcome those who will strengthen our team and help us and our children do better. For their part, new immigrants must make the effort to integrate into our community. They must acquire our social values, our cultural values, adopt our social norms and commit their loyalty and love to Singapore.

Even as we keep our society open to immigrants, we will bring up our own next generation. Singaporeans do want to grow their own families. Many couples do wish to have children, and we will do more to support their family life and parenthood. I am happy that we expect more Dragon babies this year, but our fertility trend is still declining. We must go beyond the Chinese zodiac and tackle the underlying causes of our low birth rates. If we can create more supportive social attitudes and work environments, and lighten the burdens of parenthood, we will help couples to have more kids.

Beyond specific issues like immigration and procreation, we need to review our policies more broadly, particularly social and education policies. To still be a shining red dot twenty years from now, we must rethink our approaches, and reinvent ourselves. We must anticipate changes and prepare for what lies ahead. Singaporeans will remain at the heart of all that we do, as we update our policies to best serve our people. Core values such as meritocracy, multi-racialism and financial prudence cannot change. But within these broad principles, we should review what needs to change and where we should act more boldly.

I have asked Minister Heng Swee Keat to chair a committee of younger ministers to take a fresh look at what we are doing. We will engage Singaporeans in this review, and build a broad consensus on the way forward. I ask for your support in this exercise.

Singapore is our shared home. What Singapore becomes depends on what we make of it. With our resources, our resolve, and our imagination, Singapore is well placed to thrive in a changing world. Let us all work together so that our children can always find here hope of a better future, an inclusive society with a heart, and the best home for ourselves and our families.

Happy National Day!

NTUC SECRETARY-GENERAL LIM SWEE SAY'S NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE 2012



Last month, I attended the annual International Labour Conference and spoke with union leaders from a number of countries. The situation in Asia remains cautious but still encouraging. However, the picture I gathered for the USA and Europe was not as good. They are suffering from job shortages, sticky unemployment, high youth unemployment and stagnation of wages.

Such implications can be painful for their people. One European unionist told us that many of her fellow countrymen are working as construction and mining workers in Australia. What saddens her even more is seeing the younger and better educated leaving the country because of job shortages at home.

We do not want this to happen to our fellow Singaporeans, not now and in future.

Since our independence in 1965, we have distinguished ourselves in the way we improved our life and built our nation. We are doing better, and the union leaders we met in Geneva can see that. They also wish to have what we have - full employment, low youth unemployment, and a steady increase in real wages.

Unfortunately, these are not easy to come by as some of them have found out the hard way.

As we celebrate our 47th National Day, let us value our achievements and pledge to work together to stay ahead.

The journey ahead will only get tougher, given the uncertain outlook of the world economy, slower growth and higher inflation in the medium term, and fierce competition regionally and globally.

But these challenges are not impossible to overcome.

Our economic and social foundation is sound, our young are well educated, and our workforce is well trained. Above all, our tripartite partnership is strong. If we can transform our economy and reshape our workforce better and faster than others, we can continue to enjoy shortages of workers instead of jobs, steady increase in wages instead of wage stagnation in the years to come.

Loving Singapore, Our Home holds many meanings for us to reflect upon. For the Labour Movement, it is about making Singapore a good and better place for all Singaporeans to work, live and play as one big family. There is no guarantee that Singapore will always do well. There will be ups and downs along the way. But one guarantee we can give to each other as citizens of Singapore is that, in good or bad times, we will always do our best for Singapore and give our best to our fellow Singaporeans.

Creating a better home for ourselves and our children is a journey with no end. Let's do it together and make our home – *Our Better Singapore*.

Happy 47th National Day to all!

ITF OTFG MEETING HELD IN SEACARE BUILDING



The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) held its Offshore Task Force Group (OTFG) meeting at the Seacare Building from 18 to 20 June 2012; with SOS playing the host.

The meeting was headed by Chairperson of the ITF OTFG Mr Norrie McVicar, who gave an update on OTFG activities, the Norwegian North Sea Social Dumping Campaign, a review of the Offshore Standard Collective Bargaining Agreement and the Norwegian Model Agreement.

In attendance were about 50 participants from ITF affiliated unions, Secretary of ITF Seafarers Section Mr Jon Witlow, along with SOS General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, President Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim, Vice-President Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar, Executive Secretary Mr Daniel Tan and Assistant Secretary Mr David Shoo.

Besides hosting the meeting, SOS plays a crucial role as a link between the ITF and offshore companies in Singapore. This gathering of the ITF and its affiliated unions serves a meaningful purpose and platform for delegates to strengthen relations and co-operate in addressing the challenges and keeping up with the changes in the maritime industry.







REGIONAL SEAFARERS COMMITTEE GATHER IN INDONESIA

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) held its annual Asia/Pacific Seafarers Regional Committee (APSRC) meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia from 12 to 13 June 2012. The host union was the Kasatuan Pelaut Indonesia (KPI).

The meeting, attended by some 70 delegates from 18 countries, touched on the current state of affairs in the seafaring industry, the challenges faced by respective unions in Asia and Pacific regions, as well as the economic state of the shipping industry.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the discussion on the piracy situation and armed robbery out at sea, and some effective solutions that shipping companies and seafarers could take to combat the menaces of piracy. The committee expressed genuine concern about pirate attacks against seafarers who travel around the region of Somalia, a high piracy area.

SOS General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, Vice-President Mr Mohamed Abu Bakar, Assistant Treasurer Mr David Sim, and Assistant Secretary Mr David Shoo were among the delegates. The other participants came from Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Tuvalu. Participants from the ITF Secretariat included Mr Stephen Cotton and Mr Jon Witlow from ITF London, Mr Mahendra Sharma, Mr Sangam Tripathy and Mr Nishi Kapahi from ITF India, Mr Kevin Verma from ITF Hong Kong and Mr John Wood from ITF Indonesia.

At the meeting, the delegates were given an update on the implementation status of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 in respective countries and deliberated about initiatives to promote a seafaring career to women and the younger generation. The delegates touched base on the preparations for the 43rd ITF Congress, set to take place in 2014.





GUANGZHOU DELEGATES DROP BY SOS FOR LEARNING VISIT

Six delegates from the Guangzhou Federation of Trade Unions (GZFTU) and its affiliated unions gained a better understanding of Singapore trade unionism when they made a learning visit to SOS from 17 to 18 July 2012.

SOS representatives who hosted them in Seacare Building were President Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim, Vice-President Mr Mohamed Abu Bakar, Executive Secretary Mr Daniel Tan, Assistant Secretary Mr David Shoo, Assistant Director Ms Sharon Li, and Assistant Manager Ms Shirley Lai.

The Chinese delegation, led by Ms Tang Haiying, Vice Inspector of GZTFU, was briefed on the mission and activities of SOS and Seacare Co-operative. The Seacare Hotel representatives Director of Sales Mr Vincent Ng, Senior Sales Managers Mr Peter Gaw and Ms Yvonne Teo brought the visitors for a tour of the hotel.

SOS also coordinated the Guangzhou delegates visit to e2i (Employment and Employability Institute) and the Ong Teng Cheong Labour Leadership Institute.



DISTRESSED KHORFAKKAN CREW SEEKS ASSISTANCE



For five months, the crew of Khorfakkan did not receive their wages; and they were not allowed to sign off from the vessel after completing the contract.

When SOS Vice President Mr Mohamed Abu Bakar received their distressed call, he along with the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) officials, contacted the crew and the ship's owner to mediate the situation and ensure

that compensation is made to the seafarers. In response, a representative of the ship owner assured the salary payments will be made.

The concern of maritime unions revolves around the well-being of seafarers. Thus, SOS and SMOU are working together to keep up with the situation onboard Khorfakkan, as it is crucial for a ship's crew to receive prompt payment of their wages and receive the compensation owed to them.

GOING ON A FIRST-EVER SHIP VISIT

Having only been onboard a cruise ship before, Ms Peggy Chen, a seconded staff from NTUC who is attached to SOS for six months, was eager to step onboard a merchant vessel and have a feel of seafarers' lives.

After going through a safety briefing, Ms Chen, wearing a safety helmet and a luminous vest, was all set for an eye-opening experience onboard the Singapore-flagged vessel.

She observed the importance of these ships visits as seafarers' lives onboard a vessel are usually unknown to others; and the good work of SOS in reaching out to seafarers. Even though in a male-dominated environment, she felt at ease as the crew were friendly and treated one another like family.

During a sharing session with SOS members, she saw that the SOS members were enthusiastic in finding out more about their Seafarers Provident Fund (SPF) balance and the Seafarers Medical Scheme (SMS) benefits for their families back home.



NTUC WORKSHOP TO IMPROVE MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH



New initiatives and strategies will be rolled out; new tie-ups and synergy will be harnessed to recruit and retain SOS members.

At the Growth Partnership Workshop conducted by the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) on 13 July 2012 for SOS Membership and Welfare Services Division, creative ideas on how the NTUC Membership Department (MED) can add value to SOS planning and organising process were explored.

The workshop also touched on the challenges and opportunities available for NTUC and SOS to work together to benefit the union members. Some of the recruitment initiatives suggested were tie-ups with partners and alliances

to provide better benefits. Strategies to retain members were also considered to improve the existing membership benefit scheme.

Held in conjunction with the union's monthly Membership & Welfare Services Committee meeting, the workshop aimed at sharing information on how to leverage the mutual resources between NTUC and SOS.

The workshop providers from NTUC were:

- Ms Catherine Cho, Assistant Director
- Mr Aaron Neo, Union Partnership Manager
- Mr Jack Teo, Union Partnership Specialist
- Ms Law Bee Bee, Sales and Operations Senior Specialist
- Ms Sim Pui Sze, Membership Insights, Systems & Retention Senior Specialist
- Mr Julian Lew, Membership Insights, Systems & Retention, Partnership & Alliances Assistant Director





BORA RECIPIENTS GO ON LEARNING JOURNEY TO SEOUL

Branch officials take on various capacities in industrial relations, leadership development and membership growth. Their efforts contribute to overall improvements to the Labour Movement, which the Branch Officials' Recognition Award (BORA) serves to recognise.

In the 12th BORA, 83 branch officials from 51 unions were awarded and made their BORA Overseas Learning Journey (OLJ) to Seoul, South Korea. The BORA OLJ provides opportunities for these recipients to understand the social, economic and trade union developments of the country. At the same time, these delegates form bonds and build networks.

The trip to the Ministry of Employment & Labour (MOEL), and the Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU) allowed the delegates to learn more about Korea's system to encourage employers to continue hiring matured workers. They visited factories, had a teambuilding session and took part in a short class on making kimchi, a traditional fermented Korean dish.

Relating to the Singapore context, delegates reflected on the new Retirement and Re-employment Act and the rationale behind enacting this re-employment legislation. They discussed possible recourse on resolving re-employment disputes given the complexities of the Act.

Three SOS officials received the BORA this year.

Mr Raj Moham:

- Ordinary Member of the Executive Committee
- Vice-Chairman of the Schemes Administration & Organising Committee
- Member of the External & Industrial Relations Committee
- Member of the Finance & Investments Committee
- Member of the Training, Skills & Leadership Development Committee
- Member of the Human Resource & Remuneration Committee



Mr Hong Sian Beng (pictured above):

- Member of the External & Industrial Relations Committee
- Member of the Membership & Welfare Services Committee



Mr Ishak B Ahmad Rosdi (pictured above):

- Member of the Schemes Administration & Organising Committee
- Member of the Training, Skills & Leadership Development Committee

LEARNING VISIT TO RAFFLES LIGHTHOUSE

Thirty committee members were given the chance to visit Singapore's Raffles Lighthouse on 19 July, as part of the lifelong learning curriculum organised by the SOS Training, Skills & Leadership Development Committee (TSLDC).

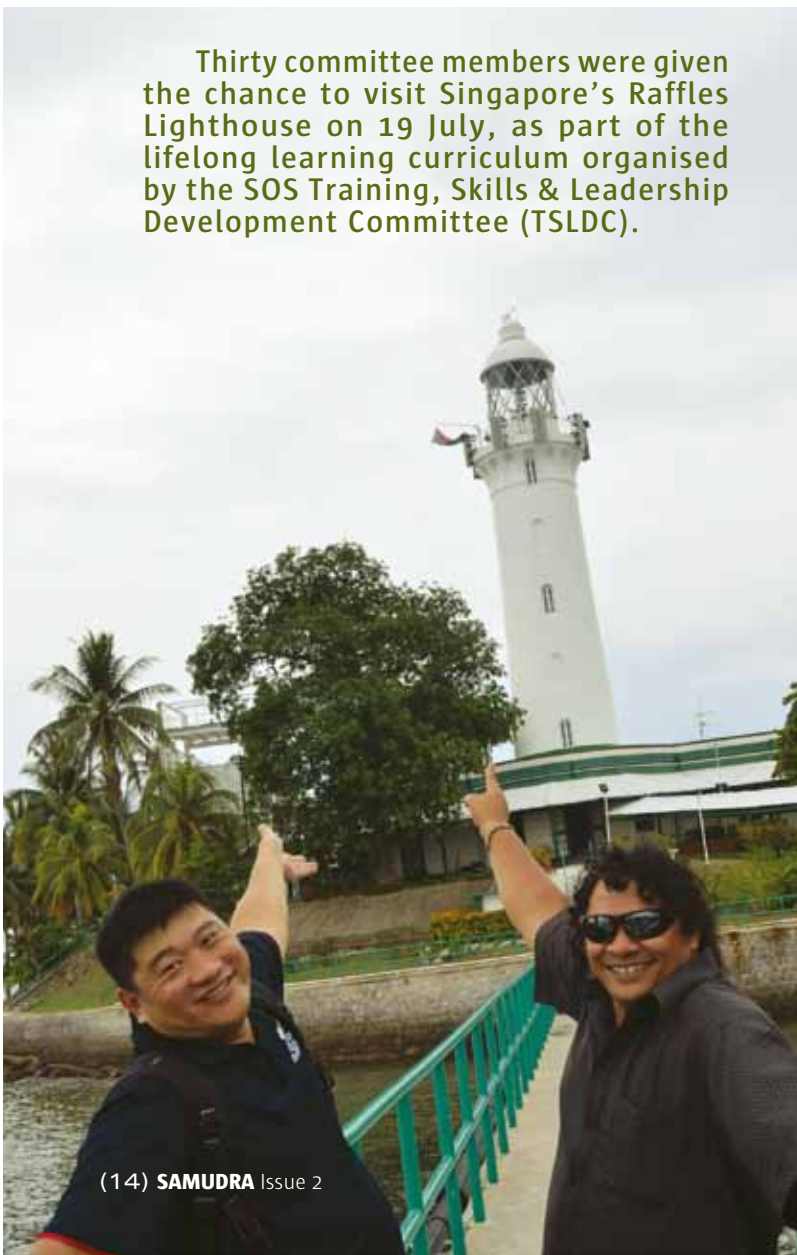
The excited entourage cruised off West Coast Ferry Terminal in ferry boats, in a 45-minute ride towards Pulau Satumu, the southernmost island of Singapore where the Raffles Lighthouse sits. Throughout the trip, participants were ushered and guided by Mr Hadi Hamidil from the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), who eagerly shared information and details about the functions and maintenance activities of the lighthouse from its construction in 1855 to present day.

"This is the first time we are going on a lighthouse tour. We think it's both educational and meaningful to gain some insight into the operations and management of the lighthouse, an essential part of the maritime trade," said Mr Loh Suan Hin, Chairman of TSLDC.



The TSLDC is a committee within SOS, which aims to educate members through shipboard training and learning visits such as this one to Raffles Lighthouse.

"The lighthouse keepers were friendly and knowledgeable, explaining to us the lighthouse's history, structure and maintenance. This trip has been a real eye



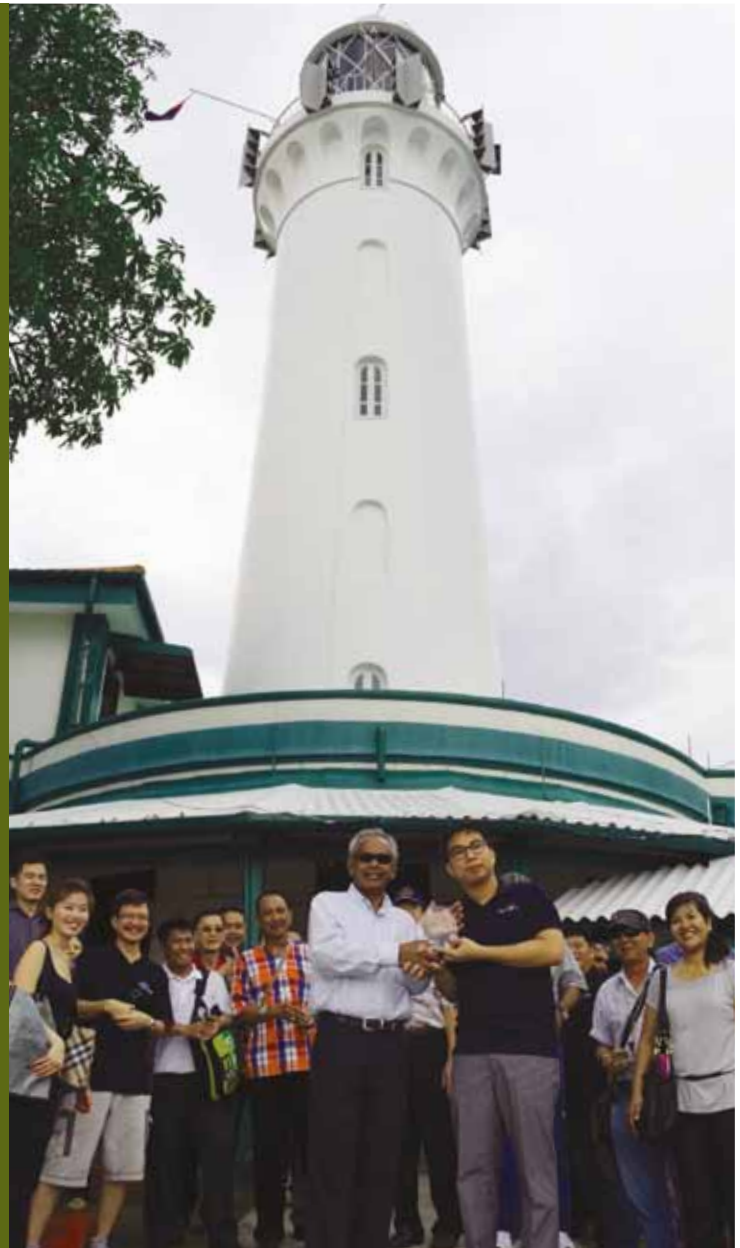
opener for me, especially since most people don't get the opportunity to visit the Singapore's lighthouses, which are off limits to members of the public," said union member Mr Ahmad Bin Hj Repahi.

Fellow participant Mr Tan Jit Wei felt that the trip was relevant and meaningful, adding it was a rare occasion to visit the lighthouse as accessibility is an issue for lighthouses based offshore.

The 10-storey Raffles Lighthouse, located 14 kilometres southwest off Singapore, is the second oldest lighthouse after Horsburgh on Pedra Branca. It was named after Sir Stamford Raffles, the founder of Singapore, and has been in operation for 157 years. According to one of its two keepers on duty, Mr Mani, the lighthouse had only basic navigation tools in the early days compared to the modern and automated technology it now uses.

During the tour, Mr Mani explained that the lighthouse has a standby rotating beacon with a visibility of 20 nautical miles, a radar beacon which provides navigational data to ships by emitting morse codes, and a Navigation Automatic Identification System (AIS) that broadcasts additional positioning information to ships. The group also completed a tour walk around the 10 hectare island, where the occasional appearance of giant sea turtles and pink dolphins have been sighted by the keepers when vessel traffic is low.

Amid cheers and applause, SOS President Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim presented a crystal plaque as token of appreciation to Mr Hadi who received it on behalf of MPA. Union leaders took the time to pose for one last group photo before departing Pulau Satumu and Raffles Lighthouse.



SMTS EQUIPS RATINGS TO EXCEL



It is no easy feat to work onboard vessels for months at a time and with fellow seafarers of various nationalities. Yet, for 41 aspiring ratings, it was their determination that motivated them to complete four weeks of training which enhanced their communications and technical skills, qualifying them to work more fittingly in the maritime industry.

The Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS) organised two trainings, Seacare Quality Ratings Training 14 and Seacare Quality Cooks Training 15, which were held from 18 June to 15 July. Held in Nantong, China, 28 trainees completed the Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute (SNIMI) courses on Maritime Technical Skill, Elementary English Course while the rest took on Basic Catering.

Maritime English, general vocabulary and conversational skills were covered in the Seacare Quality Ratings Training. On top of that, the basics of the maritime industry, including the different types of vessels, learning how to read the safety signs, and how to properly dispose garbage were also taught.



In the Seacare Quality Cooks Training 15, the ratings learnt the skills of basic catering and Maritime English. They also picked up tips on how to handle meat, seafood, vegetables, fruits, drinks and snacks, personal grooming, and general ship knowledge.

The ratings graduated from the training with good knowledge of international regulations such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution at Sea (MARPOL), International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code), Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), Port State Control (PSC), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (SOPEP), Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), and International Safety Management (ISM).

To help them better their skills, the trainers conducted an initial assessment, weekly assessments and a final assessment on the progress of the trainees' learning. This was to give them an accurate evaluation and point out their areas for improvement.



“I gained more confidence to speak in English, but I will still need more practice in listening.”

– Mr Zheng Shou Kun, 21 years old

“My vocabulary has improved, I feel that I am able to communicate more effectively now.”

– Mr Cao Xin Yu, 22 years old

“I have gained a lot more knowledge on more food ingredients, learnt new ways to design a food menu and maximise resources. This training programme has let me familiarise myself with a ship environment. I now know how to read the signs and notices, and the different functions of a vessel.”

– Mr Yong Hai Guang, 18 years old

“This course has updated me on maritime practices, the rules and regulations. I also learnt the correct way to handle food and disposal methods onboard a vessel.”

– Mr Teo Yuan Liang, 29 years old





Durian Lovers Feast Out on Malaysia Visit

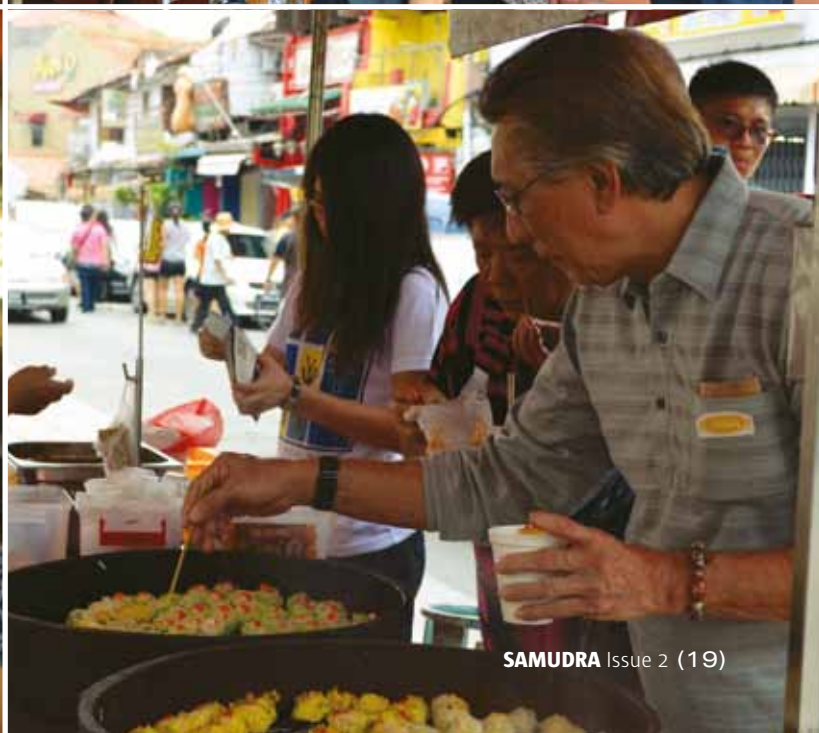
The durian season was in full swing when SOS organised its Family Outing cum Durian Trip 2012. A total of 260 members and their dependents attended the two-day one-night trip first to Johor then Malacca.

The group headed to the durian plantation located in Tangkak, Johor, where they were spoilt with an unlimited supply of durian, rambutan and mangosteen. Enthusiasts of the 'King of Fruits' circled around the durian stands where handlers were busy prying open the husks for visitors to take a whiff. Some members even enjoyed opening the durians

with their bare hands, revealing the juicy contents. Delicious was the word to describe the taste of the durians as everyone indulged in the local produce.

In Malacca, the group strolled along the famous Jonker Street and had a taste of roadside delicacies. They also visited the famous St Paul's Church and the iconic Red Square. Members and their dependants enjoyed a free and easy time on the second day before heading back to Singapore. All in all, the novel experience of combining the ever-popular Durian Trip with the SOS Family Outing proved to be a fruitful outcome for everyone.





RISING TO NEW HEIGHTS

SOS Staff Receive Promotion



Ms Tan Siew Hui
Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Finance & Investment

"With the call for greater transparency and corporate governance, we need more wisdom and diligence in all we do - especially in the area of finance. With this promotion comes greater responsibility. I thank SOS for its trust in me."



Ms Sia Ai Ngoh
Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Finance & Investment

"I am thankful to the management for giving many opportunities to learn and grow and I look forward to continue being part of such a vibrant and growing Union."



Ms Jacquelyn Lam
Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Communications

"I am very appreciative of this chance to take on higher responsibilities. I am also grateful to see that the management recognises the staff's hard work and commitment to the Union. Taking this as a form of motivation, I look forward to striving for greater heights in my career with SOS."



Mr David Shoo
Assistant Director, Membership & Welfare Services

"I greatly appreciate the trust and opportunities given to me in serving SOS and its members. This promotion serves to reaffirm my ardent commitment to the Union."



Ms Sharon Li
Assistant Director, Schemes Administration

"I'm indeed happy and thankful to SOS for giving me this opportunity. I will continue to give my best and help grow SOS!"



Ms Koh Soo Lee
Senior Manager, External & Industrial Relations

"I am really appreciative of the support and for the recognition of my abilities SOS has shown to me. This promotion spurs me on in my dedication for all our members!"



Ms Jullienne Low
Assistant Manager, Schemes Administration

"I am deeply thankful for the opportunity of growth SOS has given me. I hope to continue giving my utmost in contributing towards members!"



Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar
Senior Executive, External & Industrial Relations

"I would like to first and foremost thank SOS for the great trust they've given me. I definitely look forward to the new challenges and opportunities for growth this position will afford. Thank you again for all your help, I am truly grateful for your support."



Ms Halimahtul Saa'diah
Senior Executive, Membership & Welfare Services

"I am grateful to the management in their recognition of my abilities and effort. I am dedicated to doing my utmost best in my now-expanded job scope to help serve our members."

New SOS Women & Youth Committee Celebrates National Day with Young NTUC



The newly-formed SOS Women & Youth Committee celebrated National Day 2012 over an afternoon tea session alongside the youth arm of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), and ended the celebration as fireworks lit up the Singapore skyline.

The SOS Women and Youth committee and general branch members commemorated the nation's 47th birthday on 9 August 2012 with the first-ever afternoon tea session which took place at the Seacare Building. As they interacted over a light-hearted discussion, new bonds were built.

Decked out in either the Union's t-shirt or their red and white attires, the women and youth made their way to the Promontory @ Marina Bay, eager to indulge in the celebratory mood. Amidst the uplifting ambience, NTUC's performance arts group, p.L.a.Y! put on an energised dance presentation titled "Performing with Love". As the evening passed, delegates watched the National Day Parade via live broadcast and proudly took part in the Pledge Moment together. To end the night of merriment, candles were lit and passed on from person to person, which signified "passing on the help and warmth of NTUC".



SEACAREFOCUS



SEACAREFOCUS

SEACAREFOCUS



Hotel Acquired to be Renamed Citin Seacare Hotel

The Citin Hotel Pudu was successfully taken over on 9 August 2012 by Seacare Hospitality Pte Ltd, a fully-owned subsidiary of Seacare Properties Pte Ltd. The strategically located hotel is set to make waves at the heart of the shopping and entertainment district of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

To be renamed as Citin Seacare Hotel, the hotel lobby will be refurbished to receive a fresh look, and all 100 guest rooms will feature new furniture, beds and room amenities. The hotel operations will run as per normal alongside the revamp, which will be done in phases. It is slated to be fully ready by the third quarter of 2013.

Located opposite Kuala Lumpur's main bus terminal, Pudu Sentral, Citin Seacare Hotel boasts convenience for hotel guests. The hotel's prime location in the shopping and entertainment district means that hotspots for eating and shopping such as Bukit Bintang and Petaling Street are just within walking distances. With the Plaza Rakyat LRT station just opposite, the hotel is an easy and familiar landmark for guests to recognise as they return from a busy day of sightseeing and leisure.

A landmark moment for Seacare Hospitality – its first landmark in Malaysia.





Keeping Fit with a Weekly Run

As the evening sets in and the work day dwindles down, The Seacare Hotel staff gear up in their running attire and shoes. Every Thursday, the sporty ones gather in the courtyard and get their muscles warmed up for The Seacare Hotel's weekly run.

The evening jog takes place along the Singapore River, and is gaining popularity. Initiated by Senior Sales Manager, Mr Peter Gaw, the run started out with a small group of runners to involving the entire The Seacare Hotel team. The weekly bustle has drawn the attention of SOS and other Seacare staff who are looking for running companions.

"I think the run is a great opportunity for our staff to bond and strengthen team spirit. Running also helps to improve our health, especially with today's busy work-life."

– Mr Francis Choo,
General Manager of The Seacare Hotel

"The run is quite exciting – I look forward to it, as well as the friendships that are strengthened during the light-hearted jog."

– Ms Yvonne Teo,
Senior Sales Manager of The Seacare Hotel



WATERTECH GETS GLOBAL PLATFORM AT WORLD CITIES SUMMIT



From first impressions, a largely unexplored region would seem like an unlikely location for investment opportunities. Yet, with a sharp business acumen and courage to break new ground, WaterTech ventured into the Heilongjiang province in China about a year ago.

Besides strengthening its gains in the water industry, the WaterTech Group partnered cgnArchitects, Lee Kim Tah Group, and other SMEs in Singapore, to help the local government of Fujin City, Heilongjiang Province develop the first phase of the Heilongjiang (Fujin) International Safe Food Industrial Park. This important Provincial Level Industrial Park project of Heilongjiang, China, is WaterTech's first assignment in China to lead a consortium of Singapore SMEs to help execute and manage the development of the International Safe Food Park and Riverside City development to complement the industrial development. In doing so, WaterTech has made its debut in expanding her business horizon into urban development. Concurrently, WaterTech is exploring to work with the government on the city's water treatment plants as part of the environmental infrastructure development of the city.

One of the most important tasks was for WaterTech to draw the attention of international food manufacturers and industrialists to consider entering the Heilongjiang market, and to bring in investments by strategic investors.

World Cities Summit and its associated international conferences provided such a platform for WaterTech to introduce

the Industrial Park to the international market. With the support of the Fujin Government and working with SPRING Singapore and Sma, WaterTech made its presence at the Expo of the World Cities Summit. Held from 1 - 4 July at the Marina Bay Sands, WaterTech set up an exhibition under the Sma Pavilion to showcase the Heilongjiang (Fujin) International Safe Food Industrial Park and Riverside Development Project.

WaterTech highlighted to interested food companies and potential investors who came to the booth to meet with the Fujin government officials, the advantages for locating food manufacturing /processing and the related industries in the Heilongjiang (Fujin) International Safe Food Industrial Park. Among the advantages presented, were Fujin's abundance of food materials, Fujin's geographical advantage, its pristine natural environment and its world-class modern infrastructure to support the development of the Industrial Park.

The exhibition offered an important opportunity for investors to understand the project better and in greater detail. Companies with interest in exploring business opportunities in Fujin were able to meet and discuss directly with Mr Zhou Hong, Party Secretary of Fujin City.

During the Summit, Mr Lau Wah Ming, Watertech Group CEO and Mr Zhou Hong spoke at a Networking Lunch Reception at the Expo Hall to an audience of food manufacturers and other interested investors.



Other Fujin officials were present to lend their support. They included Mr Gu Baoqiang, Bureau Chief, Fujin Finance Bureau; Mr Zhang Fengqi, Head, Heilongjiang (Fujin) International Safe Food Industrial Park Development Committee; Mr Gu Lixin, Head, Office of Fujin Investment Project Construction; and Mr Geng Zhe, Bureau Chief, Fujin Economic Planning Bureau.

The World Cities Summit is jointly organised by Centre for Liveable Cities and The Urban Redevelopment Authority. The Summit is a global platform for government leaders and industry experts to address challenges of making cities liveable and sustainable, share innovative urban projects and forge partnerships. It enable delegates to network with an even wider group of public and private sector players and discover synergies between urban planning, water and environmental solutions.





Getting To

Seacare Manpower Services organises

To be better at anything, whether it is for your career, relationships, health or leadership, the key is to know yourself. A famous American football coach said, "You can't improve on something you don't understand. The more questions you ask yourself, the better you'll know yourself."

Some 50 Seacare Manpower staff were serious enough to improve the quality of their lives and to live to the best of their potential, by attending a Personal Development Programme held on 15 June 2012. The workshop, conducted by Mr Ernest Chen, a renowned public speaker, focused on developing the personal leadership skills of participants.





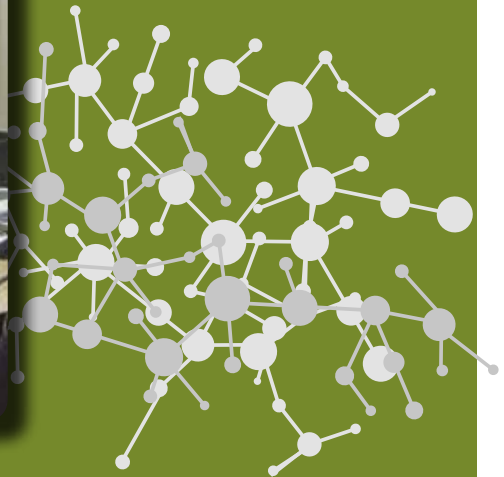
Know Me

Personal Development Programme

During the workshop, Seacare Manpower staff asked themselves serious questions, with the purpose of understanding themselves, their thought habits and limitations and examining their goals and dreams in life. One of the highlights included taking a personality profile test of themselves. By understanding more about their personality, participants began to appreciate their own personality, their unique identity and learnt how to deal with their shortcomings to achieve personal success as leaders.

Among the personal skills that were taught was the art of listening. Mr Chen explained that listening differs from hearing, as a person has to pay actual attention to what he is listening to. Listening correctly to ideas, suggestions or feedback, would help them have a better handle on themselves and on others in different situations, and thus improve on their communication skills.





SEACARE MANPOWER TRAINS ICT PERSONNEL FOR FAST-CHANGING INDUSTRY

Seacare Manpower held the first-ever Information Communication Technology (ICT) training on 12 June 2012. Conducted by Mr Paul Cheong, Senior Manager of the ICT Division, Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd, the training's purpose was to disseminate information on the benefits of being ICT personnel and get staff ready to face the challenges the industry offers. Assisting Mr Cheong were two other trainers Mr Praveen Prakash and Mr Pyia Phyo.

Seacare Manpower provides ICT personnel to schools and organisations to provide IT support. The training prepares personnel to face the rapid changes in the IT support industry, and as demand for IT knowledge increases, so does the skills and knowledge expected from support staff. As participants interacted with each other during the training, the time spent together sought to foster a closer working relationship among co-workers.





Back row (L-R): Paul Cheong (Trainer), Praveen Prakash (Trainer), Dandabani, Wang Wen Wei, Pyia Phyo @ Mike (Trainer), Aung Phyo Min @ Kelvin, Francis Wong Kin Kok, Dennis Yeo Cheng Xiang, George Wong, Patrick Teo Wee Pin, Gregory Tan, Albert Lai, Tay Cheng Yong, Urwin Ng, Mohamed Yazid Bin Gani, Mohamed Fadi Bin Mahmood, Phua Yong Peng
Front row (L-R): Chua Tian Ser, Johnny Sim, Evelyn Siow, Tan Xiao Xi, Marianny Binte Zanis Mohamed, Desiree Chan, Serene Lee, Noryusman Bin Abdul Majid





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