

June + July 2004

# samudra

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

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## Together, A New Singapore

June + July 2004

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# “I will do my utmost to serve...”

On 12 August 2004, Mr Lee Hsien Loong was sworn in as Singapore’s new Prime Minister.

Singaporeans from different backgrounds, representing the diversity and richness of country, made their way to the ceremony held at the Istana. The guests included community leaders and national servicemen, teachers and nurses, hawkers and taxi-drivers, business leaders and artists, and many more.

Describing the occasion as one that belonged to all Singaporeans, Mr Lee said:

“We are one nation together, building a future for ourselves and our people. As we prosper, all communities will progress and no one will be left behind. We will look after the less educated and the elderly who have helped build Singapore. And we must also have a place in our hearts and our lives for the disabled, who are our brothers and sisters too.”



I am deeply honoured to be sworn in as the Prime Minister of Singapore. I am grateful for your support, and will do my utmost to serve you and Singapore.

**PM Lee Hsien Loong**

In his speech delivered at the Istana, Mr Lee spoke about his reason for entering politics and topics that are close to his heart – from the need to build an open and inclusive Singapore to adapting to a changing world and writing the next chapter together.

Two days before the swearing in ceremony, the then Prime Minister designate Mr Lee named 20 ministers to his new Cabinet. Mr Lee opted to retain his post as Finance Minister while outgoing Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong takes on the position of Senior Minister, and Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

Singapore’s outgoing Senior Minister, Lee Kuan Yew takes on a new role as Minister Mentor.

Mr Lee has also named Dr Tony Tan, and Professor S Jayakumar as his deputy Prime Ministers. Both are long serving members of the cabinet with a wealth of experience between them. Prof Jayakumar retains his Law Ministry portfolio while Dr Tan retains his post as Coordinating Minister for Security and Defence.

The cabinet was sworn in on 12 August 2004.

# Singapore can fly Higher and Further

This is what I am proudest of, my fellow Singaporeans, this fighting spirit, the character of our people, our strong bond and social cohesion.

**Mr Goh Chok Tong**



In his last National Day Message as the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Goh Chok Tong said that serving the country 'has been the highest honour' of his life.

"I have had the privilege of leading Singapore. I could not have shouldered the responsibility alone," said Mr Goh who went on to thank Singaporeans, his Cabinet colleagues, Members of Parliament and PAP for their support.

He noted that though Southeast Asia was struck by the Asian Financial crisis, September 11, terrorism, SARS and economic recession, Singaporeans did not throw up our hands in despair. He commented:

"We rallied and fought back. We worked and grew our economy again. And together we defeated SARS. It was a frightening time. A good number of our loved ones died. This was my saddest moment in government.

But our collective response to SARS and other crises strengthened my confidence in Singapore's future."

In his speech, Mr Goh pointed out that the responsibility of taking Singapore further will rest on the shoulders of the next generation of leaders. He shared key lessons which he had learnt over the past 14 years.

## **First Critical Factor**

Singapore's future depends on the commitment of its people to the country.

## **Second Critical Factor**

To keep Singapore going is trust – the trust between the different communities and the trust between the people and the Government.

## **Third Critical Factor**

Singapore's future success depends on the quality of national leadership.

The new team, he said, will face different and tougher challenges ahead. The world has become more uncertain. The global economic environment will be more competitive. "We must expect lower-skilled jobs to migrate to lower-cost countries. Older, less-educated workers will have to be retrained," he pointed out.

Mr Goh stressed that he was leaving the office of Prime Minister at a time of his own choosing. "I do so with full confidence about Singapore's future. We may meet the occasional storm but we will pull through.

I am confident about Hsien Loong and his team. They are ready to take our nation to a new level."

Mr Goh, however, added the leaders cannot do that on their own. They will need the people's full support and active participation to fly Singapore to greater heights.



# Tribute to Mr Goh Chok Tong

I am indebted to Mr Goh for his guidance and support through these years as colleague, friend and mentor. As Prime Minister, Mr Goh has fulfilled his promise to keep Singapore thriving and growing. But he has done much more. He built a strong team, involved Singaporeans in the issues which affected all of us, and brought us all closer together.

Today's Singapore is quite different from the country that Mr Goh took over in 1990. It still bears the imprint of Lee Kuan Yew and the founder generation, but it has grown and matured with Mr Goh's softer touch. Today's Singapore is more vibrant and open, more resilient and cohesive. It is in sync with the times, and ready for tomorrow's challenges. In his own ways, Mr Goh has transformed Singapore.

On behalf of all Singaporeans, I thank Mr Goh Chok Tong for his sterling and selfless service to the nation, and for his lasting contributions to Singapore as Prime Minister.

**PM Lee Hsien Loong**

# Creating New Jobs and New Skills for the New Economy



NTUC Secretary-General Mr Lim Boon Heng, said that the main tasks of the new Cabinet, unveiled by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Aug 10, would be to ensure continued economic growth in the higher value-added sectors and to ensure that Singaporeans have the skills to fit into the new jobs created.

The challenge, thus, would be to ensure that Singapore's education policies produce the kind of workers that this new economy requires.

To achieve this, it is necessary to train and retrain existing workers so that they can also benefit from these new industries, said Mr Lim, who retains his portfolio as Minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

“We will also help those who are less skilled and unable to upgrade their skills for the knowledge-intensive industries into other jobs such as in the domestic services sector.”

Another area that the new Government will focus on is to further strengthen Singapore's security, both in terms in dealing with terrorism and other forms of security.

On the incoming NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Lim Swee Say, who is slated to take over the labour movement's top post in two to three years, Mr Lim commented: “As Prime Minister mentioned on May 1, Swee Say will come in to re-establish his links with the union leaders and slowly take over from me. So I hope the process will be completed in two or three years' time,” he said.

## Lim Swee Say returns to NTUC



“I look forward to catching up with the unions and labour movement as a whole and to fully integrate myself into this big NTUC family again.”

I hope to spend as little time in the office, and devote more time walking the ground, working with our unionists.”

Said Mr Lim Swee Say, NTUC Deputy Secretary General. Mr Lim, who had previously served as Deputy Secretary-General from 1996 to 1999, also holds the appointment of Second Minister for National Development and Minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

He pointed out that most of his time would be devoted to the labour movement. “I have sought Minister Mah Bow Tan's endorsement to spend 75 per cent of my time at NTUC and 25 per cent at the National Development Ministry.”

# Shipping industry unites to back security and seafarers' shore leave

A press release issued by the ITF on 14 July 2004 states that a worldwide coalition of seafarers' trade unions and shipowners' organisations will join together in September to back maritime security and the need to facilitate the provision of shore leave for seafarers.

United Nations agency the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) has chosen Maritime Security as the theme of this year's World Maritime Day, to be held on 30 September 2004.

On that day seafarers, their employers and their trade unions will come together to ask governments to allow mariners the hard earned rest that they enjoy from stepping ashore - sometimes after weeks confined on board ships at sea. All concerned will join to back the day's aim of encouraging improved security and to remind governments - especially the United States - that this is best achieved by working together, not by treating visiting seafarers as potential terrorists. All participants have agreed that "enhanced security will be achieved by cooperation not by confrontation".

On 30 September seafarers' and shipowners' bodies will lobby governments, including that of the USA, plus the heads of the relevant United Nations agencies such as IMO and ILO.

ITF General Secretary David Cockroft explained: The world of shipping is united in its concern that innocent seafarers are being treated like terrorists. Bizarrely, this is happening just as the new ISPS (International Ship and Port Facility Security) Code has recognised their vital role at the heart of maritime security. Shore leave is essential for the physical and mental health of seafarers and for both maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment. We understand the very legitimate security concerns of the USA, but will continue to explain to the many legislators there who are evaluating this issue with sympathy and understanding that it is in that nation's best interests to welcome seafarers and back them in their new responsibilities.

He continued: "The entire shipping industry is coming together to fight the corner of the thousands of seafarers around the world who are being denied the feeling of solid ground beneath their feet, sometimes after many weeks at sea. They - and we - are committed to safe and secure seas, and intend to use World Maritime Day to draw attention to this important issue."

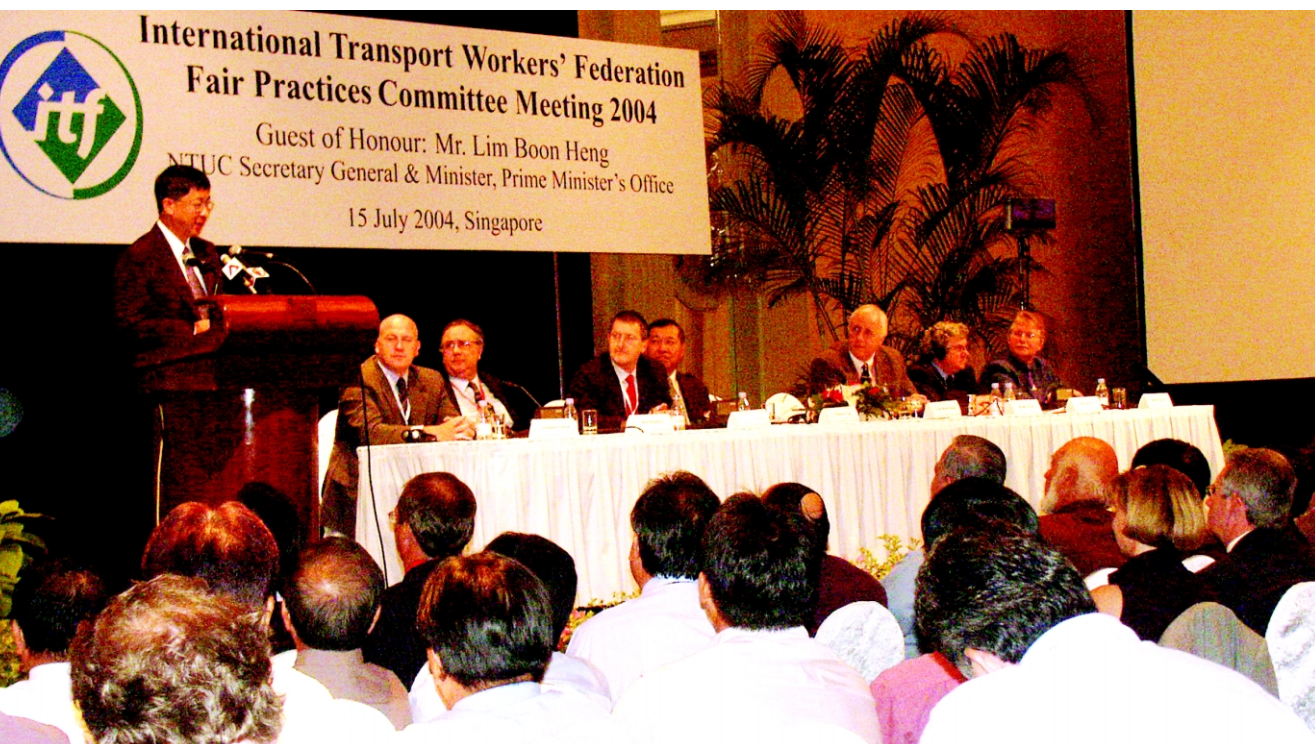




From 12 to 16 July 2004, more than 250 International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) leaders and representatives from 116 unions and affiliates were in Singapore for a series of fruitful ITF meetings.

The event was hosted by Singapore Port Workers' Union, Port Officers' Union, Singapore Maritime Officers' Union, National Transport Workers' Union and Singapore Organisation of Seamen.

# Ratify and Comply Labour Standards



Let us continue to work together to harness the benefits of globalisation to bring a better standard of living to workers all over the world.

**Lim Boon Heng**

The labour movement will continue to do its part to urge and assist the government to ratify more conventions.

Being an active member of the ILO, Singapore fully supports the International Labour Organisation's work in promoting internationally recognised labour standards. The government is committed to ratify more conventions. It has always exercised great care to ensure that it can comply fully with what it plans to ratify.

Mr Lim Boon Heng, NTUC Secretary-General, and Minister in Prime Minister's office said this at the Opening of the ITF Fair Practices Committee meeting on 15 July 2004. This was the first time the ITF Fair Practices Committee Meeting was held in Asia.

He also made known his support for the effort of the ITF Seafarers' Section Committee, in its Seafarers' Section Day of Action, to promote the ratification of ILO Convention No. 185 on Seafarers' Identity Documents; and shore leave for seafarers and transit to and from ships.

On the ISPS code which has come into effect since 1 July 2004, Mr Lim said that he was pleased to note that Singapore has fully complied with the code introduced by IMO in 2002 to help enhance maritime security through mandatory security plans. He said:

"Singapore will spare no effort in our defence against terrorism. We will continue to implement the necessary measures that will give our port and ships more protection against terrorism and work together with Malaysia and Indonesia to step up security at this strategic waterway. We will also work with other nations in a global effort to tackle maritime terrorism and enhance security in the Straits."

In his speech, Mr Lim also highlighted the impact of globalisation and outlined the union's role. He pointed out that in the developed economies, one strategy must be the continuing training and retraining of workers, to raise their skills level so that they can be more productive. Employers will then find that it is worthwhile to pay a premium price for labour.

Besides assisting and encouraging local seamen to retrain and upgrade themselves for a competitive employment market, "our unions went one step further," he added.

One of the examples Mr Lim cited was SOS. He said that SOS set up the Seacare Co-operative in May 1994 with the mission "to help and benefit Singapore seamen and their families through more work opportunities and appropriate investment projects".

The setting up of Seacare was a killing-two-birds-with-one-stone-effort, that is, to help its members and itself. It is a source of income for the union, and at the same time an effective agency to help seafarers find jobs, be it at sea or on shore.



Singapore is a place our delegates are happy to spend time in. Not only because it is a beautiful city with good food, but because it is a country where union employers and government uphold the principles of tripartism and social dialogue which the ITF's member unions want to see spread throughout the world.

**David Cockroft, ITF General Secretary**



# Fanning the Flame of



Transport Minister Mr Yeo Cheow Tong, mingled and touched base with ITF General Secretary Mr David Cockroft and the some 250 ITF meetings participants at a reception cocktail hosted by the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore, Singapore Organisation of Seamen and Seacare at the Shangri-la Hotel on 14 July 2004.

The reception provided the perfect avenue for the unionists and guests from over 60 countries to exchange ideas and name cards and fan the flame of international solidarity.

Mr Matthias Yao, NTUC Deputy Prime Minister, was the event's special guest. In his speech, he emphasised the importance of tripartism.

"In Singapore, tripartism and social dialogue is the driving force behind Singapore's economic and social developments. We try to achieve a unity of purpose and a shared vision among the tripartite partners, that is:



- to keep Singapore attractive to investors so as to create jobs;
- to keep businesses profitable so as to retain jobs;
- to ensure safe and satisfactory working conditions to protect the well being of the workers; and
- to achieve economic growth so that all workers can enjoy a higher wages and better living standards.



We also believe that our wages must be flexible but fair, and must be linked to productivity growth and profitability."



# International Solidarity

Singapore, he said, faces immense challenges as it moves forward.

"The trade union movement in Singapore, has played, and will continue to play an active role in helping to create a climate that is conducive to economic growth and the up-skilling and re-skilling of the workforce to take on the new jobs that are created, whilst ensuring that those who are at the margins and who fall through the gaps have adequate protection and safety nets."

**Matthias Yao**, NTUC Deputy Prime Minister



# SOS offers Special Training Assistance

In an unprecedented move, SOS offers to pay the fees to course providers on behalf of members who are in need of financial assistance.

Under the Training Grant Benefit, SOS members have to pay the fees to course providers before the course commences, and then claim from the Union after the completion of the course. Some members, due to their financial constraints, cannot afford to pay the initial fees. They miss out on upgrading their skills even when the training courses are heavily subsidized by the Union. SOS has stepped in to help this group of members by offering to pay the fees before the course commences.

The plight of this group of members was first highlighted in a dialogue session with SOS General Secretary Mr Leow Ching Chuan. The Union Chief then gave the assurance that he would personally look into the situation and to provide assistance.

This Special Training Assistance is the fulfillment of his promise.

“We do not want any of our paid-up members to miss out on the opportunity to train. We heard and understood the needs of our members. Therefore, we decided to take another step forward to make training even more possible for them, Mr Leow said.”

The assistance is made available to paid-up members (exclude AL) with at least one year SOS membership who genuinely requires financial help. For now, it applies to the following modules in the Basic Safety Training Course leading to STCW 95 certification conducted by the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) and Seacare Thrift Pte Ltd:

- i. **Personal Survival Techniques** (Course Fee: S\$262.50)
- ii. **Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting** (Course Fee: S\$315.00)
- iii. **Elementary First Aid** (Course Fee: S\$78.75)
- iv. **Personal Safety & Social responsibility** (Course Fee: S\$157.50)

Application shall be subject to approval by the Welfare & Community Services Committee on a case-to-case basis.

Application Procedure:	
Step 1: Member to complete and submit the following to the SOS Training Division: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Course application form.</li><li>• SOS Training Grant Application form.</li><li>• SOS Financial Assistance Undertaking.</li></ul>	<b>Important notes to member</b> <i>Upon receipt of course schedule from Union, it is the member's responsibility to take note of the schedule and to attend and complete the course dutifully.</i>
Step 2: Applicant will be informed by the Union on the course schedule.	<i>Training allowance will only be disbursed during collection of certificates from Union's office.</i>
Step 3: After completion of course, member will be informed of the result and the collection of certificate.	<b>Penalty:</b> The member shall undertake to reimburse the Union the full course fee should he fail to obtain certification. The member shall be barred from enjoying further Training Grant Benefit for a period of 2 years should he fail to fulfil this undertaking.

# Revision of Courses for June 2004 under Schedule 2 and 3

## **SCHEDULE 2 - SEAFARING RELATED COURSE**

There is no deletion and addition of the courses

## **SCHEDULE 3 - NON-SEAFARING RELATED COURSE**

### **A] Deletion**

Course Provider -

NTUC Computer Dept

1. Adobe Pagemaker

Fee - \$75 / 18hrs /

Level-Intermediate

No longer conducting.

### **B] Addition**

Course Provider -

NTUC Computer Dept

IC3 - Internet and Computing

Core Certification

1. IC3 - Computing

Fundamentals

Fee - \$28 / 18hrs Level-Intermediate

2. IC3 - Key Applications

Fee-\$28 / 18hrs Level - Intermediate

3. IC3 - Living Online

Fee - \$28 / 18hrs Level - Intermediate

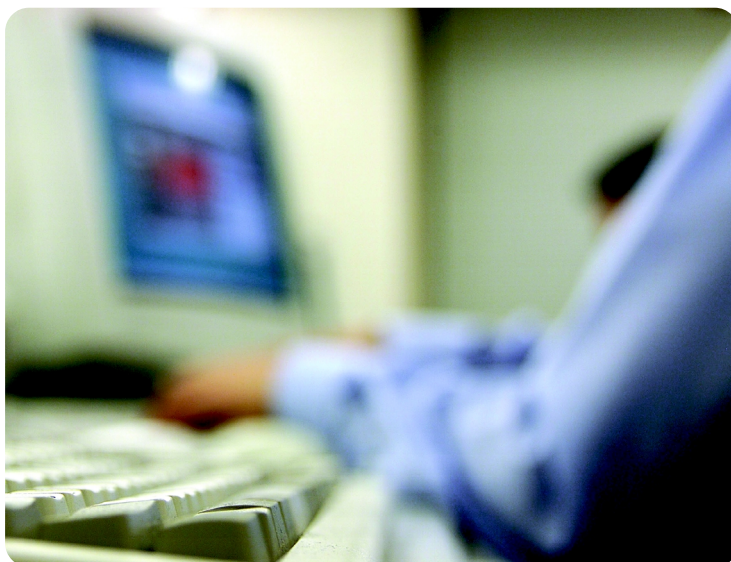
### **System Administration / Networking**

1. Fundamentals in Unix

Fee - \$635 Exam - \$377 / 70hrs Level - Advanced

2. CompTIA Security

Fee - \$680 Exam - \$387 / 35hrs Level - Advanced



For enquiries, please contact **Ms Mariana Angel** at **6379 5671** or email to [angel\\_mariana@seacare.com.sg](mailto:angel_mariana@seacare.com.sg).



# Community Development - A Union Movement that Cares



The tough times may soon be over, but the Community Development programme has a reminder for busy workers: Don't forget your needy counterparts.

Over a three-day period from 29 to 31 July 2004, NTUC Community Development Department (CMD) Committee members were away at Bangkok Thailand for a learning retreat. SOS Welfare & Community Services Committee Secretary Mr Mohd Abu Bakar, also a member of the NTUC Community Development Department (CMD) Committee, participated in the retreat too. The theme for the retreat was "Care More and Share More".

The Committee shared and discussed their vision and plans, which included, **A caring and active trade union movement", "Support community projects of deserving causes" and "Fund raising for charities of worthy causes."**

In line with its aim to encourage more people to volunteer this year, the Community Development Department is joining hands with the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre and National Council of Social Service (NCSS) to promote volunteering opportunities. They will be organising training workshops for unions and volunteers, for instance in volunteer management system and counselling.

In all, it was time well-spent for a worthwhile cause. All members left the retreat enriched and motivated to push for higher targets and to contribute their part for the needy.



Get ready to fight waves, wrestle fierce waters, manoeuvre daredevil moves and ride through gravity-defying stunts at the latest brand new Water Theme Park, Wild Wild Wet!

The park, NTUC Club's latest development, was officially launched with a great splash on 1 August 2004 by Mr Lim Boon Heng, Secretary-General of NTUC. Located at Downtown East in cool and breezy Pasir Ris, this latest addition will complement the venue's existing Escape Theme Park, an outdoor amusement park, which made its debut in 2000.

Said Mr Lim: "I am proud to say that Downtown East has lived up to the expectations and has continued to fulfil this role by staying relevant to the labour movement and Singaporeans... Despite all the new attractions, many of the fringe activities that are organised at Downtown East are either free or heavily subsidised to ensure that the average Singaporean can have access to high quality entertainment at affordable prices."

Echoing Mr Lim was Mr Chng Hee Kok, CEO of NTUC Club: "This marks our continuing efforts to make Downtown East a resort of choice for Singaporeans and tourists alike. As a club that was set up to provide value-for-money and lifestyle services to Singaporeans, we are constantly seeking fresh opportunities to increase the range of facilities we have on offer. We see the water theme park as a meaningful undertaking for the club, especially in a country like Singapore, given our climate and the out-going and fun-seeking nature of Singaporeans."

What is more exciting is that Wild Wild Wet now features, possibly one of the first water park in the region, if not the world, to use a contactless smart card for entrance into the park as well as for purchase of food, beverages and even rental of lockers and floats.

Wild Wild Wet has selected five highlights to recommend to visitors. They are:

#### **The Sidewinder**

First of its kind in Singapore, The Sidewinder has a broad valley-like curve, which will appeal to extreme sport enthusiasts. Its challenging and gravity-defying ride will send riders up and down and side to side in a huge float, which can take up to two people each time.

#### **Professor's Playground**

Yet another ride making its debut in Singapore is the Professor's Playground. This three-storied high structure has five different slides visitors can slide off from, promising to give everyone a refreshing good time. With the option to waddle and soak in the Fun Pool or cool off under cascading water from a giant bucket, which can dispense up to 6000 litres of water, this ride is bound to be a favourite!

#### **Ular-lah and The Waterworks**

Shaped like a giant human eating snake, Ular-lah is the first in South East Asia. This 12.1-metre high ride can accommodate up to six persons per raft, allowing them to course through the waters as they collide head on with exciting turns, bumps and dips much like a real life white-water rafting experience! Complete with full 360-degree spins and high-banked corners, this is one intense ride visitors will not want to miss.

Also part of the same physical structure is the Waterworks, which are two separate rides in spiral-like tube slides. The ride in each tube is of a different intensity, thanks to the varying radii of its curves. Visitors can either choose to enter the completely covered tube for a greater sense of adventure, or the one that is exposed on top to catch a glimpse of the spectacular water theme park while they continue through the adrenaline-pumping ride. Ooh-la la!

#### **Tsunami**

As the name suggests, experience the thrill of waves like those in the open seas. Varying strengths of waves are simulated, suitable for all in the family to enjoy the coolness of the water while basking in the tropical heat. Sizzling hot!

#### **Shiok River**

The less adventurous water baby can also bask in the warmth of the sun on a float or revitalise their spirits with a cool dip in this 335 metre long and 1 metre-deep winding pool, which will traverse the perimeter of Ular-Lah, the Waterworks, Professor's Playground and Yippee. Visitors will relish just drifting along, forgetting the worries of real world. Well, be sure to bring yourself back though!

Since it's opening in June, more than 100,000 visitors have stopped by for some splashing good fun. Are you one of the remaining who has yet to come? Be there, be wet or be square!

UNION members will soon get a new NTUC card that not only identifies them better, but also gives them a chance to earn more LinkPoints and allows for easier redemption at more outlets.

The NTUC card will replace the current NTUC Link card, and all union members will get theirs between mid-August to November, before the card is officially launched on December 1. The current silver Link card, meanwhile, will be re-branded as the "Max card".

replacing the current CashCard system in which LinkPoints are stored on smart chips embedded in the cards. This opens up a host of opportunities for more LinkPoints and better rewards for union members. "Union members will stand to gain from this initiative, as it gives us better control of the LinkPoints system to ensure greater equity," explained NTUC Link General Manager Ryan Cheong. "The new system also enables us to resolve the problem of 'free-riders'."

# New NTUC Link to be Introduced

Jointly driven by NTUC Link and NTUC's Membership Department (MED), the initiative aims to create a stronger branding for union membership and also to introduce more and better services for members.

NTUC Assistant Secretary-General Seng Han Thong described the move as a good step forward for union membership. Many people who are holding the NTUC silver Link card, he observed, think that they are NTUC union members.

"They do not realise that they are missing out on the many benefits for union members, such as group insurance, FairPrice rebates, workplace protection and advice, and many other discounts or rebates at the NTUC co-operatives and more than 60 establishments," he was quoted as saying in an interview.

But the new NTUC card aims to change this, along with the distinctive identity and branding that it is establishing for NTUC union membership. "Union members can look forward to the fresh and improved look of the new union card, which is in line with the forward-looking nature of our labour movement," said Mr Seng, the union membership Programme Director.

## What's in it for me?

The new NTUC card offers several advantages over the current Link card, which has been in use for the past six years.

To begin with, union members will no longer need to replace their membership cards every five years, as the new card has no expiry date.

A new magnetic-stripe online system is also used to award LinkPoints via a backend server system,

The new system will be integrated with NTUC FairPrice's Point-of-Sale system, which helps to cut down processing time at the queues for purchases.

## Speedier replacement of cards

Lost cards can also be replaced more easily from now on. The new NTUC card's magnetic-stripe takes a much shorter time to be produced compared to the CashCard system, which has to be done via Nets.

Currently, new union members have to wait four to six weeks before they get their membership cards. With the new system, the Membership Department expects the wait to be shortened to one to two weeks. Lost cards will likewise be replaced more quickly. "Union members enjoy a host of benefits through the membership card. With the new system, members will be able to get the replacement card in a much shorter time frame," said MED Director Neo Gim Kian.

## Earning and Redeeming of LinkPoints

What is more wonderful is that now members are able to earn LinkPoints from retailers with Physical Stores such as FairPrice, and even retailers without physical presence such as the purchase of Income Policy!

Coupled with that, NTUC has made it even more convenient for members to redeem their LinkPoints. Apart from usual means of redemption such as through retail outlets via iPOS, members can now make their redemption through retail outlets via terminals dialing back to back-end host, and even online redemptions at [www.linkpoints.com.sg](http://www.linkpoints.com.sg)! This will allow maximum convenience and redemption options!

## Any more good news?

The launching of the new NTUC LinkCard will absolutely be of no hassle to members.



# LinkPoints

make your point.

## Card



Inside:  
Your Perks Start Here.  
Lifestyle enhancing  
benefits. Surprises to  
keep you earning  
more points!

LinkPoints will automatically be transferred from members' existing Gold LinkCard to your new NTUC Card, hence saving you the trouble of physical points transfer or terminating of your current accumulated points.

Let us all wait in eager anticipation for that much-awaited card that not only can put you ahead of others, but more importantly, a card that you can truly call your own!

\* If the cards do not reach you on time,

- a) Contact your Union
- b) Contact NTUC Call Centre at 6213 8008
- c) Walk in to NTUC Customer Service Centre.

(For more information, you can approach the above-mentioned means, or visit [www.ntuc.org.sg](http://www.ntuc.org.sg))

\*\* One month before expiry, NTUC Link representatives at FairPrice outlets will allow members who have not received the new cards, to update their address and contact numbers.





# Irresistable Durian Feast

Who could resist the temptation of durians? Well a hundred and twenty members certainly couldn't! The pilgrimage to the durian feast took place on 31 July 2004. Members gathered bright and early in the morning and took three coaches to make their way to the durian haven, Desaru Fruit Farm. To make the deal sweeter, SOS members were not just treated to sumptuous durian buffet, but they got to feast on other mouth-salivating tropical fruits too!



After satisfying their tummies, they proceeded next to Johor Bahru to satisfy their shopping urge. Everyone was engaged in some gleeful shopping before proceeding to a local restaurant for dinner.

All too soon, everyone had to bid a reluctant goodbye to their thorny love and wonderful day spent in Malaysia, and already, many are counting the days down to the next feast!





Seacare welcomes two of the newest staff on board, accounts executives Wong Ming Yee and Nurul Huda Abdullah.

Ming Yee and Nurul joined Seacare in April and June respectively.

Ming Yee was previously doing reinsurance and reckoned that she was yearning to try a new industry and a new work environment. Being an accounts executive with Seacare certainly has proven her decision right. **"I am glad I made the switch! I am entrusted with more responsibilities now, with a higher level of involvement and that has given me a greater sense of satisfaction."**

Challenges are certainly part and parcel of the job. There are deadlines to meet, but according to Ming Yee, the pressure is still manageable.

## Welcome Ming Yee and Nurul

Ming Yee has this to say: "The people here are great and they do not hesitate to help whenever we face hiccups along the way. They have been patient and friendly, and for that, I am very thankful."

Twenty-three year old Nurul has had prior experience handling this job. "I had previously worked temporarily for Seacare Evolution for four months. The experience was wonderful! I was given many opportunities and much exposure, and that prompted me to come back here."

Her thirst of knowledge has spurred her quest for education. She is currently pursuing her ACCA part-time and if all goes well, she will be able to complete her studies by next year.

**"I learn new things everyday, and that has kept me on my toes. While others do routine and mundane jobs, my responsibilities can range from issuing quotations and client servicing to being in charge of training students on attachment. This is the type of exposure and excitement that I look forward to."** Nurul gamely responded.

Indeed, judging by their grateful smiles, anyone could tell that both ladies are at ease and pleased to have joined the big Seacare family. Welcome aboard!





# Members' Night

When: 26 July 2004

Where: Club@52



## Members' Corner

*Our heartiest  
Congratulations to...*

Mr and Mrs Norani Mohd Rais, on the birth  
of their baby girl on 26 July!



## Coming Events

It's going to be busy for the following months ahead! The following events lined up for you include...

18 September 2004

**World Maritime Day Celebration  
cum Seacare 10th Anniversary  
Celebration**

2 October 2004

**Study Grant  
Presentation Ceremony**

3 October 2004

**Family day cum  
Children's Day**



# Seacare Focus







# Seacare Education

Seacare Education Pte Ltd, a brand new joint venture between Seacare Foundation Pte Ltd and Global Resources & Consultants Pte Ltd, is all geared up to blaze in the education industry in Asia.

The new set-up, which Seacare Foundation holds 60% shares, is first eyeing on the fast growing education business in China. Seacare Education Chief Executive Office Mr Goh Yeow Tin explained: "Over the decades, we have seen English language elevated to become the medium of communication, be it in business, educational or conversational purposes. China is opening up, and they know this. They would not want to be left behind."

The company will offer education related training such as training of bilingual teachers and school administrators,

provision of formal educational programmes covering Certificate, Diploma and Degree level and training of students to participate in international entrance examinations such as TOEFL, IELTS, SATS and more.

Adopting the strategy of collaborating with partners who have the know-how and the network, Seacare Education aims to set foot in China by tapping on the resources of Singapore Teachers' Union and Teachers' Cooperative and the marketing expertise of China-based company Zhongyu.

"Zhongyu Sinosing is a collaboration between the right partners at the right time. With some having the resources, some having the expertise and all of them having the same passion and vision, I believe we have a winning formula" said Mr Goh of the tie-up.



Seacare Education is about fanning a flame which will become a big fire lately. It is not an instant fireworks display. So we will take one step at a time.

All the players in the venture complement each other. We have all the ingredients in the project that will make it work.

**Mr Goh**, Seacare Education CEO



## kicks into Action

The former head of the Local Industries Division in the EDB should know. After all, he had, after his EDB stint, gone on to work at Times Publishing which marked the beginning of his journey with books and education. In fact, he moved on to develop an entire range of pre-school programme, and this system has been ranked most comprehensive in China today.

On Seacare Education, Mr Goh has this to promise: "This is a business and we want to make it profitable and lucrative but we will not sacrifice nor compromise on quality. Our entire plan and the services we provide are carefully thought-out to ensure that the students reach their goals.

"We are passionate about establishing a good foundation and a reliable reputation. This is business with a heart. We want to do it right."

One thing Seacare Education wants to do right is the matching of interest and capability of the students with the course objectives as well as the provision of a structured learning path. "In this education business, we have a moral obligation to our students. It is not an ad hoc business where we sell programmes and courses for profit while paying scant regards to the students' needs and aims. We are making an impact in the student's future and we cannot take that role lightly," Mr Goh stressed.

With the heart and mind at the right place, Mr Goh believes that this venture is one that will go places.



# SMMC relocates to

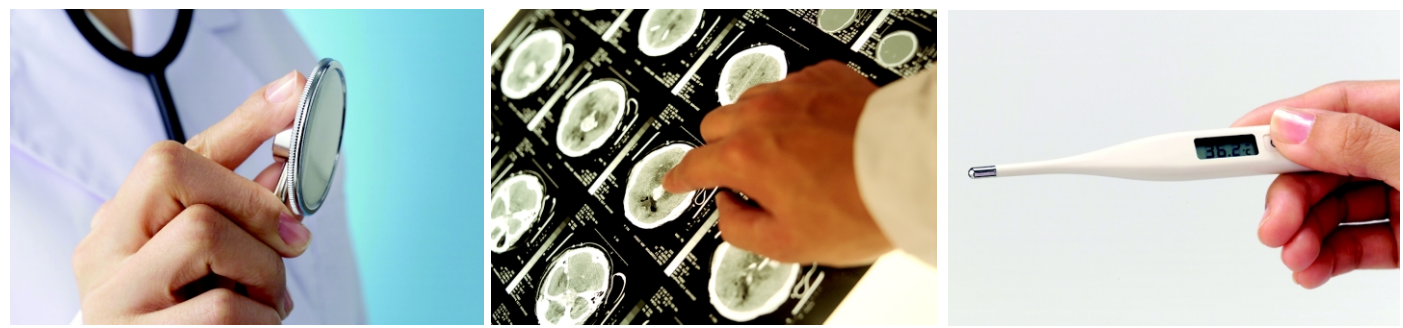
Seacare Maritime Medical Centre (SMMC) has moved to a new clinic with larger floor space, one with more than 2,000 square feet!

The new medical centre is located at #04-19, at The Amara - just next to its old clinic.

In the new and bigger clinic, efficiency will not take a setback, for staff strength will be increased to nine from seven after the shift. SMMC is also looking to engage the services of one more doctor and a clinic assistant in time to come. The need to shift to a bigger clinic also stems from the fact that they want to be able to accommodate the increase in number of patients.







Apart from SOS members, we foresee more patients from our corporate clients as well as walk-in patients too. We want to provide well-rounded medical services and health screening to all our patients and establish ourselves better so that patients will think of us immediately when they require medical services,

Dr Chia Yih Woei, CEO of SMMC, envisioned.

SMMC aims to launch a marketing programme targeted at more corporate clients, for instance, to the companies around their area. They are confident in capturing a wider client base. Coupled with the professional service that they offer, they hope to strengthen their footing in this very competitive climate.

# Bigger Clinic

The design of the new clinic is chic, cosy and comfortable and not clinical nor businesslike at all. "In line with our professional service, we want to ensure that the medical centre reflects a clean-cut design and exudes a sense of calm and comfort for all who visit us. We take pride in that our patients will not feel like they are entering yet another office." Dr Chia stressed.

Dr Chia went on to elaborate how for starters, the difference between SMMC and other clinics will be established. After their shift, they will offer better service, efficiency can be improved and with the more spacious rooms, they will improve their professional image and gradually gain the confidence of patients.

"At the end of the day, we do want to give of our very best to all who believe in us. In fact, we will strive to bring our service to higher levels. We want to convey our appreciation to them, that after their support so many years on, we want to and we can offer them better service when we shift to a new centre."





# Swinging into

Amidst the quiet and lush greenery of the Golf Driving Range, there was great buzz surrounding the arrival of the golf guru, Gary Edwin.

Gary Edwin zipped into town in July to evaluate the progress of the Peter Senior & Gary Edwin Golf Academy and to conduct a refreshment course for the instructors.

Looking fresh and relaxed in his polo tee and pants, Gary was beaming from ear to ear. "I'm pleased to see the progress that the Academy is making. The instructors are in tip-top conditions, the players are polishing their skills and we have some players worth looking out for. This is especially so for the juniors, who are doing well and in fact, getting better. Currently, the juniors have a lot of potential and with more practice, it is very likely that they will make it to the squad."

It is evident that the quality of the batch of junior players is improving. At the Academy, juniors are being prepared to compete in tournaments. According to Gary, he wants his juniors to participate in more tournaments.

The Peter Senior & Gary Edwin Golf Academy's unique structured coaching method is definitely a cut above the rest. Students start off on a short game, first from putting, to chipping, then progressing to pitching. From small movements, students will gradually pick up momentum and find it easier to progress to wider swings. A beginner is therefore not intimidated by movements or postures they are not familiar with. At the same time, the mistake of the scooping action that new students tend to commit will thus be minimised.

Gary quoted an example of an up-and-coming junior whom we should watch out for. Gregory Foo, a junior at the Academy, won the Asia-Pacific Championship in Jakarta and was placed third in the World Junior Championship.



# town!

Gary was also glad to see an increasing number of girls joining the juniors. "Contrary to people's perception, golf is never a "man's game". It's great that more girls are participating in this game. There is no lack of female talent, and it would be such a pity if they are held back."

According to him, one is never too young or too old to start playing golf. Golf is such a wide-appealing game that any individual between 7 to 27 years can be moulded. It all depends on his/her level of maturity. This means that not only persons between that age range can play. However, Gary issued a word of caution. "Apart from having the aptitude for playing a mean game, one must possess good work ethics, a great attitude and the willingness to be moulded."

He added: "When an individual is not open to criticism, when he insists on committing mistakes that we disapproved of, then it's a definite no-no. Playing golf is both a mental and physical challenge. You need to be mentally, physically, technically and strategically trained and prepared."



Gary strongly believes in nurturing talent. "I want to encourage everyone who are interested in playing golf, to come forth to the Academy. We have programmes ranging from Junior to Adult classes, and there is something for everyone." He especially urged all young boys and girls to sign up for the Junior classes. "You are young, full of promise, and you are the answer to golf's future."

Gary reiterated that golf transcends all barriers. "When it comes to golf, all players speak a common language, and this is what makes the game whole."





# More than Lip Service



Meet the new pro on the course, Mr Lip Ooi, who is the new senior manager of Seacare GolfLink Pte Ltd. Except that, of course, he is not new to golf nor the golf course. In fact, Mr Ooi began his foray in golf back in 1992, and since then, there has been no stopping the man.

A highly experienced and qualified young individual, Mr Ooi has amassed much exposure in club and golf operations, management, membership sales, golf academy set-up, golf course design, construction, renovation and maintenance. His portfolio boasts of many achievements that include attaining his Golf Professional status as a certified member of Singapore PGA and the Class 'A' membership certification awarded by Golf Course Superintendent of America (GCSAA).

Yet the humble gentleman has never allowed that to get the better of him. "I know we have to keep up with learning, for there will always be things to learn about from our environment and the people about us."

Always game to acquire new skills, Mr Ooi, whose real name was Ooi Ui Lip but calls himself Lip because "people find it hard to pronounce his middle name", reckoned that he was ready to take on new challenges. "I aim to keep ahead of the competition and not allow competition to catch up. This is how I maintain my competitive edge."

Besides overseeing the general operations of the Peter Senior & Gary Edwin Academy, his role also includes expanding and developing more business. To the best of this affable man, he has no intention of stopping at just that.

"I hope to enhance the strength of the academy, expand its operations and organise more tournaments. More importantly, I want to tap into the growing industry of golf in Singapore. There is an untouched market of after-sales service in the golf industry in Singapore, which I would like to strike out in, Mr Ooi professed."



He sure knows how to grab an opportunity when he spots one. According to his observation and in-line with the government's calling, providing after-sales service is about adding value to the product and service which customers have purchased. This will certainly prove to be a right move in drawing new customers.

Mr Ooi is full of praise for the current team of personnel at Seacare GolfLink Pte Ltd. He is especially impressed by how professional and efficient they are. Coupled with a fantastic product, Seacare GolfLink is admittedly "one of the best available".

In fact, Mr Ooi hopes to establish a stronger back-up team to support the coaches, apart from building up on firmer customer service. He understands that different coaches have different needs and thus, their requirements should be tailor-made to, as far as possible. It is vital to bond everyone together, like a family who cares and watches out for one another's well-being.

Welcome to the family Mr Ooi!



# Seacare Thrift - Formation of Admin Committee

With effect from 1 August 2004, Seacare Thrift Pte Ltd has formed an Admin Committee (AC).

The role of the main Admin Committee includes:

- administering the SPF scheme and co-ordination with employers;
- working with NTUC Thrift to ensure compliance with audit report requirements;
- determining, reviewing and amending the regulations;
- acting as the final authority on matters regarding the scheme and;
- handling of cases which are beyond the authority of the Sub AC.

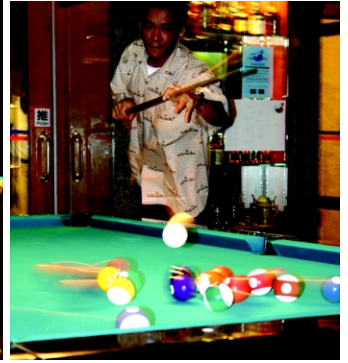
The Management recognises the importance and urgency to form the main AC, and thereby nominated and appointed the following members to serve in the main AC. They are:

- Captain Chong Chee Eng (Singapore Maritime Employers Federation)
- Alan Shankar (Alan Shankar & Lim, Advocates & Soliators)
- Rev Mervyn Moore (The Mission to Seafarers)
- Kam Soon Huat (SOS)
- Mohd Idris (SOS)
- David Shoo, manager of Seacare Thrift Pte Ltd was appointed as the Admin Secretary

In addition to the main AC, a sub AC was formed earlier. This sub AC comprises of nominated representatives from various shopping companies and employers. The Management wishes to stress and assure all members that the Admin Committee is independent and transparent, and thereby able to preserve its integrity and obligation towards its members.



# Take a Bow!



The men's amateur pool tourney concluded with a big bang on 27 July 2004. A total of 32 players had contended for a hot spot on the prestigious winner list.

Over a two-week period, from 32 participants, the number was halved at each round to 16, eight, four, two and finally, one winner emerged. Amidst all the strong contenders, one withstood the pressure and surpassed all others. He is none other than Clement Lim! He walked away with the top prize of \$300 cash, one bottle of 18-year Chivas, Club@52 voucher worth \$100 and a hamper.

The second and third prize winners were Edwin Gue and Jureyemy A. Kahar respectively. First runner-up was awarded \$200 cash, Club@52 vouchers worth \$100 and a hamper. Second runner-up brought home Club@52 voucher worth \$100 and a hamper.

To all who took part, thank you for your spontaneity and participation! We look forward to seeing you again at the next competition!



## Ladies, it's your go now!

The gentlemen had their turn, now it's time for the ladies to take centre-stage!

The very first ever ladies' pool tourney will be held at Club@52. Beginning 25 August, every Wednesday, competitors will vie for the top prize of \$200 cash, one bottle of Black Label, \$100 Club@52 voucher and hamper.

Second prize winner will walk away with \$100 cash, \$100 Club@52 hamper and voucher. Not forgetting the third prize winner, who will bring home with her \$100 Club@52 voucher and one bottle of red wine!

We wait with anticipation to see who will emerge victorious!





Club@52

# *Perfect for every Occasion*

## **Opening Hours**

Mon to Sat: 5pm - 2am,  
Sun & Public Holiday: Closed

**Tel:** 6379 5653

**Email:** [eplace@seacare.com.sg](mailto:eplace@seacare.com.sg)

**seAcAre**  
ePlace

**Club@52**

52 Chin Swee Road  
#02-00 Seacare Building  
Singapore 169875

Club@52 can be transformed to suit your event and function needs. On usual days, the cosy pub offers the perfect ambience for resting and relaxing over a few drinks. When the occasion calls for it, the Club can undergo a metamorphosis to meet the event needs.

Whether you are treating your special guests to a quiet formal dinner or having a loud birthday bash, the flexible structure can be converted to suit the occasion.

You can choose to go for a formal dinner setting or a casual buffet style. Our experienced planners can help you in your preparation in logistics, food and beverages and



# Give Your Child a Headstart in Golf



At Peter Senior & Gary Edwin Golf Academy, the juniors are given a chance to shine at golf.

We have specially designed junior programs for children, with careful consideration for their needs and wants. They will be taught on the basics of holding the golf club to getting the correct swing, to playing the actual game.

Sign your child up, and see the difference it makes. Because at Peter Senior & Gary Edwin Golf Academy, this is where champions are made.

## PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED 4-6

The Course is designed to give children an introduction to Golf, emphasising on Fun and Safety of Golf.

### 10 Lessons, one hour per session

Lesson 1: Have a Go	Lesson 6 : Chipping Checklist
Lesson 2: Arm & Hand Action	Lesson 7 : Mini Swing to Full Swing
Lesson 3: Posture & Alignment	Lesson 8 : Pitching Checklist
Lesson 4: Grip	Lesson 9 & 10 : Playing a Modified Golf Course
Lesson 5: Chipping	

### Course Fees as per 10 Lessons:

Students	Pre School	Students	Pre School
1	\$550	3	\$300
2	\$400	4	\$260

## JUNIOR PROGRAM AGE 7 - 12 - INTRODUCTION

For juniors aspiring to achieve their greatest golfing potential.

### 10 Lessons, one hour per session

Lesson 1 : The swing concept, utilizing the set up and the grip  
Lesson 2 : Putting  
Lesson 3 : Chipping  
Lesson 4 : Short Pitching - developing to 1/2 Swing and Driver  
Lesson 5 : Long Pitching - developing to 3/4 Swing  
Lesson 6 : Bunker  
Lesson 7 : 3/4 to Full Swing with Mid irons  
Lesson 8 : 3/4 to Full Swing with Fairway Woods  
Lesson 9 & 10 : Skills Test & Golf Course Experience

### Course Fees as per 10 Lessons:

Students	Junior Program	Students	Junior Program
1	\$550	4	\$260
2	\$400	5	\$250
3	\$300	6	\$240

\* All course fees include golf clubs during lessons

\* Course Contents & Fees are subjected to change without prior notice

\* Course fees exclude GST, range balls & green fees.

\* Proper golf attire

\* For the Junior Program, Lesson 9th & 10th will be conducted only on weekdays.

**seACare**

GolfLink

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Peter Senior and Gary

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Should you require further assistance,  
please feel free to call 6555 6776.