

June + July 2005

# samudra

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

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SACF

SINGAPORE NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION

awards the

*Commendation  
Plaque*

to

*Seacare Co-operative Limited*

for its support and contribution to the  
Singapore Co-operative Movement

The First of July in the Year of 2005

*Seacare Co-operative Limited*  
Seacare Co-operative Limited  
11 Seacare Avenue

*We did it!*

June + July 2005

# samudra

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# President S R Nathan Gets Unions' Full Support

From the thunderous applause that broke out at the NTUC Industrial Relations and Membership Workshop, it was crystal clear that the Unions are all out to support President S R Nathan's second term as the country's head of state.

Attending the Workshop on 19 July 2005 at Orchid Country Club as a special guest, Mr Nathan was heartened by the unionists' warm welcome.

"I am overwhelmed by all the kind words that have been expressed and the strong expressions of support for me to contest in the forthcoming Presidential Elections," he told the over 500 union leaders attending the Workshop.

The President commended the labour movement for the tremendous effort and good work put into protecting workers' interests. He also called upon all union leaders to follow the footsteps of earlier-day unionists and emulate their "can-do" fighting spirit and determination when confronting our problems and helping workers.

The SOS leaders were among the unionists who were present. SOS General Secretary Mr Leow Ching Chuan, President Mr Tan Jing Bock, Vice President Mr Mohd Idris, Executive Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, Asst Secretary Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar, Treasurer Mr David Sim and Industrial Relations Executive Mr Daniel Tan were among the union leaders who back President Nathan's bid for the second term in office. They agreed with NTUC Secretary-General Mr Lim Boon Heng's description of Mr Nathan as an outstanding, honourable and selfless President in the last six years.



At the workshop, Mr Lim recounted how Mr Nathan had used his office to help the poor, such as pushing for the President's Challenge fund-raising efforts with all his energy. The initiative has benefited tens of thousands of Singaporeans every year.

"Forgive us for being a little selfish – because we look forward to you raising more funds for the poor in the next six years!" Mr Lim said.

"We are very happy that you have decided to stand for re-election, even though you deserve to enjoy a rest, after such a long and distinguished career!"

Mr Lim described Mr Nathan, 81, as a good example of how despite his age, he could still take on the responsibilities of the country's highest office.

## News Flash

**Singapore's President S R Nathan was returned to office for another 6-year term on 17 Aug 2005. Mr Nathan, 81, was the only candidate qualified to run for president after he received a certificate of eligibility from the Presidential Elections Committee, which assesses applicants' suitability for the highest post in the land.**

# Seacare Gets Honour Award



1st July 2005 will always be remembered as a special day for Seacare Co-operative Ltd. On that day, the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) bestowed on the 11 year-old Co-operative the Commendation Plaque.

Receiving the award from Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports & Second Minister for Trade and Industry, at the SNCF's 24th Anniversary Dinner was Seacare Chairman Mr Leow Ching Chuan. Seacare was commended for meritoriously contributing to the Co-operative Movement through the 'seamless merging of corporate forms and co-operative ideals'.

A steady stream of congratulatory messages came from fellow co-operators, unionists and business partners. At the award dinner held at Pan Pacific Singapore, many guests were seen giving the Seacare leader a pat on the back for a job well done. In an interview with Samudra, Mr Leow simply said: "We are humbled by the accolade. The award is a strong indication that we are on the right track and the decision to set up Seacare 11 years ago was indeed a right move."

The Seacare flag was raised high again when Chairman of Seacare Holdings' Board of Directors, Mr Kong Mun Kwong

strode on stage to receive the Friend of the Co-operatives. It was an award befitting of a leader who has contributed much to the growth of Seacare.

At the dinner, Mr Seah Kian Peng, SNCF Chairman, thanked the "eminent co-operators for their outstanding contributions and services to the Singapore Co-operative Movement".

"To all our award recipients, I wish to record SNCF's appreciation and gratitude for your time, your contributions and your sacrifices made towards the development and advancement of co-operatives in Singapore," he said.

This year, 21 individuals and organisations, were honoured by SNCF. Among them was Mr Chan Soo Sen, Minister of State, Ministry of Education, who received the Rochdale Medal.

Another highlight of the event was the inauguration of the newly formed SNCF Youth Committee which aims to engage the youth's participation in the co-operative movement. One of the committee members is Ms Jacquelyn Lam, Director, Seacare Evolution Pte Ltd.

Shine on, Seacare!



# SNCF Citation of Seacare Co-operative Ltd



Seacare Co-operative Ltd was jointly launched in May 1994 by the Singapore Organisation of Seamen and the National Trades Union Congress as a co-operative platform to promote the welfare of Singapore seamen. This is clearly reflected in Seacare's statement of founding mission "to help and benefit Singapore seamen and their families through more work opportunities and appropriate investment projects".

Since its founding, Seacare has always sought to balance its need to be economically viable as a co-operative enterprise against its aim of helping Singapore seamen as job seekers or consumers. As a means of ensuring viability, Seacare incorporates companies within its co-operative framework for greater effectiveness in conducting its business activities.

As at 31 March 2005, the Seacare Group consists of Seacare Co-operative Ltd and its two holding companies, Seacare Holdings Pte Ltd and Seacare Foundation Pte Ltd respectively with six and eight subsidiary companies. Its annual revenue of more than \$23 million and a yearly profit before tax of \$1 million for the past five years testify to the viability of the Seacare Group.

In tandem with its positive economic performance, the suc-

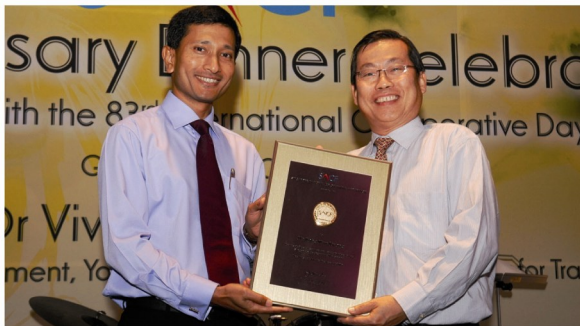
cessful effort of Seacare in achieving its aim of creating job openings to help displaced seamen is highly commendable in the eyes of Seacare's founders and shareholders. The Seacare Group now has yearly staff strength of more than a thousand persons for the last four years and has also secured job placement for more than a thousand persons in other organisations since its founding.

With stable financial resources at its command, Seacare has, either by itself or together with the Singapore Organisation of Seamen, organised yearly functions and activities to help and benefit not only seamen and their families but also other needy Singaporeans. This is in keeping with the care and concern objective of the co-operative movement for the disadvantaged members of our community of which Seacare has more than amply demonstrated for the past 10 years.

Seacare Co-operative Ltd has meritoriously contributed to the Co-operative Movement through the seamless merging of corporate forms and co-operative ideals.

In recognition of its invaluable contributions to the Co-operative Movement, the Singapore National Co-operative Federation is pleased to confer on Seacare Co-operative Limited the Commendation Plaque.

# Mr Kong Mun Kwong, the Friend of the Co-operatives



Seacare Co-operative Limited set up the Seacare Holdings Pte Ltd in 1995, as a wholly-owned subsidiary, to be its corporate arm with a vision to carry out its commercial activities more effectively and efficiently.

Five years later, to provide Seacare Holdings with a wider business perspective, Seacare appointed Mr Kong Mun Kwong in January 2000 to chair the board of directors of Seacare Holdings. Mr Kong is a well-known entrepreneur with a wealth of business experience. Despite his own heavy business commitments, he accepted the appointment because of his desire to help Singapore seamen and their families, who are the ultimate beneficiaries of whatever success that comes through Seacare's endeavours.

As the Chairman of Seacare Holdings' Board of Directors, Mr Kong has brought to bear his experience and acumen on the business strategy of Seacare Holdings and its group of six subsidiary companies. The core businesses of Seacare Holdings Group are marine services, human resources, environmental, leisure and lifestyle, property and investment.

The good performance and steady growth of the

Seacare Holdings Group since 2000 to the present is testimony of Mr Kong's leadership and guidance through his chairmanship of Seacare Holdings' Board of Directors. The Seacare Holdings Group is a major and important component of Seacare Co-operative Limited. Mr Kong's invaluable contributions through his stewardship of Seacare Holdings have been a significant factor in the success of Seacare in the past five years.

He is also a Director of the NTUC Foodfare Co-operative Ltd and the Deputy Chairman of Foodfare Catering Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of NTUC Foodfare.

For his services to the community, Mr Kong was conferred the Public Service Medal in 1988; the Public Service Star in 1994; appointed as Justice of Peace in 2000 and bestowed the Friend of Labour in 2003.

In recognition of his invaluable contributions to Seacare Co-operative Ltd and the Co-operative Movement, the Singapore National Co-operative Federation is pleased to confer on Mr Kong Mun Kwong the Friend of the Co-operatives Award.



## Said Hussin Retires With Fond Memories

"SOS has come a long way. The early days of establishing a firm grounding while standing up for members' rights have been trying. Till today, our focus is still our members, providing them and their families assistance whenever we can," Mr Said Hussin recalled.

Mr Said, a union member since 1976, has been serving the Union faithfully as an Executive Committee Member since 1986. He retires this year with fond memories and shares his thoughts with Samudra.

"Times have changed; our local seafarers now find it hard to land jobs on board ships, especially our older seamen. In the past, a simple education would have sufficed. Now, we need to train to stay employable."

For this reason, Mr Said embraces continual upgrading and re-training of members. He pointed out that in the past, gaining experience was one of the few ways to improve oneself, and many workers tended to assume that once they started working, schooling was over and "out of question". In a volatile and dynamic economy, training has become a necessity, if we want to move with the times.

He should know better. After all, he has been attending training courses on a regular basis. A fine example of never-too-old to learn, he had signed up for many courses. From computer skills to PSA courses such as operating a forklift and Stevedoring when he was 40, to completing the course on becoming a Lifting Supervisor at age 52, Safety and Lifting Supervisor at age 55, amongst many others.

On 23 June 2005, Mr Said retired and stepped down from the EXCO. "I can spend more time with my family now. You know, my daughter has been receiving SOS education grant every year since she was in Primary One. She's going to begin her medical studies in the NUS soon!" He also has a 15 year old daughter in Secondary Three.

"I thank SOS and all the members, who are all my friends, for all the memories. I'm glad to have the honour of standing tall with the rest of you through the ups and downs." He urged the members to "continue to trust and support the Union". His message to his comrades – "Do continue the good work for our members because they are counting on us."

*SOS would like to extend our deepest appreciation for his services. Thank you, Mr Said!*

A Union Member since 1981, Mr Loh Suan Hin is no newcomer to union matters. In fact, he is a Standing Committee Member in the Welfare & Training Division for the term of office from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2008. On 23 June 2005, Mr Loh was nominated to the Executive Committee of SOS.

Said forty-seven year old Mr Loh, "I'm definitely very honoured and very grateful for this opportunity. Being part of the welfare and training committee, I have seen how SOS reaches out to needy members and rewards deserving ones. I see it as a way to repay SOS what it has given to me, and more importantly, be part of the team that extends the work of SOS."

## New Exco Member Serves With A Cause

Mr Loh is humble, and he professes that he would have to depend on the 'older guards' for guidance. However, he believes that he has other skills and experience that would come in handy in his work. Mr Loh has been actively serving the cause he believes in, and is keen to push on with it. "I enjoy what I have been doing in the welfare and training committee, and I will continue doing that. In addition, with my experience in Industrial Relations, I know I can do my bit in the EXCO and for SOS."



### Appointment

Mr Daniel Tan, Industrial Relations Executive, has been appointed as the Deputy Admin Secretary of the Industrial Relations (IR) as of June 2005.

# AET Gives Special Bonus To Sea Staff

AET has had 'a very good year' and in recognition of the contribution the sea staff have made to its excellent business results, the AET Board has approved a special bonus payment which was paid in July to all eligible staff.

The sea staff can expect bonus of up to 2.5 months depending on their years of services with the Group.

It is a historical moment for AET, as it is the first time since inception that a bonus quantum of such scale is being meted out to sea staff.

The bonus is paid in recognition to all the staff "who have worked tirelessly in making our success possible".

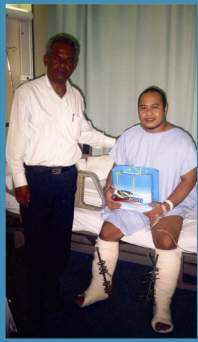
"We appreciate that good times can be as challenging to

handle as hard times," AET President and CEO Mr Amir H Azizan said.

Good times, he added, often required people to work harder and smarter, to co-operate with colleagues more effectively and to rise to the challenges at work whilst ensuring that family commitments are not neglected.

"We take pride in the fact that our employees are of the caliber necessary to rise to such challenges and turn them into opportunities."

"In essence, we would like to ensure fair and equitable compensation to all and hope that this special bonus would be an adequate motivation to sustain and improve upon our performances," said Capt Rajalingam.



SOS Vice President  
Mr Mohd Idris and  
Industrial Relations Executive  
Mr Michael Tham calling on  
Mr Ruel in the hospital.

## Thanks for Caring, SOS!

Mr Ruel Frontuna Correa was working as an AB Seaman on board the vessel, Maersk Pointer, which was anchored off Indonesia at Teluk Semangka when a testing of the ship's Rescue Boat took place. Unfortunately, during the hoisting and lowering of the Rescue Boat, the wire gave way.

Mr Ruel and the Second Officer were seriously injured and taken off the vessel immediately. They were sent to a hospital in Indonesia for initial treatment, and medically evacuated to Singapore on 22 April 2005. Mr Ruel was admitted to Gleneagles Hospital on arrival and had undergone a series of surgeries and treatments since then. He is out of danger and presently recovering from his injuries.

Upon receiving the news, SOS Vice President Mr Mohd Idris and Industrial Relations Executive Mr Michael Tham visited the seaman twice to enquire on his needs and well-being. Mr Ruel responded that he was recovering well. Prior to his discharge, the seaman expressed his heartfelt appreciation to SOS for their concern.

Mr Ruel returned to the Philippines on 6 June 2005 for further treatment and complete recovery. We wish him speedy recovery.



# Hello There!

In the month of June, SOS Industrial Relations Executive Mr Michael Tham made courtesy calls to seamen working on board three vessels - mv. APL Topaz on 16 June 2005, APL Iolite and APL Coral on 30 June 2005.

Crew members were pleased to see our SOS officials and were quick to respond that they were satisfied with their working conditions. Feedback from the crew was certainly positive.

Mr Tham presented souvenirs for the mv. APL Topaz crew in the form of SOS jackets and SOS caps while ratings on board APL Iolite and APL Coral received SOS umbrellas and caps. The crew members were noticeably happy and appreciative of SOS's concern for their well-being.



# SOS/Seacare Dangles Golf Challenge



SOS and Seacare are doing their part to sharpen the skills of the golfers. To add an edge to their annual golf challenge, the organisers held this year's competition at the Sentosa Golf Club.

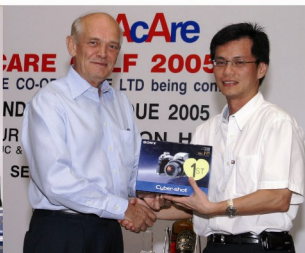
The challenging 18-hole Serapong course in the Club is ranked one of the most difficult courses in Asia. The 128 golfers who turned up for the challenge on 15 July 2005 had another element to deal with when making their swings - the sea breezes!

"Unlike the previous golf tournaments, this year's competition is not held at the Orchid Country Club but at the Sentosa Golf Club. We have decided on a change of venue so as to make the competition more challenging for the participants.

If we are able to do so without inconveniencing the prospective participants, we would certainly like to hold our competition at a different venue each year. A change of venue may also bring about a welcomed change to the chances of success of some of the golfers competing," said Mr Leow Ching Chuan, SOS General Secretary, at the SOS/Seacare Golf Dinner.

Mr Lim Boon Heng, Secretary-General of NTUC and Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, was the distinguished Guest-of-Honour for the event.

Although there were no takers for the hole-in-one prize, which would have entitled the winner to the prestigious Sentosa Golf Club Membership, it was certainly a close fight for the top prizes in



all the other categories. Mr Raymond Tan was the champion for 'A' Division, while Dr Toh Choon Lai walked away with the first placing under 'B' Division. Both golfers won a trophy, \$150 voucher and a dozen golf balls respectively.

Some 140 participants and guests adjourned for dinner, which also served to celebrate Seacare Co-operative Ltd for being conferred with the Commendation Plaque by Singapore National Co-operative Federation Ltd on 1 July 2005. After a competitive morning, it was time for everyone to relax and let their hair down. Cheers greeted the prize winners during the prize presentation and a lucky draw was held before the event drew to a close.

#### Here are the winners:

##### 'A' Division

Champion	Mr Raymond Tan
First Runner-Up	Mr Sockalingam Kanarathy
Second Runner-Up	Mr Wang Weng Thong

##### 'B' Division

Champion	Dr Toh Choon Lai
First Runner-Up	Mr Verrick Lim
Second Runner-Up	Capt Mark Heah

##### Nearest to Pin (T-8)

Mr Leong Hoe Pang-1.5m

##### Nearest to Pin (T-11)

Mr Sockalingam Kanarathy-7cm

**Till the next challenge, swing on golfers!**



## BON To Be Bold

Mr Bon Sheun Ping is 55 years old and he takes swift action to make himself more employable by learning and offering new skills.

It takes courage to go back to the classroom and explore the unknown. But Mr Bon is a bold man. An SOS member, he has conquered many courses, the latest being I-NITEC in Building Services Technology, awarded by the Institute of Technical Education (ITE). (see next page on ITE part-time courses)

"I do remember feeling nervous the first time I signed up for a course. Of course, my fears were unfounded. Sure, there were times when doubts crept in, but my interest to learn more has helped me overcome many difficulties I faced as a mature student. Having helpful facilitators and classmates helped tremendously," Mr Bon said.

As a matter of fact, he believes in the merits of upgrading and the constant need for new knowledge. "In this dynamic society that we lived in today, information is constantly becoming outdated or renewed at such a fast pace, we need to continually update our knowledge. To upgrade is really to update. It is never too late to pick up your books again."

## I Can; You Can!

Working on our computers helps increase efficiency and being able to type and send an email has become essential. The question is no longer whether one knows how to use the computer, but rather, why do you NOT know how to use the computer.

A forty-four year old SOS member, Mr Hussain Ahmad believes that he must stay ahead of the society, and not allow society to overtake him. With his company moving towards electronic documentation, Mr Hussain knew that it was now or never. And he certainly has no intention of being discounted by society. "I was very nervous at first, because having stopped schooling for so long makes me feel a little rusty. But thanks to Mariana – she told me that without trying, I will never know whether I can succeed."

A case of facing up to your fears, Mr Hussain, a warehouse assistant, has overcome his jitters and completed the Windows XP Basics Course ran by NTUC Learning Hub. He reckons that he still has a long way to go and has every intention to continue his education. And to all who are hesitating, Mr Hussain has dished out some advice for you. "Age should never be a consideration. Though I may be a slow-learner, but I have the determination and drive to accomplish what I set out to do. You can too!"





# SOS Sponsors ITE Courses For Eligible Members!

With the dynamism of globalisation, re-training & upgrading of skills has become a necessity. For many years, SOS has been and will continue to be supportive of members who are interested to attend skills training programmes.

Under the SOS Training Grant Benefit for paid-up members, there are a variety of courses for interested members to attend. From maritime related courses to technical courses, members have a wide array to choose from, after which, they may apply for the grant. One does not need to have the skills before he undertakes further upgrading. Acquisition of new skills will always be useful in this unpredictable employment market. What many do not know is that the Training Grant Benefit is open to members who take up ITE courses as well.

Under 'Schedule 3 – Non-Seafaring Related Courses', SOS sponsors skills training conducted by the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) on a part-time basis for matured students. Interested members can apply training grant for the following part-time ITE courses:

Higher NITEC	NITEC
Electrical Engineering	Automotive Technology
Electronics Engineering	Building Drafting
Information Technology	Building Services Technology
Mechatronics Engineering	Chemical Process Technology
Mechanical Engineering	Electrical Technology
Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Design	Electronics
Business-Information Technology	Mechanical-Electrical Drafting
	Mechanical Technology
	Multimedia Technology
	Precision Engineering
ITE Skills Cert. (ISC)	Short Courses
Electrical Wiring	Automotive
	Building Services
	Computer Aided Drafting
	Electrical & Electronics
	Healthcare
	Information Technology
	Mechanical Mechatronics
	Precision Engineering

Members may wish to check directly with ITE at [www.ite.edu.sg](http://www.ite.edu.sg) or 1800-225 5483 for more details regarding the courses and the relative admission dates.

For the SOS Training Grant Benefit, do feel free to call the Training Division at 6379 5671 to find out more information about the procedures for application and claim.

# Families Savour Indonesia's Sound and Sights



Founded as Jayakarta (meaning Victorious City) in 1527, Jakarta is Indonesia's cultural, economic and political scene in the centre of Java, also the nation's most populous and vibrant island. And this June, SOS organised its Family Outing with a pleasant twist – visiting the colourful cities of Jakarta and Bandung!

A five-day-four-night trip, the response was overwhelming and two tour groups were arranged for separate departures; the first one on 8 June 2005 and the second one on 15 June 2005, with 70 and 50 members respectively.

Each group spent two nights in Bandung and two nights in Jakarta, taking in the sights and sounds surrounding them. From the Hot Spring of Ciatir and the Tangkuban Perahu Volcano to the Cihampelas & Fresh Fruits Market

at Lembang, everyone had the delight of enjoying the highlights of these attractions and sampling some of the land's best produce during this dry season.

Time to take things slow at Puncak, en route to Jakarta from Bandung. Kota Bunga (the Flower City), Taman Safari and the Tea Plantation awaited the guests from Singapore, who wowed at the magnificence of these attractions.

Jakarta's largest and most popular recreation park awaited the visitors. Fantasy Theme Park, located inside Jakarta's largest and most popular recreation park Jaya Ancol Dreamland, offers a whopping 9.5 hectare of adrenaline for both children and adult alike. Spending an exhilarating afternoon looping the roller-coaster and negotiating the ups and downs of a Viking ride, it was certainly a memorable way to bid farewell to Jakarta.

# Spiked!



An hour and half worth of durian for lunch, how does that sound to you durian lovers out there? It's no fantasy, and yes, some 84 members were privy to the delicious durians at the Segamat Durian Plantation in West Malaysia.

The early bird gets the worm, or rather, the durian in this case. Led by SOS President Mr Tan Jing Bock and Welfare and Community Services Admin Secretary Mr Anthony Chan, participants gathered and set off early in the morning, and arrived at the designated Segamat Durian Plantation in time for lunch. The swift aroma of the thorny fruit immediately filled the nostrils of everyone. Tough and prickly on the outside, soft and rich on the inside, participants could hardly hold back anymore.

Other stops along the way included shopping at Segamat and a stopover at a hot spring, which included delightful additions of countless shopping bags; and the steaming hot bath, which certainly did much to relax everyone. After having some local fare at a local restaurant for dinner, a tired, but well-rested group began their journey back to home-sweet-home in Singapore.





# To You I Wed!

We would like to extend our best wishes to the newly-weds, Mr Yeo Ngee Teng and Madam You Chun Ping, who got married on 19 June 2005.

## So adorable!



Mr and Mrs Roslan Rahman, whose baby boy was born on 11 July 2005

and Mr and Mrs Mohd Junied Mohd Salleh, whose baby gal was born on 28 July 2005!



Mr and Mrs Mohd Jufry Kadri, whose baby girl was born on 25 June 2005;



# Coming Events

### Study Grants Presentation Ceremony

Date: 4 and 10 September 2005

### SOS/Seacare Members' Night

Date: 24 September 2005

### World Maritime Day Celebrations

Date: 18 September 2005

### Children's Day Party

Date: 2 October 2005

## Condolences

SOS would like to convey our deepest condolences to the family of Mr Choa In Guan who passed away on 7 July 2005.



# Seacare Focus



# Seacare Environmental Goes

## Seen anything like this before?

Don't be mistaken, this is not just any fanciful patterns on the roof top. These are real plants and greenery, growing and very much alive. And right at our doorstep in Singapore too! AND, if you have not already realised, what you see in the picture is a roof top garden from a HDB carpark in Punggol.

Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd is looking into working with Garden and Landscape Centre (GLC) and RE Holdings, to produce, market and implement roof garden projects extensively in Singapore.

**"We are in discussion with the various parties but we are keen to explore its potential in Singapore. After all, many roofs in Singapore are still 'bare',"** said Mr Abdul Kader, Deputy Chairman, Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd.

Rooftop gardens are man-made green spaces on the topmost levels of industrial, commercial and residential structures. They may be designed to grow produce, provide play space, give shade and shelter, or simply be a lifestyle, green area. Green roofs help moderate temperatures, improve air quality, reduce storm-water runoff and create habitat for birds and butterflies. Such sky-high greeneries indeed can offer respite from the city bustle.

Many of us would not have known it to be possible to plant a garden in space-challenged Singapore, let alone on top of a HDB block. Much as this idea may be a novelty for Singaporeans, roof top garden projects have very much taken off in other countries. As of 1 April 2000, the Japanese Government has stipulated that new public and private commercial developments with roof areas of over 250 square metres and 1,000 square metres respectively are expected to green a minimum of 20 percent of any flat roof area.



# Green and Hits the Roof

## ...Literally

Rooftop gardens are a hit with urban residents across the world and Seacare Environmental believes that it will be popular in Singapore too.

**"We are also in the preliminary stages of gaining a better understanding of how to install and utilise roof gardens at this point. If found to be workable, we hope to propose the conversion of the roofs of residential blocks, existing carparks and such, into green roofs,"**

Mr Kader said.

GLC will be imparting the necessary knowledge and skills in installing the roof garden in the initial stages. Essential know-how will include understanding the nature of various types of plants, knowing the suitability of the plants for a roof garden, and of course, the technicalities involved with setting up

a roof garden from scratch. Certainly, Singapore's climate plays a big consideration in the types of foliage that can be planted.

Mr Abdul Kader reinforced: "Such extensive gardens require minimal maintenance and behave as another form of roofing material. Ultimately, what we are looking at is improving air quality and lowering temperatures, especially in sunny and humid Singapore. Installing gardens and green spaces upon the roof spaces of buildings will be a great boost to improving the environment, and perhaps even offering residents an alternative 'get-away' at that too!"

Indeed, Housing Board Development (HDB), Building and Construction Authority (BCA), Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and National Parks (NParks) have already been working together to encourage deployment of such roof gardens in Singapore.

## Benefits of A Garden-Roof System:

- Provides good insulation, reduces temperature by at least 1 to 2 degrees, depending on the size of the roof, thus saving energy.
- Reduces/retards the release of excessive rain water by approximately 30%.
- Drained-off water can be recycled for cleaning purposes and watering of plants.
- Increases oxygen in the air; improves micro-climate and humidity in the surrounding area of the building.
- Absorption of dust and atmospheric pollution.
- Reduces light and heat reflection and radiation.
- Efficient noise absorption.

# SMMC Propels Seacare Brand In Europe and SE Asia

The maritime industry shakers and movers congregate once every two years at the renowned Nor-Shipping Exhibition. This year, the prestigious event was held in Norway, Oslo, from 7 to 10 June 2005, with an estimated 15,000 international visitors from 40 over countries.

Touted as 'The Place To Be', the Exhibition was indeed the perfect place to develop personal networks, build competence and share information. It was the place where participants came to create business opportunities. The event featured keynote speakers like Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Singapore's Minister of State for Finance and Transport, and other industry leading voices.

Showcasing Singapore as an International Maritime Hub, the Singapore Maritime Foundation specially invited a team of leaders from reputable home-grown organisations to participate in the Exhibition. Seacare Maritime Medical Centre was one of such organisations featured in the Singapore pavilion.

Dr Chia Yih Woei, Chief Executive Officer, SMMC, pointed out: "The Nor-Shipping Exhibition was an excellent opportunity for SMMC to create awareness in the global maritime industry and highlight the services we provide. We made many contacts both internationally as well as among the Singapore companies participating in the event."



Indeed, SMMC is making its presence felt beyond the shore of Singapore. After relocating to a larger premises on home ground, the Centre has started to appoint affiliated clinics in the region with two in Manila, the Philippines, and one to be established in Port Klang, Malaysia. Discussions are also underway to have a SMMC affiliated clinic in Jakarta, Indonesia.

"We are also exploring possibilities of appointing more in the region, like Vietnam and more cities in the Philippines," said Dr Chia. "We are extending SMMC's reach to serve more clients especially now that Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) is in place and







we want to reach out to as many of our foreign members as possible." He was referring to the special medical scheme presented by the SOS for the purpose of providing its union members with a range of medical benefits.

Dr Chia stressed that the appointment of affiliate clinics will of course, be stringent. They will have to fulfil SMMC's criteria, such as a clean and sound record, before being appointed the representative clinic in the respective countries. The benefits of SMS will be tailored according to the needs of members in each respective country.



**"At the end of the day, we are committed to providing the best possible care. Going regional serves to promote the brand name of Seacare and SMMC as a preferred maritime healthcare provider, be it within or beyond Singapore. Just like our participation in the Nor-Shipping exhibition, it demonstrates our commitment to do our part in building Singapore as a International Maritime Hub," said Dr Chia.**



# Seacare Education Gains Entry to Malaysia Through P.O.D.

They wooed and courted each other. Drawn by the same purpose of their existence which is to enhance the value of education, both Seacare Education Pte Ltd and P.O.D. Education made the commitment to cement their relationship in Malaysia.

Thanks to Seacare International (M) Sdn Bhd's investment in P.O.D. Education Sdn. Bhd., Seacare Education Pte Ltd now has access into the Malaysian educational market.

"Our investment in P.O.D. Education is both strategic and commercial as it will now allow us access into the Malaysian educational market while at the same time adding strength to our business," Mr Leow Ching Chuan, CEO of Seacare Foundation Pte Ltd told Samudra.

P.O.D. Education is a member of Professional and Organisation & Development, a premier human resource consultancy and corporate training company with excellent network of some 600 large and medium sized companies in Malaysia. With its first intake of 10 students in January 2003, P.O.D. Education now has 100 students, doing certificate, diploma and degree courses.

The Operations Director who heads P.O.D. Education is the renowned Malaysian educator Ms Vivianne See. She holds a degree in Business with a Masters and Doctorate for Education.

**"Our investment in P.O.D. Education is both strategic and commercial as it will now allow us access into the Malaysian educational market while at the same time adding strength to our business. P.O.D. Education is a well managed company and we are proud to be able to go into partnership with them."**  
- Mr Leow Ching Chuan, CEO of Seacare Foundation Pte Ltd

**"Prior to joining Seacare Education, I have had the opportunity of working closely with the directors of P.O.D. Education and find them to be people highly committed to providing the best in education and highly professional in their relationship with partners as well as their conduct of business. Indeed, this is a marriage of like minded people."**  
- Mr Goh Yeow Tin, CEO, Seacare Education Pte Ltd

**"Seacare Education has a sound and comprehensive plan for its educational business particularly with regards to the regional market. We like their vision and consider them a useful partner in our expansion plan. We believe there is synergy in this strategic alliance and will bring the best in both organisations."**  
- Mr S G Cheong, Director, P.O.D. Education Sdn Bhd

**"In line with our motto: 'WE CARE FOR YOUR EDUCATION', we are confident that Seacare Education's participation in our business will raise our standard even higher as they will work with us towards collaborating with reputable educational institutions of higher learning and introducing better teaching methods, more comprehensive range of programmes as well as possible staff exchange. All these will go towards enhancing the value of our education to our students."**  
- Dr Vivianne See, Operations Director, P.O.D. Education Sdn Bhd

# Counting On Seafarers' Provident Fund

Sixty-four year old Mr Quek Kim Siang had some savings waiting for him when he retired. The Associate for Life (AL) member of Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) and former employee of SSC Ship Management Pte Ltd unlocked the savings built up in his Seacare Provident Fund (SPF) account and now has some spare cash.

The blessings that the SPF bring are also deeply felt by SOS members in other countries such as in the Philippines. Mr Crispin Dela Cruz Sarmiento was a Participating Member (Foreign) with SOS and a former employee of A P Moller Singapore Pte Ltd. He was 47 years old when he passed away in May 2005 due to an illness. His wife, Madam Soledad Sanchez Sarmiento, was the beneficiary following the approval of the withdrawal of his SPF account. In a practical way, SOS extended our deepest condolences to the family members.



"I'm very grateful to SOS for setting up this Seafarers Provident Fund. It comes in handy for me and I have definitely benefitted tremendously. I really appreciate this."

All thanks to the efforts of the Seacare Thrift Pte Ltd, more than 9,000 local and foreign seafarers have a provident fund account that they and their families can count on - like Mr Quek and Mdm Soledad.

Administered by Seacare Thrift Pte Ltd and co-managed by NTUC Thrift & Loan Co-operative Ltd, the Seafarers' Provident Fund Scheme was established by the SOS in 2001 to promote and protect seafarers' well-being, as well as build a nest egg for retirement and rainy days. Annual interest payment is dispensed by the NTUC Thrift & Loan Co-operative Ltd for each seafarer's thrift accounts.

Seafarers, upon reaching the age of 50 and above, having maintained the account for a minimum of three years and retired from seafaring career, are eligible to withdraw the fund. Any other withdrawal application will be looked into on a case-to-case basis by the Main Administrative Committee (AC).

**For more information,**  
please contact us at:

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#08-00 Seacare Building  
Singapore 169875

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

# Time to Retreat!

For the team of people who lead fast-paced lives chasing after targets, lounging on the sandy beaches away from home was a real treat. The Seacare Manpower Recruiters' Retreat to Batam saw some 20 Seacare Recruiters and Representatives participating in this delightful quick get-away, which allows them to get to know one another better and share and exchange their experiences.

Leading the recruiters on the retreat were Mr Lee Van Chong, Chairman of Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd, Ms Sulena Supaat, Manager and Director of Seacare Manpower, Mr Mohd Idris, Director of Seacare Manpower and Ms Wendy Neo of Seacare Manpower.



Spending two days and one night at Batam's Planet Holiday Hotel, participants tasted local food-fare and Indonesian seafood cuisine at local restaurants and visited various places of interest such as the Maha Vihara Duta Maitreya Laughing Buddha Temple. They also managed to shop at departmental stores and even stopped over at the dry foodstuff market and armed themselves with produce such as ikan bilis, udang kering, kerupok and local preserved fruits before the trip back to Singapore.

Despite the short vacation, it was evident that they had established stronger bonds amongst themselves. Not only had they forged deeper friendships, they also got to understand each other better.

Gushed Madam Sung Seoh Ing: "The trip was relaxing and I believe everyone else, like me, enjoyed ourselves tremendously. It helped us unwind considerably, but more importantly, it gave us the opportunity to get to know one another better."

Sixty-five year old Mr PT Palaniyandi agreed. "Seacare has done a wonderful job organising this retreat. I know how difficult it is to organise such trips for people, and for this, we are very appreciative!"

The team returned to Singapore totally charged up to hit membership targets and more importantly, to continue enjoying new and deeper friendship.



# Learning To Lead The Right Way



Being a leader is not easy and has its challenges. Having the right skills and experience is not sufficient anymore, but knowing the right way to motivate employees makes a big difference too.

For two days, 34 participants from the various service sector co-operatives in Singapore congregated at Batam to learn about the 'Challenge of Leadership' - a workshop organised by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation. Seacare's representatives were Mr David Lim, Mr Izzat Hamzah, Mr Yusof Abdul Rahman, Mr Rahmat Abu Bakar, Mr Woo Suay Long, Mr Ram Jeet Jadoh and Mr Eddy Lee.

Dwelling on four primary areas, facilitators from NU Quest Management Pte Ltd covered topics regarding the challenge of leadership, the delicate communication process, the importance of teamwork, better utilising analytical skills and judgement and people development. The workshop highlights leadership challenges and to better overcome them, points out more effective communication skills, as well as improving analytical thinking and making better judgement.

Going through lectures, discussions and role-playing, participants learnt to address relevant issues, problems and challenges facing leaders in modern organisation

and upgrade their leadership and managerial skills.

Said Mr David Lim: "I am a businessman myself, and I find the workshop very helpful. I have gained immensely, such as learning how to improve myself to be a better business leader. More importantly, since we are all working towards establishing better co-operatives, what better way to go about this than for everyone to utilise their strengths and co-operate together, like the name suggests?"

Agreed Mr Yusof Abdul Rahman: "It is never easy being a leader. Responsibilities are wide and varied. We may encounter conflict of interests at times when we have to fulfil our tasks and yet, maintain employees' motivation. Not to mention those times when delegation of work or giving instructions can be rather delicate. I have definitely gained a deeper insight from this workshop, and can manage better at striking that elusive balance."

Both Mr Lim and Mr Yusof are also standing committee members of SOS, serving in the committees of Industrial Relations and Welfare respectively. They expressed their keen interest in attending these various workshops because of the in-depth and practical knowledge it imparts. Till the next workshop!

# Speedy Response

## to Speed Reading Courses

Response to the series of Chinese Speed-Reading related classes and workshops organised by Seacare Education Pte Ltd was OVERWHELMING.

More than 60 students and parents attended the Chinese Speed Illustration on 1 June 2005, 50 students and parents attended the Chinese Speed Reading Class, while 55 participants, mainly Chinese school teachers, turned up for the Chinese Speed Reading Workshop on 7 and 8 June 2005. The courses aroused immense interest which led to the formation of Chinese Speed Reading Club.

The course objectives were indeed achieved. Commented Mr Yang Pei Gen, General Manager of Seacare Education Pte Ltd: "By the end of the course, all the participants, including those who were above 60 years of age, were thrilled to find that they were able to read faster and more effectively. In fact, some 20 participants responded that they would like to receive further training in order to qualify as a Speed Reading Trainer. We are pleased that this run of Chinese Speed-Reading Workshops has been a great success. But more importantly, we are glad that everyone from six to sixty has benefited."

Just what exactly is speed-reading, that everyone from the age of six to sixty years becomes so intrigued by the



results it promises? Today, understanding the written word can also affect our survival - the ability to cope with a rising danger of information overload as we are inundated with books and more books. To enhance the ability of individuals to cope with the vast amount of information they receive daily, this is where speed reading techniques make a difference. The objective? To improve the speed of reading by at least two to five times.

Apart from the Chinese Speed Reading sessions that were conducted, Seacare Education also organised a talk on Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) for students and their parents and a Seminar at the Singapore Chinese Writers' Association at the Bukit Timah Community Centre on 5 June 2005, which was attended by some 50 participants, most of whom were members of the Association.

"We have every intention to conduct training for teachers, and approaching schools to encourage their students to sign up for Chinese Speed Reading classes. We have seen evident success with our Chinese Speed Reading classes, and we are confident that we can help them improve their reading speed for Chinese and in the process, improve their results and fire their interest in Chinese. On top of these, we are also launching another series of talks on Classical Chinese Culture after July," Mr Yang informed.

# club@52

Welcomes You Once Again

**Miss the familiar faces at Club@52?**

**We'll fret not, because Club@52 will be welcoming everyone with open arms on 5 September 2005, after its refurbishment to serve you better!**

To celebrate its new look, Club@52, together with Carlsberg, will be giving away a multi-purpose container for every three jugs of beer purchased. Made of canvas, the container is strong enough to hold water (without leakage) and yet malleable enough to be folded and stowed away!

But hurry. Promotion ends in October 2005. While stocks last.

club@52

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**Opening Hours:**  
Mon to Sat: 5pm to 1am  
Sun & Public Holiday: Closed

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