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SAMUDRA

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

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SPORTING SEAFARERS COME TOGETHER FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTSWEEK





SAMUDRA

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Anticipate and Endure Shorter Economic Cycles

May Day Message 2012
by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

The Singapore economy did well last year. Growth was 4.9%, quite creditable considering the external uncertainties. Workers benefitted from this robust performance. Many good jobs were created, and our unemployment rate of 2% was the lowest in 14 years.

We expect slower growth this year, between 1-3%. The US and Europe are not out of trouble yet, even though they are doing better than we had feared earlier. There are other significant external risks, such as tensions over Iran, an oil price shock or sovereign debt default, which might happen.

Another reason for slower growth is our domestic constraints. Our economy is maturing. We are running up against land and manpower limits. We are moderating the inflow of foreign workers. This will hold back many companies that are eager to expand, but cannot find enough workers. Some may even relocate their operations out of Singapore. Our labour market is currently still very tight. Singaporeans can readily find jobs, at all levels. In the short-term, this will push wages up.


But it would be dangerous to assume complacently that wages can continue to rise indefinitely, just by our squeezing on foreign workers. Higher wages push up business costs, affect our competitiveness, and may cause higher inflation. To sustain better wages and higher real living standards, we

must raise our productivity. Indeed, raising productivity is more important than ever in our mature economy, because it is the only way to upgrade ourselves and our lives.

This calls for every worker to make the effort, whether the rank-and-file or Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technicians (PMETs). We must all continue to upgrade ourselves and master new skills. Let us take advantage of the substantial investments in Continuous Education and Training by the Government. Workers should also be adaptable and flexible, keen to re-skill, and willing to cross over to new, growing industries.

Companies must support this transformation. They should look beyond short-term profits to build successful businesses for the long-term, together with their employees and the broader community. They must treat employees as partners, and invest in their development and welfare to optimise the deployment of every worker, young and old, local and foreign. Companies can also contribute back to society in big ways or small, be it through corporate social responsibility or philanthropy. These efforts will strengthen our social compact, and help us avoid the mistrust and negative sentiments between businesses and citizens which we see growing in many developed countries.

Raising our productivity will benefit workers, firms, and our economy as a whole. Workers can earn more in higher-



quality jobs. Firms can prosper and expand their businesses here. Our economy can continue to thrive despite more intense global competition.

Looking ahead, we must prepare for a more challenging economic environment. Globalisation has shortened economic cycles. Ups and downs happen much faster, and with less warning. Outlooks are less predictable. Every country is more exposed to global competition, and Singapore more than most.

Hence our unions must work hard to organise workers, not just the rank-and-file, but the growing number of PMETs too. Workers need help to prepare for this more uncertain environment. They need reassurance and support as they adjust to changing conditions. When layoffs and shutdowns happen, which from time to time are unavoidable, unions must help workers find new jobs and tide over the difficult times.

Workers should also be encouraged to support sound national policies that benefit them in the long run, so that we can work together as a nation to serve the best interests of Singaporeans. These goals are especially important to the new leaders in the union movement, who must strive to earn the trust of workers and foster a strong relationship with the Government and employers.

Above all, tripartism must remain our enduring competitive advantage. Each tripartite partner – Government, employers, workers – must be strong, each must share good relationships with the other two, and all three must build on the mutual trust that holds everything together. By deepening and strengthening tripartism, Singapore can continue to be a cohesive, competitive and successful society, a place where our whole is more than the sum of our parts.

Even though we expect our economy to grow less quickly in future, our shared goal is unchanged: to improve the quality of our growth. We want Singapore to be a competitive economy and an inclusive society, where the benefits of growth are distributed fairly and widely. We want this to remain a vibrant land of opportunity which continues to attract investors, and which helps Singaporeans to create a brighter future for ourselves.

I am confident that we can succeed if we put our hearts and minds into this. Let us work together to make this our best home, where every job is a good-job, where every worker is well employed and maximising his potential, and where everyone benefits from Singapore's success.

I wish all Singaporeans a Happy May Day!



Twin Growth Key for Better Future

May Day Message 2012

by NTUC Secretary-General

Lim Swee Say

May Day is a day of celebration in Singapore but a day of protest in some countries.

The workers in these countries protest against the shortage of jobs and stagnation of wages. For them, unemployment is high and hopes of good job prospects are dim. So, they take to the streets to vent their anger and frustration.

Singapore's situation is not perfect but is certainly better. Our employment rates across all ages are going up while the unemployment rate remains one of the lowest in the world. May Day is thus a time to reflect and re-affirm our unity in tripartism.

For our nation and economy to keep doing better, we have to overcome some old challenges and tackle some new ones.

Global competition for jobs will be fierce. This is an old challenge that will never go away. We have to fight hard and work smart to attract good investments and create good jobs for our people, young and old. The tight labour market is an outcome of our success. It is always better to have to cope with a shortage of workers rather than a shortage of jobs.

Our new challenge is to reduce the social downside as we pursue the upside of economic growth. We want to generate a virtuous cycle of economic gain and social gain.

With higher costs of living, it is imperative that we speed up real wage increase and slow down the widening of income gap. As we slow down the increase of global manpower in our workforce, we must make better use of every worker we have at all levels, including our lower wage workers.

Our workplace must be more age-friendly for mature workers to continue working in a fair and meaningful way; and more family-friendly for more women and working parents to strike a better work-life balance.

Old and new, these are major challenges we must tackle head on. There is no easy way to sustain our economic growth and social progress. The best way to succeed is for the tripartite partners to work in unity and turn these challenges into opportunities for our people and businesses. Together, we can pursue a future of better jobs, better pay and better career prospects for all Singaporeans.

Let us do our best to make sure that May Day will always be a day of celebration here in Singapore, for a long time to come.

Happy May Day!



SOS Delegates Visit FKSU

Four delegates from the SOS visited the Federation of Korean Seafarers' Union (FKSU) along with delegates from the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU). From 9 to 12 April 2012, the delegates from SOS who went on the trip to Busan, South Korea included President, Mr Mohamed Idris B Mohamed Ibrahim, General Secretary, Mr Kam Soon Huat, Assistant Secretary, Mr David Shoo and ExCo member, Mr Lim Thizi Chee.

The visit was aimed at forging stronger ties between the unions of South Korea and Singapore through the mutual exchange of matters pertaining to seafarers.

Singapore delegates were brought to the FKSU office in Busan where they were introduced to the FKSU team by Mr Lee Joong-Hwan, President of FKSU. The Singapore delegates were also introduced to FKSU. The group then sat down and discussed various seafarers issues, rights, wages, working conditions, benefits, the MLC 2006, FOC Campaign, trade union activities and their involvement in the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). FKSU shared their plans to establish more welfare centres and facilities for seafarers before hosting a dinner for the delegates.

The delegates had the opportunity to visit the memorial tower at Taejongdae in Busan, where they paid respect to the seafarers who lost their lives in rough seas around the world while working for the development of the Korean marine industry. The cenotaph was erected in 1979 with donations and subsidies from FKSU, the ITF and the South Korean government. The memorial tower remains a symbolic monument of the country's maritime industry up till today.

FKSU had first visited SOS and SMOU in Singapore during May of 2010. The federation currently consists of 55 labour unions from domestic and international shipping and fishery industry, while its membership strength stands over 40,000. Its headquarters is located in Busan, with branch offices in Seoul and Incheon.



SOS Attends ASSM & NASCO in Indonesia

The meeting gathered delegates from maritime unions and discussed key issues at hand such as piracy and the safety of seafarers.



Held over two days on 28 and 29 May 2012 in Surabaya, Indonesia, representatives from the SOS attended the 29th Asian Seafarers' Summit Meeting (ASSM) and the 22nd Norwegian and Asian Seafarers Committee Meeting (NASCO). They were joined by some 50 delegates from other maritime unions. The delegates also visited a training centre in Surabaya, the Merchant Marine College.

On the first of the two meetings, the 29th ASSM meeting highlighted that in a globalised world and technology-driven era, it is vital to evaluate, improve and formulate new policies, while the 22nd NASCO meeting addressed matters relating to the ITF and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

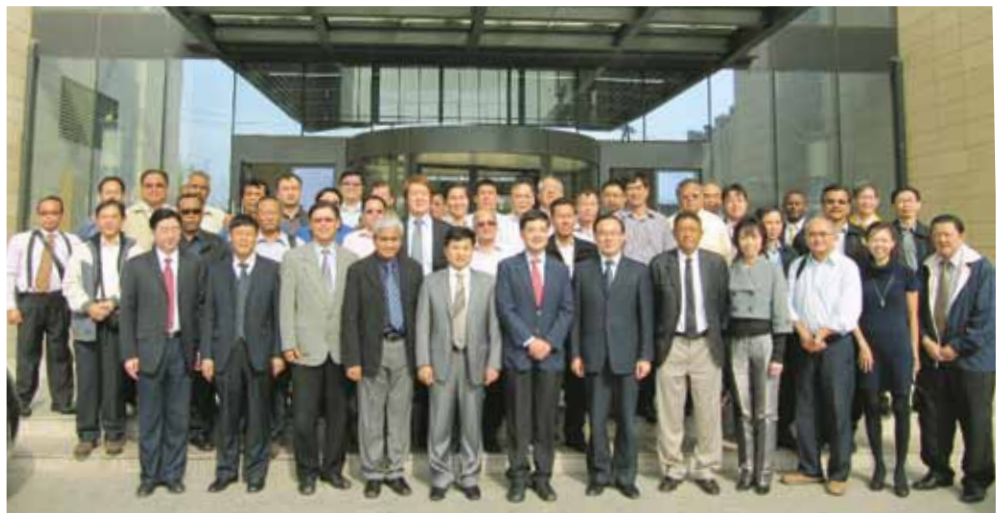


NTUC International Relations Committee Retreat in Beijing

The NTUC International Relations Committee held its retreat in Beijing, China from 11 to 15 April 2012. Representing SOS was General Secretary, Mr Kam Soon Huat and Executive Secretary, Mr Daniel Tan who joined NTUC Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Heng Chee How and 45 other union delegates.

The group visited the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) for a sharing session about China's economy, followed by a visit to the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China.

NTUC delegates convened at the NTUC International Relations Committee (IRC) meeting, introducing participants to the IRC and conveying the happenings around the world in key international organisations.



Excellent Diver Crew Gets Outstanding Wages and Repatriation



On 30 May 2012, Presea Marine Service Pte Ltd received a letter of authorisation from the Nigeria High Commission in Singapore to settle seafarers' grievances onboard MV Excellent Diver. The Nigerian vessel had owed its crew three months worth of salaries. Earlier on 16 May, International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Inspector, Mr Ranjan Perera from the National Union of Seafarers Sri Lanka (NUSS) flagged up the vessel to various ITF affiliates, including Singapore.

The salaries and repatriation costs for the 10 crew members amounted to US\$27,250 and US\$3,900 respectively. A total sum of US\$31,150 was to be paid by Presea Marine

first to the crew, to enable the crew's departure immediately following the expiration of their visas. The Singapore agent would later be reimbursed by the Nigerian High Commission.

The vessel had been under repairs in a shipyard for almost four months, and the crew was reaching the maximum of 150 days allowed for seafarers to be in Singapore. The crew were made up of five Sri Lankans and five Bangladeshis.

The payment of wages to the crew was witnessed by Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar, IR Executive of Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS).



SMS In Indonesia and Philippines



The Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) for SOS Members was implemented on 1 March 2005 by the SOS, as a special medical scheme to provide free medical consultation and basic medical and dental examinations to SOS members and their dependents at the affiliated clinics of the Seacare Maritime Centre Pte Ltd both overseas and locally.

NEW Clinic for SMS Philippines

Buhangin Medical Clinic and Diagnosis Centre in Davao City, Philippines joins the list of SMS appointed clinics. As of 1 April 2012, the clinic provides SMS benefits to SOS Filipino members and dependents in the Davao province.

Buhangin Medical Clinic and Diagnostic Center (BMCDC)
Door 2 Gimenez Building
Km.5 Buhangin Proper
Davao City
Tel: (63) 82 3016814/2862267/2410925
Operating hours: 6.30am to 5pm
Open from Monday to Saturday
Closed on Sunday and Public Holidays

Under SMS Indonesia, PT Klinik Indosehat has six clinic locations:

Indosehat 2003 Clinic
Jl. Cilincing Raya No. 74, North Jakarta
Phone: (21) 441 1281 Fax: (21) 4483 0763
Email: indosehat2003@hotmail.com

Indosehat Clinic Jl. Pasar Kemis, No. 33, Tangerang Banten	Balaraja Clinic Jl. Raya Kresek Km. 1 Balaraja Tangerang Phone; (21) 595 2673
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Sukapura Clinic
Jl. Tipar
Cakung No. 1A
East Jakarta
Phone: (21) 7075 1893

Republik Sehat
Jl. Raya Gunung Putri Rt 01/10
Gunung Putri, Bogor

Warakas Clinic
Jl. Warakas 1
No. 72, North Jakarta
Phone: (21) 6853 5830

For more information on the Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS), members may refer to:
<http://www.sosea.org.sg/s-smsforeign.html>

TRAINEES IMMERSE IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING ENVIRONMENT AT WUHAN



The Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS) is aimed at supporting the manning of SOS Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) vessels with quality seafarers. The scheme also caters to the required training, re-training and pre-sea training needs of ratings.

The Seacare Quality Rating Training under the SMTS was conducted in Wuhan, China over four weeks, from 16 April to 15 May 2012. Held and facilitated by Wuhan University of Technology-Skaugen Training and Consulting Co. Ltd (WSTC), 25 trainees from PACC Ship Managers Pte Ltd went through the Seamaster English Training Program. Under close supervision by trainers, from 9am to 9pm, Monday to Saturday, the trainees were immersed in an all English-speaking environment where they had to speak English with fellow classmates and trainers.

The course gave trainees in-depth lessons on how to converse in different scenarios and contexts, such as reporting the weather, making a request and even in giving an apology. Trainees familiarised themselves with maritime lingo, emergency procedures, using personal protective equipment



and basic writing skills.

Captain Anthony Khoo from PACC Ship Managers Pte Ltd made a special visit to the training centre on 8 May 2012 where he was received warmly by the WSTC staff, and gave a speech to the trainees. The course's graduation ceremony was held on 15 May 2012, where trainees received certificates for successfully completing the course.



TRAINING COURSES IN NANTONG IMPROVE ON COMMUNICATION SKILLS



A training course aimed at teaching Maritime English, general vocabulary and conversational skills was conducted by Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute (SNIMI). The Seacare Quality Rating Training courses ran twice from 26 March to 20 April 2012 and from 7 May to 31 May 2012 in Nantong, China. A total of 50 trainees completed the course on Maritime Technical Skill and Elementary English Course.

The course, consisted of 11 lessons, is set on improving the trainees' communications skills. The trainees were given tips on personal grooming, useful body language, basic understanding of personal hygiene, fire fighting and emergency response procedures, general ship knowledge, recognising notices and signs on a vessel, international conventions, and specific deck and engine topics. Finally, trainees were given an introduction to international regulations such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), SOLAS Convention, PSC Inspection, and an Introduction to MLC, 2006.

“When the trainees first came to the centre, they held a very good attitude towards learning even though their standard of English was not very good at first. Now, they are able to express themselves confidently and are willing to work with foreigners. Their good attitude and willingness to work hard onboard will go a long way.”

– Mr Zhang Dapeng, Trainer, SNIMI

Another training course, Seacare Quality Cooks Training, was held from 26 March to 20 April 2012. A total of 14 trainees took a course on basic catering and maritime English. They were given an introduction to the various cuisines such as Chinese, continental, American breakfasts, traditional Chinese and western food. Trainees gained tips on personal grooming, general ships knowledge and introduction to international regulations. Trainees also underwent initial, weekly and final assessments to evaluate their performances and overall improvement.

Feedback gathered from the trainees after their courses found that they experienced a significant improvement in their standard of English. Akin to giving them a kick-start in speaking the language, the trainees now have motivation to improve on speaking and communicating in English.



INTERNATIONAL SPORTSWEEK FOR SEAFARERS 2012



The International Sportsweek for Seafarers 2012 ended officially on 28 April 2012. Held annually, International Sportsweek for Seafarers marks the 17th year that the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has organised such an event. A total of 1,400 participants had a sports-filled week as they participated in the various sporting events which included relay runs and soccer matches.

After an eventful week, SOS received a total of six individual prizes and two team prizes. SOS staff who won the honours were Mr Rahmat Abu Bakar, Mr Yusof Abd Rahman, Mr Rahim Abd Rahman, Mr Lim Thizi Chee, Mr Musa Sias and Mr Chew Thiam Chye Jeffrey. They took top three places in the 60m Dash (Veteran), 1,500m Race, Shot Putt (Open) and Long Jump (Open). SOS also took the runner-up position under the local team category in a tug-of-war competition, as well as the Telematch.



Guest-of-Honour Mr Norifumi Yamamoto (in blue), Managing Director of Celeste Holding Pte Ltd and Chairman of the MPA Welfare Committee for Seamen, poses for a photo with participating seafarers from SOS.



Get involved with NTUC Women's Development Secretariat

With an increasing number of new women and youth members joining the SOS, a new committee aptly named the 'Women & Youth Committee' has been set up. Given a proper identity to work with in representing SOS, four members of the new committee have been inducted into two of the National Trades Union Congress' (NTUC) committees –the NTUC Women's Committee and Young NTUC.

As one of the key programme drivers of the Labour Movement 2011, the Women's Development Secretariat (WDS), which provides secretariat support to the NTUC Women's Committee, is focused on helping women with job opportunities and entering or re-entering the workforce. Through WDS programmes and initiatives, women get to develop and strengthen their leadership capabilities. As women now have a significant presence in the workplace and within the trade unions, WDS plays an important role in NTUC.

WeCare for U Project

A community outreach programme was launched in March 2007 by NTUC WDS. The WeCare for U Project aims to support single mothers, building up their tenacious spirit and stronger independence in bringing up their children. Activities such as workshops, family outings and learning journeys organised by WDS help single mothers to bond with their children.

A reading programme for young children, named WeCare kidsREAD, was launched in July 2011. The programme concept was adopted from and supported by the National Library Board (NLB). Targeted at children aged four to seven years old, volunteers and students help these children develop a love for reading from young and increase their reading ability. The programme is conducted in the NTUC Centre on Saturdays.

A total of 22 reading sessions were conducted over four phases. Each session sees an average attendance of 10 to 12 children, and supported by eight volunteers. The reading sessions each last one and half hour and consist of three segments, the big and small group reading, craft and thematic play activities. The craft and play segment enhances children's social and emotional development as they get to interact and participate in creating crafts with other children.



Jobs On Wheels for Women in the Heartlands

A recent recruitment effort and pilot project by the NTUC WDS launched the Back2Work with U Job Fair on 15 June 2012. Called "Jobs on Wheels for U", the recruitment effort by WDS was extended to female job seekers in the heartland areas around Singapore. WDS will be working with various partners, including the Community Development Councils (CDC) and the e2i (Employment and Employability Institute), which target to seek full-time and part-time employment for female job seekers.

The initiative commenced in July 2012, where at least 500 job opportunities are provided at each recruitment location for female job seekers who stay in the vicinity. The van is slated to start off in the North West zone, then proceed to the North East, Central, South East and North West districts. By bringing employment opportunities to the heartlands, WDS is catering mainly to female homemakers who have familial commitments.



SOS Representatives Join NTUC Women's Committee and Young NTUC



"During the NTUC Women's Committee networking session in May 2012, I met fellow committee members and was touched as I felt the strong camaraderie among them. I have also joined a sub-committee known as "WeCare Volunteerism". As a part of the SOS Women & Youth and NTUC Women's Committees, I hope to be able to contribute in promoting opportunities for collaborations for the benefits of members and the community."

– Ms Shena Foo, SOS Representative in NTUC Women's Committee

"As a woman and a youth, I am able to empathise with the issues faced by both groups. I will be able to share their concerns with the relevant people and help to improve their lives. It is great to know that the NTUC Women's Committee runs projects to support women and I am glad that by being in SOS' Women & Youth, I will be able to collaborate with both groups and give me a chance to participate in issues that will affect women in the community. I hope to contribute my ideas to create greater awareness."

– Ms Sharon Li, SOS Representative in NTUC Women's Committee



"I am honoured to be part of the SOS Women & Youth Committee as well as part of Young NTUC, as I wish to contribute to the well-being of both Committees' matters. We hope to work closely with Seacare Manpower Services to reach out to more women and youth to increase our membership strength."

– Ms Clarissa Lim, SOS Representative in Young NTUC

"It's my privilege and honour to be able to represent Young SOS and work with some of the most innovative minds in Young NTUC. I believe that getting appointed as an SOS representative gives me a fantastic opportunity to help change and improve the lives of workers around me. I'm glad to know that SOS takes stock of its community and hope that I will be able to help contribute back to society by giving my all!"

– Mr Colin Chia, SOS Representative in Young NTUC



ITF YOUTH PREPARE FOR SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Young Transport Workers Committee Meeting was held in London, from 23 to 24 April 2012. At the ITF House, Ms Sharon Li, SOS Manager, and 16 other committee members representing different sectors of transport unions, engaged in fruitful discussions. The meeting saw updates on the committee's work programme such as network building session within the transport sections and regions. The agenda items that have been placed under consideration include climate change, precarious work, the economic crisis and strengthening networks.



The meeting also saw the start of preparations for the ITF Young Transport Workers Conference due to take place between 17 and 19 September 2012 in Montreal, Canada. Intense discussions to prepare for the event took place as elected youth leaders will oversee the ITF youth programme. The conference will gather unionists from all over the world and all sectors of transport to look at the political, economic and environmental crisis and its implications for young transport workers.

They survived!



The Young NTUC Sector organised a teambuilding session in the form of a one-day survival programme. Held on 24 March 2012 on Sisters' Islands, approximately 30 participants took part in the session which lasted from 8am to 11pm.

SOS Executive and SOS Women & Youth Admin Secretary Ms Clarissa Lim thoroughly enjoyed the programme and established strong bonds with fellow comrades. At the start of the day, Ms Lim and other participants boarded a chartered boat to get from Marina South Pier to Sisters' Islands. There, she gained valuable knowledge on basic skills for survival such as gathering wood to start a fire, cooking food in raw bamboo, obtaining water sources and even identifying edible plants. For lunch, gutsy participants got to learn how to prepare live frogs to be cooked.

YOUNG SOS EXECUTIVE APPOINTED IN YOUNG NTUC

In April 2012, SOS Executive Mr Colin Chia was appointed as the Young SOS representative in Young NTUC, joining SOS existing representative in Young NTUC, Ms Clarissa Lim. Young NTUC is the youth wing of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), founded in April 2005. Being the largest youth movement in Singapore, youth representatives have a tremendous opportunity to speak out for the needs and aspirations of young workers today.

Mr Chia is delighted and eager to participate in the future events related to and organised by Young NTUC. By joining the youth movement, he will become the voice of Young SOS for fair working opportunities of young workers, and be able to suggest ideas which will improve Singapore's societal infrastructure.

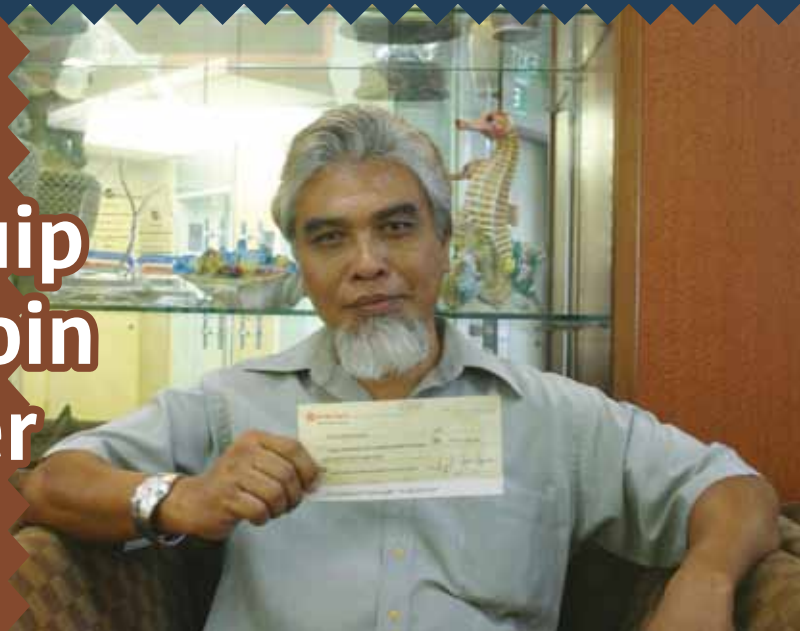
Mr Chia hopes that by representing SOS in Young NTUC, he can tap on the union knowledge resources and rally SOS youth in playing their part to help young workers in Singapore.



(Photos: TYN20-20)



SOS Training Grant Helps Equip Member To Rejoin Seafaring Career



An SOS member, Mr Razali B Hassan had completed a week-long Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) – Global Maritime Distress and Safety System – Restricted Operator’s Course (GMDSS-ROC) in late December 2011. Then in April this year, Mr Razali had the chance to complete the Medical First Aid Onboard Ship course held from 11 to 14 April 2012 on the Singapore Polytechnic campus. He received two training grants for both courses sponsored under the MPA’s Educational Grant Scheme, as well as a Training Grant Benefit from SOS.

Despite having been in a seafaring career spanning 32 years and having to face the challenge of juggling work, family and studies, the 53-year-old is thankful for his new-found knowledge and skills acquired from attending the programme. Mr Razali has worked in the shipping industry since 1980, starting out as a seaman. He later transited to working onshore, but has hopes of rejoining the seafaring community especially

after attending the courses by Singapore Maritime Academy of Singapore Polytechnic (SMA-SP).

The GMDSS-ROC course has enriched Mr Razali on the various communication techniques including the transmission and receipt of distress alerts, location signals, coordination communication as well as the usage of Inmarsat Satellite. The Medical First Aid Onboard Ship course has given him first aid skills such as treating fractures, wound treatments and carrying out cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) which can be utilised on land and sea.

The SOS Training Grant Benefit is aimed at equipping seafarers with skills that can put to good use while onboard.

For more information on the SOS Training Grant benefit and the list of supported courses, please visit our website at www.sosea.org.sg

“The course allows me to boost my marketability by providing me with new knowledge. I now know in detail what goes on behind the scenes during an emergency call and how to transmit and receive distress calls.”

– Mr Razali B Hassan, Member of SOS



Welcome to the SOS Family!

Ms Priscilla Han is the newly confirmed staff in the Membership Services Division. Samudra Speaks to her about joining the SOS family.

Samudra: How do you think your past job experiences will help you in your new employment?

Pris: Having worked in the media industry, I now know how to manage people's expectations. In joining SOS, I think a lot of my work will deal with members and people working in the maritime industry. Hence, I can apply my people management skills gained from my previous job to deal with the expectations of members and solving their problems with the right mindset and attitude.

Samudra: How has the immersion period been for you?

Pris: So far, SOS has exposed me to a very exciting environment as I get to take on new roles and functions that I have not taken on before.

Samudra: How do you think you can contribute to the SOS family?

Pris: Seeing how fulfilling my experience has been so far, I believe there will be a lot more opportunities in time to come.

Samudra: What are your professional aspirations for your career with SOS?

Pris: I certainly hope to excel in what I am doing now.

Samudra: What are some of your interests?

Pris: I love travelling overseas so that I get to meet new people and learn about new cultures. I also like to attend musicals/theatres, going for concerts and shopping.

Samudra: Do you have any parting words for our friends from SOS?

Pris: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow" by Albert Einstein.



SOS CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

(from June 2012 to March 2013)

**2 June 2012
Friday**

**SOS Members'
Night**

Scarlet City,
AMK Hub

**7 & 8 July 2012
Saturday
& Sunday**

**SOS Family
Outing cum
Durian Trip**

Malacca

**25 Aug 2012
Saturday**

**SOS Hari Raya
Celebration**

Hotel Re!

**6 Oct 2012
Saturday**

**SOS Study Grant
Presentation
Ceremony**

NTUC
Auditorium

***Oct 2012
TBC**

***SOS / Seacare
Networking
Session**

Club@52

**17 Nov 2012
Saturday**

**SOS Deepavali
Celebration**

Club@52

** The above dates / events / venues
are subject to change.*

**31 Aug –
2 Sept 2012
Friday to
Sunday**

**SOS IR
Networking
Golf**

Phnom Penh

***Sept 2012
TBC**

**Complimentary
1-Night Stay**

The Seacare Hotel

**28 Sept 2012
Friday**

**World Maritime
Day Celebration**

Seacare Building

***24 Nov 2012
Saturday**

***Family Fiesta
for SOS Filipino
Members**

TBC

**15 Feb 2013
Friday**

**SOS / Seacare
Hong Bao
Presentation &
LNY Celebration**

Fairmont Singapore

**22 Feb 2013
Friday**

**SOS / Seacare
Lunch with Senior
Citizens of
Jalan Kukoh**

Red Star Restaurant

**Mar 2013
TBC**

**SOS Members'
Night**

TBC

SOS Rides Around Singapore with AWWA Residents



An outing with 40 residents from the Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) was organised by the SOS on 15 May 2012. SOS Welfare Committee members and staff participated in this outing to bond with the residents on the Singapore Duck Tours and Trolley ride.

The hour-long trip started off at from Suntec City on the amphibious Ducktours boat, driving past major landmarks such as the Fountain of Wealth, the Singapore Flyer, the Esplanade and the Civic district.

The Trolley ride trip also passed by places associated with Singapore's ethnic cultures such as Kampong Glam, Chinatown, Little India and even Orchard Road. These places held significance for the residents as they brought back feelings of nostalgia.



"I am thankful for SOS in providing these sorts of outings. It makes our life less boring." – Auntie Seeni

"On behalf of AWWA Elderly Services Management Committee, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to SOS for organising an outing on Duck Tours."
– Mr Keith Lee, Director of AWWA Elderly Services

SOS Members' Night Returns at Scarlet City

A total of 130 members packed the club at Scarlet City located in Ang Mo Kio Hub on 2 June 2012. As early as 6pm, members turned up in large droves and high spirits, ready to have a good time.

The long-awaited event made a tasty comeback as members were treated to a luxurious buffet spread which included roast lamb, laksa and Thai seafood salad.

Entertainment that evening was provided by 2WaySt, a band from the Philippines, who enlivened the atmosphere with several English oldies. Some members also took to the stage to belt out a few numbers.

The tombola game segment saw participants enthusiastically scratching out numbers to win prizes. A total of three sets of the game were played, resulting in several 'line' and 'full house' winners.

The night drew to a close with three members competing in a dance-off for the top prize. The overall champion walked home with the top prize of a stay in an Executive Suite of the Aranda Country Club and a mystery prize.



SEACARE FOCUS



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THE SEACARE HOTEL'S DREAM TEAM

The Seacare Hotel's opening day is slated for September 2012. There's no better way to have the hotel run by the able hands of its dream team. As the co-operative's first ever hotel, the senior management team will play an important role in ensuring the smooth running of the hotel's operations. Samudra speaks to the important men behind the scene.



Mr Francis Choo,
General Manager of The Seacare Hotel

With 33 years of experience working in the tourism industry and various types of jobs, Mr Choo has formed a strong network of contacts with guests from China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, European, the ASEAN region, airline and corporate companies. In his previous jobs, he was also involved in negotiation of contracted rates for wholesalers, tour operators, travel agencies and airline companies.

"I am very fortunate to be given the opportunity to join The Seacare Hotel, putting forth my years of knowledge and experience on setting up Seacare's first hotel. Be it in operational aspects, generating of room revenues, staff training and grooming, I can utilise my passion for the tourism industry to make a dream come true for a hotel of its own class."

"Together with the team, my plan is to create a cozy, comfortable environment, home-away-from-home feeling and personalised services for all our corporate guests as well as the groups. The hotel's main clientele will mainly consists of guests from South East Asia and Japan"

– Mr Francis Choo, General Manager, The Seacare Hotel



(L-R): Mr Peter Gaw (Senior Sales Manager), Ms Genie Hoe (Assistant HR Manager), Mr Vincent Ng (Director of Sales), Ms Shermin Lim (Admin Executive), Mr Cheok Beng Wan (Accounts Manager), Ms Wendy Lim (Assistant Housekeeper), Mr Francis Choo (General Manager), Ms Yvonne Teo (Senior Sales Manager), Mr Jimmy Tay (Director of Operations)



Mr Jimmy Tay, Director of Operations

Mr Tay will see to the smooth running and coordination of the day-to-day hotel operations for the Front Office, Housekeeping matter, Maintenance and Security.

Mr Tay will seek to ensure that The Seacare Hotel's service standards and standard operating procedures are maintained at the highest levels possible to achieve guest satisfaction.

With more than 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Mr Tay specialises in Front Office operations, having worked as the Front Office Manager at the Golden Landmark Hotel, Pan Pacific Singapore, Quality Hotel and Hotel Re! @ Pearl's Hill. During his tenure with the various hotels, he had the opportunity to oversee and manage the Housekeeping, Maintenance, Security and IT departments. He also stood in as an Acting General Manager at Quality Hotel.

Mr Tay is never afraid to take on additional tasks and constantly looks for ways to improve productivity, increase efficiency and improve cost-savings. He has proposed and successfully implemented major projects such as the Migration of Opera Property Management System, Full EPS Car Park System and Satellite Dish & TV Installations.



Mr Vincent Ng, Director of Sales

Mr Ng will oversee the achievement of monthly and yearly sales budget. He will also proactively develop promotional strategies and marketing plans to develop The Seacare Hotel's brand of hospitality.

Mr Ng will set and negotiate contracted rates for guests according to the market segment and provide information on current market trends to the Management.

Mr Ng has been a seasoned, performance-driven and high energy Sales Professional with over 20 years of experience working in the Defence, Education, Electronics and Hospitality industries. The graduate from the Bachelor of Science in Business Management Studies, University of Bradford, believes in acquiring knowledge, constantly upgrading himself. Deeply passionate about the travel and hospitality industry, Mr Ng maintains strong links with his international network of contacts.

He won the Sales Excellence 2007/2008 Corporate Gold Award; a commendation Award for exceptional service and professional conduct under Hotel's Rewards and Recognition Scheme. Mr Ng holds an outstanding track record in sales and account management, demonstrating an achievement of revenue objectives in a local chain hotel group.



SSC HOLDS SECOND AGM

The Seacare Seafarers' Club (SSC) Second Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 8 June 2012. Some 95 ordinary members attended the meeting in the Seacare building. Members who attended the meeting received the progress reports for the period between June 2011 to May 2012 by General Manager Ms Jacquelyn Lam, and adopted the minutes of the first AGM held on 27 June 2011 and the Statement of Accounts for the financial year which ended 31 March 2012.

The progress report gave members an update on SSC membership strength and the performance of its jackpot operation.





The proposed amendments to the Constitution were adopted based on recommendations from the SSC Workshop held earlier in March 2012. The proposal was to amend the SSC Constitution to allow all SOS Members to be SSC Ordinary Members as well. The AGM came to a close with no further amendments. Members then made their way to Club@52 to enjoy a buffet lunch.





SEACARE MANPOWER STAFF EMPOWERED THROUGH POWERPOINT

The Microsoft PowerPoint programme is an essential visual aid often used in corporate presentations. As such, Seacare Manpower organised a course conducted by the Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) for its staff to equip them with the knowledge on know-hows of enhancing their presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint. Manpower staff who had continuously worked for a minimum of period of three months were qualified to attend the course, free of charge.

Participants learnt the basic uses of PowerPoint, how to create slides, use graphics and animation to enhance a presentation. To effectively illustrate statistical data, participants learned how to create, edit and delete records in a table as well as how to format charts and diagrams.





The course was conducted using prescriptive classroom-based training. The trainer, Mr Alex Wong gave demonstrations of the learning points to participants before they put the new knowledge to practical application. Participants were expected to complete given exercises, engage in group discussions and deliberate in case studies.

The PowerPoint course was aimed at benefitting those who have to utilise Microsoft PowerPoint to prepare slideshows and visual aids for presentations. Participants who attended the course were expected to possess knowledge on how to operate a computer and be able to listen, speak, read and write English at a proficiency level equivalent to the Employability Skills Workforce Skills Qualifications (ES WSQ) Workplace Literacy (WPL) Level 4. They should also be able to manipulate numbers at a proficiency level equivalent to ES WSQ WPN Level 4.



SEACARE SUPPORTS CO-OPALICIOUZ



The Co-opaliciouz event, a family day initiative by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), brought together members of co-operatives and the public to celebrate the International Year of the Co-operatives (IYC) 2012 on 9 June 2012.

The international years are declared by the United Nations to draw attention to and encourage action on major issues. Therefore, declaring 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives was intended to raise public awareness on the contributions of co-operatives as social enterprises aimed towards poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration.

The SOS and Seacare participated in Co-opaliciouz in support of the Co-operative Movement. The day started out at 3pm with participants at the Tanjong Rhu area, as they made their way to Marina Barrage. Despite the light rain, co-operative members and the public walked together in high spirits passing by the picturesque Gardens by the Bay.

At Marina Barrage, Guest-of-Honour, President Dr Tony Tan launched Singapore's first-ever legal tender stamps and First Day Covers on the Co-operative movement. A mass reading session took place, led by Minister of State for the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sport, Madam Halimah Yacob. The event culminated in song and dance, and ended with a three-minute firework display along the Singapore skyline.



SEACARE MANPOWER GETS IT IN SYNC

Want to get in sync and in charge? The Information Technology (IT) department in Seacare Manpower has developed a multiple-device syncing station, aimed at introducing hardware sales and providing more services to schools and the Government sector.

Incepted by Seacare Manpower in December 2011, the idea of a centralised control over all mobile devices that are plugged into it has brought about two variations of a syncing station. Mobile devices which are USB-chargeable, such as the Apple iPod, iPhone or iPad, mobile phones, USB keyboards or fans and even a drink warmer can have its battery charged and devices running. The syncing devices can be placed or mounted in any place preferred by the user, including mounting it on walls, inside cupboards or mobile cabinets. The device can be powered by a power outlet with a three-pin plug, or connected it to a computer terminal via a USB cable.

Why is Seacare Manpower choosing to sell these products?

Taking the approach towards mobile adoption, the development of such a device fulfils the need to provide a charging station for technological devices and provide better business sense with an advantage in its portability.

Seacare Manpower is also looking to supply services as an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), with better market sources and a wider target audience. The appeal of being an OEM is being able to provide customised solutions, especially for the increasing number of schools who have demanding requirements.

Why are the syncing stations named FatBoy and SmallBoy?

The materials of these syncing stations come from the United Kingdom and are of high quality as they can withstand heat and long hours of usage to charge various devices. To describe something dynamic and effective, these syncing stations were named after the atomic bombs used by the Americans in WW2.

FatBoy-49



The 49-port USB syncing station provides an efficient strategy of using one station to manage and charge up multiple devices at the same time. This affordable and optimised solution is perfect for libraries, service depots, or in offices and classrooms that may require ease in managing and accessing the multiple devices.

The FatBoy-49 saves users a big amount of hassle as this station can sync and charge many devices at the same time.

SmallBoy-16

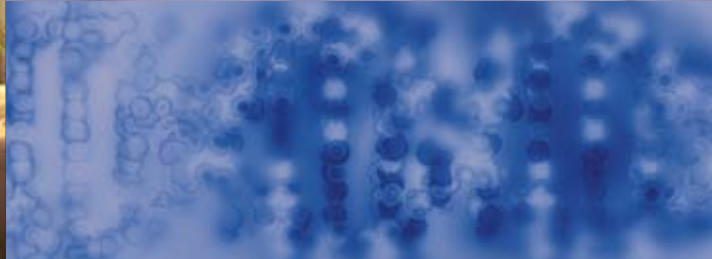
A smaller device, the SmallBoy-16 has the ability to sync and charge up to 16 devices. The better capabilities of the USB ports means that a shorter time is needed to sync and charge up the devices.



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