

# SAMUDRA



**“Seafarers are responsible for delivering more than 80% of the world’s exports.  
They are fundamental to the operations of the global supply chain.  
They are the unsung heroes of global trade.”**

**SOS GENERAL SECRETARY DANIEL TAN**



# Contents

03



11



20

## FRONTline

- **03** The Sweet Sound of Solidarity on 1 May
- **04** Seafarers Relief Package
- **06** Bringing SOS Care Packs to Members
- **08** Support Go Where?
- **11** #ISUPPLYTHEWORLD
- **12** May Day with a Difference

## IR Diaries

- **14** Establishing Solidarity at NTUC/ITF Seminar
- **15** ITF Offshore Task Force Group and Cabotage Task Force Group Coordinate Efforts in Sydney
- **16** Unions in the Spirit of 'TJUNGU' AT MUA Conference

## TrainUP SkillUP

- **17** SQRT 68 Ratings with Enhanced Sea-ready Advantage

## What's UP

- **18** New SSS E-voucher System - An Effective and Eco-friendly Initiative
- **19** Slop Chest Gift Vouchers Extended
- **20** Showing a Lot of Love at SOS Valentine's Day Family Dinner Concert
- **22** More Members Benefit from Enhanced Long Membership Token Award
- **24** All About People
- Call a Helpline If You Need to Speak to Someone

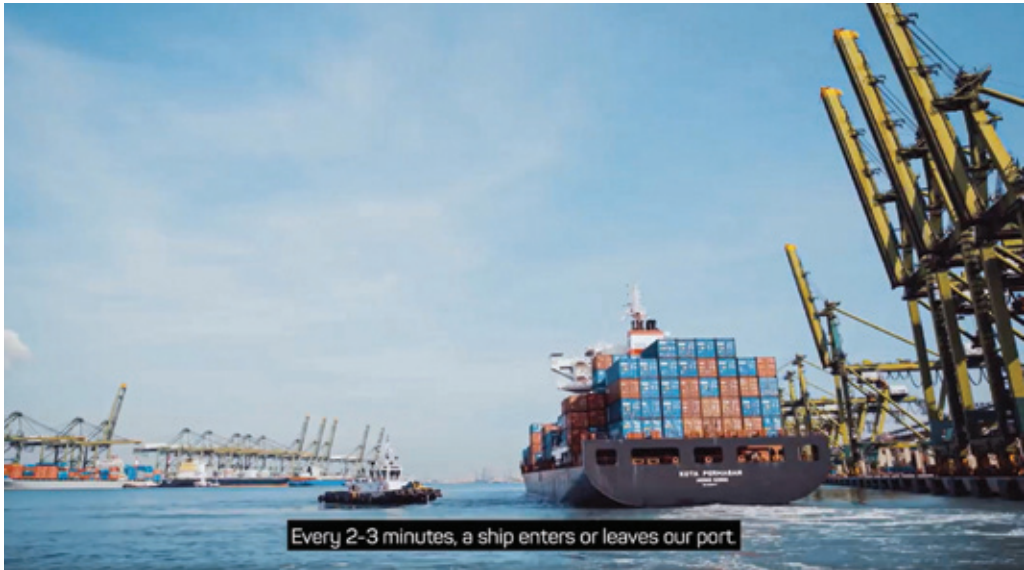
## SEACARE Focus

- **26** Ship Calls Increase for SMMC During COVID-19
- **28** The Seacare Hotel Steps Up Health and Safety
- **29** Bringing Cleanliness and Hygiene to the Next Level
- **30** Seacare Manpower Staff Gets a Boost in Confidence and Professionalism
- **32** Seacare Environmental - Bringing Quality Services to Your Doorstep!

# THE SWEET SOUND OF SOLIDARITY ON 1 MAY

**A**t 12noon on 1 May 2020, a sweet sound of solidarity reverberated in the Port of Singapore as ships blast their horns for 15 seconds to show appreciation for seafarers who continue to sail to keep the supply chains open amid the Covid-19 outbreak.

In this maritime tripartite initiative, SOS together with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) and the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) paid special tribute to the contribution of seafarers in keeping maritime trade going during the pandemic.



▲ Still from Maritime Singapore United - A tribute to our #MaritimeSG workers 00:34

**"Seafarers are responsible for delivering more than 80% of the world's exports. They are fundamental to the operations of the global supply chain," said SOS General Secretary Daniel Tan. "They are the unsung heroes of global trade."**

Highlighting the concerns of the seafarers, Brother Daniel pointed out: **"Due to travel restrictions brought about by COVID-19, we understand the challenges that seafarers face and have worked closely with employers and MPA to address the crew change situation prudently."**

In the joint press release, Ms Quah Ley Hoon, MPA's Chief Executive, said that Singapore is grateful to every member of the maritime workforce for their "tireless contributions over the years in building Singapore into a global hub port and an international maritime centre".

"In these challenging times, we wish to show our appreciation to maritime personnel, especially seafarers, and stand in solidarity to ensure that global trade and supply lines stay resilient to support pandemic response around the world."

# SEAFARERS RELIEF PACKAGE

## SOS COLLABORATES WITH MPA TO HELP SINGAPOREAN SEAFARERS TIDE OVER COVID-19

**S**OS is collaborating with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) to assist Singaporean seafarers to tide over COVID-19.

The Seafarers Relief Package (SRP) provides support for up to \$800 per month to eligible local seafarers who are unable to secure shipboard employment between 1 May 2020 and 31 July 2020.

Mr Kam Soon Huat, SOS President said: "Seafarers are in a vulnerable position in this COVID-19 pandemic. Their livelihoods are adversely affected by border control measures and crew change restrictions. As a union that represents seamen, we understand the hardship that they face. That is why we have collaborated with MPA to offer financial assistance, in the form of this relief package, to our Singaporean seafarers and their families for them to get by."

The fund is open to active Singaporean seafarers (seamen registered with MPA, in the case of ratings) who have been deployed onboard foreign-going vessel from 1 November 2019 onwards and are awaiting assignment or on standby for employment onboard foreign-going vessel or unable to secure shipboard employment for 30 days or more from 1 May 2020 to 31 July 2020 (i.e. not paid seafaring allowance).

Individuals who have benefited from the COVID-19 Support Grant administered by the Ministry of Social and Family Development are not eligible to apply for the seafarers relief package.

The Solidarity Budget, presented on 6 April 2020, complements measures introduced under Budget 2020 on 18 February 2020 and the subsequent supplementary Resilience Budget on 26 March 2020. It aims to address the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Singapore's economy and society. The \$27 million MaritimeSG Together Package, announced on 29 April 2020, provides further financial support to the maritime industry. The Seafarers Relief Package is part of the MaritimeSG Together Package.





Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, MPA highlighted: "We have to be prepared that COVID-19 will be with us for some time. MPA has therefore rolled out a S\$27 million MaritimeSG Together Package to provide targeted support for maritime companies, individuals and seafarers. The package includes: further financial support for maritime companies such as port dues concession and rebate on counter rental and overnight berthing; greater support for upskilling and digital transformation efforts; and financial and employment support for Singaporean seafarers."

MPA, the Employment and Employability Institute (e2i), SMOU and SOS are also jointly providing a revised Achievement Award (AA)

scheme. These award seek to encourage candidates to continue sailing and progressing in their seafaring careers.

MPA is also providing a one-off additional \$50,000 to its grant of \$150,000 to the seafarer missions in Singapore to provide for the needs of seafarers onboard ships calling at Singapore. The grant supports a range of welfare services for seafarers including free counselling services and pastoral care.

"A global pandemic calls for a coordinated global response. Together, we can still change the course of the pandemic by taking necessary actions to contain the outbreak," MPA said.

### SEAFARERS RELIEF PACKAGE APPLICATION

Criteria	Documents Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Singaporean who is an active seafarer (seamen registered with MPA, in the case of ratings) who has been recently deployed onboard foreign-going vessel from 1 November 2019 onwards</li> <li>Awaiting assignment / on standby for employment onboard foreign-going vessel / unable to secure shipboard employment for 30 days or more from 1 May 2020 to 31 July 2020 (i.e. not paid seafaring allowance)</li> </ul> <p>* Those who have benefitted from the COVID-19 Support Grant by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) are not eligible</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copy of NRIC</li> <li>Copy of Seaman's Registration Card (SRC)</li> <li>Copy of Seaman Discharge Book showing last sailing period</li> <li>Any one of the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copy of pay slip for period between 1 May 2020 to 31 July 2020, where you were on standby on shore</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Letter from employer confirming the period between 1 May 2020 to 31 July 2020 where you were on standby on shore, due to the COVID-19 situation</li> </ol> </li> <li>Name of Bank &amp; Bank Account Number</li> </ol>

Please submit your online application after 30 May 2020 via weblink:

**<https://form.gov.sg/5ea4fe5696f87100114f79e4>**

or later, after the declared period where you were unable to secure employment onboard foreign-going vessel. Applications should come in latest by **31 Oct 2020**.

Members who wish to apply for the SRP or have any enquiries, please contact the Membership & Welfare Services Division at **6379 5666**.

\* For SOS members only



## BRINGING SOS CARE PACKS TO MEMBERS

**T**he outbreak of COVID-19 has impacted not just the health front, but also businesses, industries, individually, corporately, nationally and globally.

SOS came forward during this time of crisis to pitch in and reach out to its members.

On 31 March, all hands were on deck as SOS key leaders and staff came together to

put together 650 care packs containing surgical masks, hand sanitisers, anti-bacterial hand wash, and anti-bacterial hand wipes. Included in the care packs were health and safety guidelines from Ministry of Health to reinforce the importance of staying healthy and exercising social responsibility. The SOS care packs were then distributed to SOS members, sending a message that in solidarity we can overcome Covid-19.





“We wanted to do our part to reach out to our members during the outbreak by providing essential items to protect their health, safety and well being.”

**Daniel Tan, SOS General Secretary**





# SUPPORT GO WHERE?

To provide relief and assistance to Singaporeans and Permanent Residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government and the Labour Movement have introduced various schemes to provide financial support. To find the latest available grants, funds and packages for individuals, check out [www.supportgowhere.gov.sg](http://www.supportgowhere.gov.sg). Some of the benefits require application while others are auto-included.



## COVID-19 Support Grant (CSG)

For Singaporeans or Permanent Residents, aged 16 years and above, who are presently unemployed due to retrenchment or contract termination, or presently on involuntary no-pay leave (NPL) for at least three consecutive months, or presently experiencing reduced monthly salary of at least 30% for at least three consecutive months as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19.

Up to \$800 per month, for 3 months, credited into bank account. Employment and/or training support with WSG or e2i.

## The Courage Fund (TCF) - Dependents

For dependants of individuals who have succumbed to COVID-19.

One-time up to \$30,000.

Apply from 6 April 2020 onwards, more information is available at the hospitals.

## The Courage Fund (TCF) - Household

For lower-income households whose family member(s) have contracted COVID-19 or are on QO/SHN/LOA.

One-time up to \$1,000 based on per capita, credited into bank account.

Apply at any Social Service Office within 6 months from the end of QO/SHN/LOA or discharge from hospitalisation.

## Defer Tax Payment for Income Tax

For employees to defer income tax payments due in May, June and July 2020, to help ease cash flow.

Income tax deduction to resume in August, September or October 2020. The end-date of your instalment plan will be extended by 3 months.

Apply online from 26 March to 31 July 2020.

## Self-Employed Persons Income Relief Scheme (SIRS)

For Singaporean Self-Employed Persons (SEPs) who do not automatically qualify to receive SIRS payouts can appeal by submitting an application.

Three quarterly cash payouts of \$3,000.

Apply online between 9 am to 9 pm.



**Home Access Programme**

For HDB households with a monthly gross household income ≤ \$1,900 or per capita income ≤ \$650, and has at least one family member who is Singaporean.

2 years of subsidised fibre broadband connectivity, with an option to bundle with a tablet or smartphone.

Apply online or mail completed application form to IMDA.

**NTUC Care Fund Covid-19**

One-off cash relief of up to \$300 to eligible union members who lost their jobs or faced with an income loss of at least 30%.

**NTUC/e2i - SEP Training Support Scheme**

For Self-Employed Persons (SEPs) to receive training allowance when they attend and complete courses under SkillsFuture series and approved sector-specific training programmes.

**Auto Inclusion**

Here are some help you may qualify for automatically

**Cash payout for Singaporeans (Solidarity Payment)**

For all Singaporeans aged 21 and above in 2020.

One-time \$600 to be credited into bank account or by cheque.  
April 2020

**Cash payout for Singaporeans (Enhanced Care & Support Package)**

For all Singaporeans aged 21 and above in 2020 with Assessable Income for Year of Assessment 2019 of up to \$100,000.

\$300 or \$600 to be credited into bank account or by cheque.  
June 2020

**Cash payout for Singaporean parents**

For each Singaporean parent with at least one Singaporean child aged 20 and below in 2020.

One-time \$300 to be credited into bank account or by cheque.  
June 2020

**PAssion Card Top-up**

For all Singaporeans aged 50 years and above in 2020.

One-time \$100 to be credited into bank account or by cheque.  
June 2020

**Enhanced Grocery Vouchers**

For Singaporeans aged 21 and above living in 1- or 2-room HDB flats and do not own more than 1 property.

2020 - \$300; 2021 - \$100  
October and December 2020. 2021 date to be advised.

**Enhanced Workfare Special Payment**

For all Singaporean employees and self-employed persons who received Workfare Income Supplement (WIS) payments in Work Year 2019.

\$3,000 to be credited into bank account or by cheque.  
July 2020 - \$1,500; October 2020 - \$1,500

**Additional GST Voucher - U-Save**

For all eligible HDB households. Eligible larger households with 5 or more members will receive additional rebate.

2 times or 2.5 times their regular GST Voucher.  
Over two quarters in April 2020 and July 2020. Eligible larger households will receive their additional rebate over two quarters in October 2020 and January 2021.

**SkillsFuture Credit Top-Up**

For all Singaporeans who are 25 years and above by 31 December 2020.

One-time \$500 credit top-up.  
Claimable for courses from the IHLs and NTUC LearningHub from 1 April 2020. Claimable for full range of SkillsFuture Credit-eligible courses from 1 October 2020.

**Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support)**

For all Singaporeans who are 40 to 60 years by 31 December 2020.

One-time \$500 credit top-up.  
Claimable for a selected list of courses from 1 October 2020.

**SGUnited Jobs Virtual Career Fairs**

The SGUnited Jobs Virtual Career Fairs (VCF) aim to make SGUnited Jobs opportunities easily accessible for jobseekers and workers. Jobseekers will be able to interact with employers virtually for interviews, and access career-related resources and insights to assist them in their job search.

**Point-to-Point Support Package - Extended Special Relief Fund**

For taxi and private hire car (PHC drivers). Details on the eligibility criteria will be released later.

\$300 per month per eligible taxi hirer and PHC driver.  
May - September 2020

**No increases in Government fees and charges for 1 year**

Freezing of all government fees and charges for one year, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. This will apply to all fees for government services.

**Suspend Late Mortgage Payment Charges**

Suspension of all late payment charges on HDB mortgage arrears for three months, for those who are struggling with their mortgage payments during this difficult period.

# #ISUPPLYTHEWORLD

**T**he unsung heroes—the maritime workers who keep the world supplied with essential goods, medicines and fuel during the COVID-19 pandemic—are not forgotten.

**"Seafarers are not an "invisible workforce". They are a force to be reckoned with especially during this pandemic. SOS pays tribute to all seafarers, who are the pillar of world trade," said SOS President Kam Soon Huat who is also the Executive Board Member of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF).**

#ISupplyTheWorld campaign has been created to spread the message of the important work our seafarers are undertaking. Maritime workers are encouraged to photograph themselves with a printed campaign poster and post on social media with the hashtag #ISupplyTheWorld.

If you see a post with this hashtag, please give it a like to support our maritime workers at this critical time.

"Thank you to all of you who are at the forefront now making the global trade move in such a time like this!"

**"Maritime workers are key to global trade and keeping the global supply chain moving, which is why the ITF, our maritime social partners and other maritime organisations are calling on the United Nations and Members States to acknowledge seafarers and dockers as "key workers".**

Maritime affiliates all over the world are working tirelessly to ensure that their members jobs, rights, health and wellbeing are protected. Many affiliates are highlighting the vital role that seafarers and dockers play in the supply chain, world trade and the global economy."

**ITF Maritime Coordinator Jacqueline Smith**





# MAY DAY WITH A DIFFERENCE

***In light of the coronavirus outbreak, May Day Rally this year was held virtually for the first time. In the past, union leaders, tripartite partners would gather under one roof to affirm their commitment to advance the interests of the workers.***

***This year, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong delivered his May Day speech on 30 April on television and online. Some 500 union leaders and tripartite representatives assembled online for a closed-door dialogue session, helmed by the Tripartite Partners, NTUC President Mary Liew, NTUC Secretary-General Ng Chee Meng, Manpower Minister Josephine Teo and Singapore National Employers' Federation (SNEF) President Dr Robert Yap. The Tripartite Partners jointly issued a message to display solidarity in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and the steadfast commitment to protecting both lives and livelihoods.***



Here are excerpts of PM Lee's message.

"Governments all over the world are spending large sums to prevent their economies from collapsing, and to take care of their people. The Singapore Government has done so too, through the Unity, Resilience, and Solidarity Budgets, \$60 billion all together. But unlike other governments, we will not have to borrow to do so. We are drawing on our national reserves, with the President's permission. Our reserves are a blessing, for which we must thank our forefathers' values, discipline and foresight."

"Workers must accept wage sacrifices to keep businesses going. And employers must make every effort to keep their workers, and help them through this difficult period. They should not drop workers at the first sign of trouble."

"The road to recovery will be long and hard...But we are not a people who will shrink from struggle. It took us blood, sweat and tears to get here."

In the fight for independence, at moments of crisis, the Pioneer Generation showed their grit and mettle. They decided to give it their all, to secure a future for themselves and their children. The Merdeka Generation worked with them, and took us from Third World to First. Because they braved the odds, and prevailed, we have today's Singapore.

COVID-19 is this generation's challenge. The virus is a tough enemy – invisible, but formidable. It is now our turn to prove that we are worthy of our forebears, and up to the challenge before us. I have every confidence that we will prove more than equal to the task."

▲ Still from May Day  
2020: A Rally Like No  
Other (Message in  
English) 04:32



▲ Still from May Day Tripartite Message 2020 04:52

## Highlights of the May Day Tripartite Message 2020

### Taking It On Together

"The Tripartite Partners have worked closely to respond swiftly in a whole-of-nation effort. For example, we convened the National Wages Council earlier than usual and issued more than 10 advisories to give clear guidance to employers and workers in taking responsible actions to cope with the COVID-19 situation."

### Protecting Livelihoods

"Of the \$63.7 billion Budget dedicated to fight COVID-19, more than a third has been set aside for job and wage support. The enhanced Jobs Support Scheme helps companies retain and pay their workers, even as they experience a drop in business activity. Workers and self-employed persons (SEPs) are encouraged to make use of the downtime to improve their skills with enhanced training support covering increased course fee subsidies and absentee payroll, as well as the NTUC Training Fund for SEPs."

Beyond financial support, we are creating job opportunities for those seeking employment in this difficult job market through the SGUnited Jobs Initiative, led by MOM and Workforce Singapore, and supported by the unions and NTUC's e2i (Employment and Employability Institute).

While supporting local workers remains our top priority, we are also taking care of our migrant workers who have contributed to building up

Singapore and carry out essential services. During the COVID-19 outbreak, we will prioritise their health and safety."

### Preparing for the Future

"As we tackle the immediate challenges brought on by COVID-19, we urge employers not to lose sight of the longer term. They must continue to transform their businesses and upgrade their workforce capabilities. The Company Training Committees led by NTUC are ready-made platforms for employers and unions to work together to upskill their workers and be ready for economic recovery. Accelerating digitalisation efforts and embracing the concept of flexible work arrangements will also help companies to be better prepared. In turn, workers must do their part and adapt to the new norms of work."

### Our Resolution

"COVID-19 is perhaps one of the greatest challenges we have faced as Tripartite Partners. But we are well prepared. NTUC, together with the Government and SNEF, resolve to stay united and get through this together with our businesses and workers. We will help businesses stay afloat and be geared for the upturn when it comes. We will put Singapore and workers at the heart of everything we do and take this opportunity to build a resilient workforce. Together, we stand in solidarity with our people to navigate this crisis and emerge stronger and more united as one nation."



## ESTABLISHING SOLIDARITY AT NTUC/ITF SEMINAR

The NTUC/ITF Seminar is all about establishing solidarity between the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and its affiliated transport unions in Singapore.

Hosted by SOS at the Maritime Hall, Seacare Building on 27 February 2020, the NTUC / ITF Seminar, brought together some 27 union representatives from 10 transport unions and ITF for a day of sharing and learning from one another.

ITF Regional Secretary for Asia Pacific, Jose Raul Lamug and Inland Transport Section Secretary, Noel Coard talked about how ITF works hand-in-hand with its affiliated unions in 147

countries to help transportation workers have a voice and secure their rights, equality, and justice. Assistant Secretary General of NTUC, Joanne Cham highlighted in her session, the value of being in an interconnected world. SOS General Secretary Daniel Tan kickstarted the sharing sessions by unions, where he shared about the union's development and what they have been doing for their members to safeguard their wages, work and welfare.

The greatest takeaway for most is the idea of connectivity and that wherever they are in the world, whoever they represent, the common objective is to be the champion of workers.





# ITF OFFSHORE TASK FORCE GROUP AND CABOTAGE TASK FORCE GROUP COORDINATE EFFORTS IN SYDNEY

**S**OS General Secretary Daniel Tan was among the union representatives to participate in the ITF Offshore Task Force Group (OTFG) meeting held in Sydney from 4 to 5 February, followed by Cabotage Task Force Group meeting from 5 to 6 February 2020.

The OTFG meeting saw the election of Ole Philipsen as Chair, replacing Mike Dolemen who retired from his position, while Christy Cain was appointed the new Vice-Chair. Reports from the last meeting were adopted and reports from Offshore Regional Coordinators presented. The two-day meeting gave time for the discussion of strategic work programme for the next 5 to 10 years.

The Cabotage Task Force Group meeting received reports pertaining to Cabotage Developments on National Developments & Trade Agreements and Cabotage in Aviation. The cabotage task force were updated on plans for education and awareness seminar.





## UNIONS IN THE SPIRIT OF 'TJUNGU' AT MUA CONFERENCE



**N**ever has there been a time more vital to come together and celebrate shared values and ambitions. The theme for the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Quadrennial National Conference - Tjungu (pronounced Tjoo-ngoo), an indigenous word meaning "one voice, one people together" was an apt theme and an urgent call for all maritime unions to embrace the spirit of unity. This was the first time the union had a conference theme in aboriginal language.

From 2 to 6 March 2020, SOS General Secretary Daniel Tan joined 500 other trade unionists from around Australia and across the world, in Broadbeach, Queensland, to deliberate over issues such as growing inequality and wage theft. The conference provided a platform to consolidate and align MUA's political and industrial focus to deal with a divisive government, and to promote progressive alternatives. Brother Daniel also took the opportunity to improve fraternal relationships with other unions attending the conference. Other topics in the agenda included how to make sure technology isn't undermining workers, and how to grow in membership despite the advent of technology.





## SQRT 68 RATINGS WITH ENHANCED SEA-READY ADVANTAGE

The Seacare Quality Rating Training (SQRT) course, an initiative by the SOS, under the Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS) has been successful in boosting the competency level of Chinese ratings. Since 2008, SOS has added value to its Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) companies, through its SQRT course, run by the Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute (SNIMI).

The course does more than just train ratings to communicate effectively in the English language so as to minimise misunderstanding and miscommunication with other team members while onboard vessels. It also equips them with essential skills such as basic watchkeeping requirements and safety aspects of handling seamanship tasks.

From 23 December 2019 to 17 January 2020, 15 experienced ratings underwent the 68th SQRT course in Nantong, China.

During the initial phase of the training, ratings faced challenges in understanding the English language. Thanks to the trainers' humorous approach during lessons, the students gave a thumbs up for an enjoyable learning experience.



The trainers helped ratings to understand English terms by linking them to easy-to-understand everyday applications. For four weeks, students had to do daily morning reading in English using International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), which helped improve their pronunciation by leaps and bounds. Towards the end of the course, the trainers found that the ratings exhibited more confidence in the language. This will put them at a real competitive advantage when it comes to working onboard vessel with an international crew. Congrats SQRT 68 ratings!





## NEW SSS E-VOUCHER SYSTEM - AN EFFECTIVE AND ECO-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

**T**he handling of Gift Certificates (GCs) under the Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme (SSS) can be a laborious work as it involves the administering of a large number of physical vouchers.

Recognising the need to achieve better efficiency and to shift from manual processing to digitalisation, SOS launched a new E-Voucher system on 1 September 2019 to replace the usage of physical GCs.

This bold step towards being environmentally-friendly and to reduce carbon footprint is getting the endorsement from shipping companies. E-vouchers means no more prints, large handling of physical vouchers and mailing out. Since the launch of the E-voucher system over six months ago, it has been well-received as shipping companies can easily keep track of their current voucher balance as well as their rate of utilisation. The Union will continue to seek feedback from the ground to see if there are any other improvements to be made. E-vouchers – the effective and eco-friendly way.

# SLOP CHEST GIFT VOUCHERS EXTENDED

**S**OS slop chest gift vouchers as a year end gift to SOS Filipino members is gaining traction. Since January 2020, some 60 members had already collected their vouchers from Seacare's Representative Office, LSA Consultancy and Management Services Inc in Manila. Members were given until 31 March 2020 to collect the vouchers and to utilise them within three months from the issue date.

Through the Union's dialogues with Manning Agencies, and after having reviewed extension requests in consultation with working

partners in the Philippines, SOS extended the issuance of the Slop Chest gift vouchers to nominated members who were out at sea during the period of collection. A special provision was made for nominated members to collect their vouchers after their return to Manila, where they are given up to three months from the date of signing-off from their vessel, to utilise their gift vouchers.

The extension date for the utilisation of slop chest gift vouchers to nominated SOS Filipino members, was met with gratitude.



“The idea of slop chest gift vouchers as a year end gift for members is helpful to meet my everyday needs. Thank you SOS.”

Jayson Guzman

“The slop chest gift voucher is a practical gift to meet the daily needs of my family.”

Isagani Quinto



“This will help me for my financial and additional budget and a good benefit for seafarers.”

Emilio Teleron





## SHOWING A LOT OF LOVE AT SOS VALENTINE'S DAY FAMILY DINNER CONCERT

▲ SOS President Kam Soon Huat presented a token of appreciation to Dr Conrado F Oca, President of the Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP), in the form of his caricature. As he was unable to attend, his gift was accepted on his behalf by Mrs Camille Dyan Abadicio-Simbulan, AMOSUP's Corporate Communications Officer.

SOS organised its first Valentine's Day Family Dinner Concert for its Filipino members. Held at the Blue Leaf Filipinas in Manila, Philippines, on 14 February 2020, Valentine's Day was commemorated with more than 650 guests including SOS members and their family. Other guests included representatives from the Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union Of The Philippines (AMOSUP), ITF Asia Pacific Regional Secretary, Associated Philippine Seafarers Union (PSU), Shipping Companies, Manning Agencies and the Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) affiliated clinics.

The evening was resplendent with heart shaped décor as everyone celebrated the 'day of love' with roses and cuddly teddy bears for the ladies, block games for kids, music entertainment, photo opportunities and a feast for all. It was a good time for SOS representatives to reinforce ties and to gather feedback from its Filipino members and partners from the shipping community.

Not to be missed out in the occasion, SOS invited the children from Asilo de San Vicente de Paul, to enjoy the Valentine's Day Concert. The children performed a dance item. SOS President Kam Soon Huat presented the orphanage with a cheque donation and goodie bags containing tasty snacks.

Adding some glamour to the event were the performances from Luke Mejares, a well-known Filipino African American singer-songwriter and Juris Fernandez, known for her heartbreaking ballads.

One thing for sure happened that night. With all the merrymaking in between concert performances and lucky draw presentations, everyone really felt the love and appreciation during this season of hearts.





"Nice party! Looking forward to more gatherings for the seafarers and their families. Thank you SOS!"

Alvin Tuvilla from  
Eaglestar Shipmanagement (S) Pte Ltd

"Thank you for inviting us for this wonderful event. I love the party and grateful for the gifts, especially for the kids. My son loves his toy!"

Erwin M Ragojo,  
Anglo Eastern Crew Management Phils Inc



"I just love this event. Enjoy everyone!"

Alejandro Arellano, PACC Shipping Phils. Inc.



## MORE MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM ENHANCED LONG MEMBERSHIP TOKEN AWARD

**"SOS would not be where we are today without our members. To recognise the local members' strong support, the SOS Long Membership Token has been enhanced,"** this was announced by SOS General Secretary Daniel Tan at the SOS/Seacare Hongbao Presentation and Lunar New Year Celebration on 31 January 2020, where 10 members, representing each category of award, had went on stage to receive their long membership token.

The enhancement added another 5 categories. Previously, members who met the 15 years and 30 years membership requirement stood to

### Enhancement

From: Length of Membership/Value	To: Length of Membership/Value
15 years: <b>\$150</b> 30 years: <b>\$300</b>	5 years: <b>\$100</b> 10 years: <b>\$200</b> 15 years: <b>\$300</b> 20 years: <b>\$400</b> 30 years: <b>\$600</b> 40 years: <b>\$800</b> 50 years: <b>\$1,000</b>





receive awards valued at \$150 and \$300 respectively. The new enhancement doubled in value for its category, as well as included 5, 10, 20, 40 and 50 years, with the value of gifts ranging from \$100 to \$1,000.

Some 400 eligible members of SOS benefited from this enhancement. The members went to the union office to collect their awards.



**"I am very happy and grateful to SOS! Thank you for remembering members who have stayed with the union for all these years!"**

**Oh Wah Keng, 40 years LMA recipient**

**"Without SOS, we won't be able to get all these benefits. I am grateful to have a union that looks out and stays relevant to the needs of its members."**

**Mohamad Sani B Mawi, 20 years LMA recipient**



# ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

**A**nother new face has come onboard to fill the role in support of the work of the union.

Sharon Lim works in the Membership & Welfare Services department of SOS.

Samudra sought this newbie to find out what makes her tick.



**Sharon Lim** loves to interact with different groups of people. Previously an enrichment programme provider for childcare and kindergarten centres, she believes that it is all about being personable and authentic. "I hope to maintain and secure a better relationship with the union members that I serve and work with as a value added to the organisation."

## CALL A HELPLINE IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE

If you or someone you know is feeling weighed down by issues with the COVID-19 situation, do not hesitate to seek emotional or psychological support.

### National Care Hotline:

1800-202-6868

### AIC Hotline:

1800-650-6060 (for senior or caregiver who requires help with daily needs)

### Samaritans of Singapore:

1800-221-4444

### Silver Ribbon Singapore:

6385-3714

### TOUCHline (Counselling):

1800-377-2252

### Care Corner Project StART:

6476 1482 (Family Violence Specialist Centre)





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# SHIP CALLS INCREASE FOR SMMC DURING COVID-19

It was uncanny that in the month of May, right in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, that Dr Chia Yih Woei went onboard the vessel named Corona to provide medical treatment.

"Fortunately, none of the seafarers I had treated so far had COVID-19," said the CEO of Seacare Maritime Medical Centre (SMMC) who, together with his team, has been responding tirelessly to ship calls round the clock.

Because seafarers have to adhere to the current border control measures, sick crew, in cases that do not qualify to be a medical emergency, are not allowed to disembark to seek medical attention.

"The seafarers can't come to us at the SMMC clinic but we can go to them. We are still able to serve the shipping community," said Dr Chia.

SMMC is one of the few medical providers listed as a Seaport Doctor by the MPA and Port Health to provide ship call services. As the Port of Singapore remains open for cargo operations and marine services, including shipyard repairs,

the SMMC team is kept busy seeing patients whose vessels are on Singapore waters, docked in the port and in the shipyard as well.

Over at the SMMC clinic at Amara Corporate Tower or onboard where the seafarers are, the team is "ready, trained and experienced" in ensuring that all the stringent infection control measures are in place. "We have lived through SARS and H1N1. We will continue to take all the necessary precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19."

While non-essential medical services like health screening are disallowed for the time being, SMMC provides crew medical treatment for non-COVID-19 injuries and illnesses. SMMC is also seeing an increase in anxiety and stress related illnesses among the seafarers.

"It is a tough time to be a seafarer now," Dr Chia noted with empathy.

"They are subjected to stringent board control measures on every port. They can't sign off and be repatriated. Some have to serve onboard longer



than their contractually agreed period since crew change is a challenging task now. The prolonged work and not being able to take shore leave can take its toll. There is also the sense of uncertainty about the COVID situation. Being far from home and worried about their loved ones can have a huge impact on their physical, mental and emotional health."

For Dr Chia and his team at SMMC, being able to be at the forefront to show professional

medical care, a word of encouragement and timely advice to the seafarers go a long way especially in this current trying environment.

"We have been serving the maritime sector for the past 20 years. The shipping companies know us and trust us to bring the good quality care to the seafarers," Dr Chia said.

Amidst the pandemic, knowing that SMMC is accessible 24/7 brings a much needed respite.

## 7 Tips to Cope with COVID-19 Stress

### #1 Be fully aware of the symptoms and seek professional help if necessary

- respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties

### #2 Follow the precautionary measures issued by the World Health Organization (WHO)

- Avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Frequent handwashing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands.

### #3 Seek accurate information

Stay informed by reliable and trustworthy media to know exactly what happens.  
Caution: Be aware of the fake news.

### #4 Set limits on discussions around COVID-19

Try not to make COVID-19 the centre of attention. Constantly reading, watching or listening to media coverages or discussing about it will intensify your anxiety and feeling of worry.

### #5 Keep your immune system robust

A balanced diet, adequate sleep, and regular exercise is the best combination to stay as physically and psychologically healthy as possible. Learn about ways to boost your immune system naturally - a healthy lifestyle is always the first line of defense.

### #6 Understand and accept your feelings

It's acceptable to worry and be anxious about you and your loved ones. Fully accepting how you feel, will help you cope with the "negative" feeling and realize that there are things that you can control, such as having good self-hygiene as explained above.

### #7 Continue your activities responsibly

Routine is crucial for most of the people and has a positive impact in their everyday lives. Therefore, it is recommended to continue your everyday routine, following, though, safety precautions and any measures issued by your state.

People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.



# THE SEACARE HOTEL STEPS UP HEALTH AND SAFETY

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the hospitality industry has been one of the first to feel its impact. Hotels in Singapore are dependent on international travelers, which has slowed to a trickle with global travel coming to almost a complete halt. Nevertheless, The Seacare Hotel is doing its part to support the collective fight against COVID-19.

With the Malaysia lockdown in place starting 18 March 2020, employers were scrambling to find suitable accommodation to house their Malaysian workers in order to ensure that they have a temporary roof over their head in such uncertain times. Anticipating the employers' urgent needs, The Seacare Hotel quickly approached employers to provide a solution to their accommodation problems.

The Seacare Hotel is also offering relevant stay packages to employees working in essential services, who require accommodation solution tailored to their needs during this period.

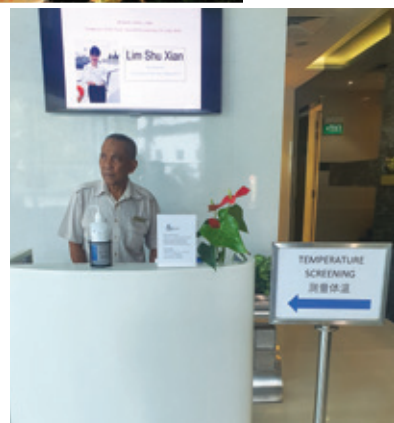
The hotel has taken steps to comply with health and safety measures recommended by the Ministry of Health.

These measures include:

- Conducting temperature checks for staff twice a day ie when they arrive for work and when they dismiss from work.
- Compulsory temperature checks and Health Declaration for all guests.
- Requirement for housekeeping staff to put on face masks and gloves when cleaning guest rooms.
- Making available face masks, hand sanitisers and thermometers for guests and employees upon request.
- Increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of public areas and within the hotel.

Extra steps will be taken depending on the severity of the situation or upon advice by the Ministry of Health.

At The Seacare Hotel, our primary focus is the health and safety of all our guests and employees. In so doing, we strengthen our commitment to offer our guests a pleasant experience throughout their stay and to provide for our staff a safe working environment throughout the COVID-19 period.



# BRINGING CLEANLINESS AND HYGIENE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

**S**ecare Environmental has been in the business of providing general cleaning services for 25 years. Among our list of clients include educational institutions, preschools, medical clinics, management corporation strata title, building owners and developers. We also provide other cleaning services such as carpet shampooing, vinyl floor waxing, marble floor polishing, upholstery cleaning and ad-hoc thorough spring cleaning.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the demand for cleaning and disinfection services have been on the surge. To better serve our clients and to be in alignment with Ministry of Health guidelines, Seacare Environmental has implemented stringent cleaning procedures for our cleaning staff and also measures to protect their safety and personal hygiene.

- All staff are required to wear face masks at all times and hand gloves when necessary.
- Temperature is taken twice daily for all staff and they have to strictly stay away from work if unwell.
- Appropriate disinfectants effective against the coronavirus are being used at all job sites.
- Cleaning frequency have been stepped up especially on high touch surfaces such as door handles, lift buttons and toilets.

**"Public and personal hygiene is Singapore's first defence, not just against COVID-19 today but against other breakouts that we cannot foresee in the future,"** said Minister for Environment and Water Resources, Masagos Zulkifli.

Seacare Environmental, together with everyone, has a part to play in keeping Singapore clean to fight the spread of COVID-19. Keeping up a high level of personal and raising public hygiene standards together will help reduce risks to public health from this pandemic and beyond.





## SEACARE MANPOWER STAFF GETS A BOOST IN CONFIDENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM

Some 16 Seacare Manpower staff from 12 schools and ministries, boosted their image by discovering **3 Secrets to Establish Confidence and Professionalism**. The practical and valuable programme, a module in the National Service Excellence framework, was organised by Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd on 16 March 2020 at Orchard Plaza.

Conducted by Ms Nancy Yoong from Impact Management Seminars, the equipping session was aimed at empowering Seacare Manpower staff with the relevant skills so that they could better serve their employers with competence, commitment, care and confidence.





Through classroom presentation, guided discussions and role play, trainees

- discovered about themselves and qualities and characteristics of a service professional;
- were taught to know their customers and their needs;
- recognised the importance of first impressions in increasing customer confidence and enhancing brand value;
- were given the handles on how to project a professional image and communicate effectively;
- learned about delivering professional and personalised service and the value of teamwork;
- picked up ways they can deliver service in accordance with their organisation's service standards.



### List of Course Participants

1	<b>Molly Wan Guek Neo</b>	Anglican High School
2	<b>Nurhanisah Binte Jamil</b>	Bedok Green Secondary School
3	<b>Zeenath Bagam Binte Naina Mohamed</b>	Bedok Green Secondary School
4	<b>Teo Beng Suan Jenny</b>	CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh)
5	<b>Wong Woon Cheng</b>	Fuchun Secondary School
6	<b>Hasnah Binte Mohd Said</b>	Fuhua Primary School
7	<b>Buvaraj S/O Packirisamy</b>	Government Technology Agency
8	<b>Nurhasheila Binte Iskandar Yussof</b>	Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
9	<b>Joshua Choo Sang Yong</b>	Ministry of National Development
10	<b>Kheong Foong Leng</b>	People's Association
11	<b>Mohd Salleh Bin Abdul Kahar</b>	People's Association
12	<b>Muhammad Al Amin Bin Ismail</b>	People's Association
13	<b>Rohani Binte Aziz</b>	Teck Ghee Primary School
14	<b>Lee Fui Ling</b>	Telok Kurau Primary School
15	<b>Chan Sock Fang Julie</b>	Telok Kurau Primary School
16	<b>Arkodilah Binti Adiman</b>	Woodgrove Primary School



# Bringing **Quality Services** to Your **Doorstep!**

## Our Services

- Customised cleaning and maintenance solutions for offices, campuses, preschools and showrooms
- Professional carpet care and preventive maintenance
- Restoring and polishing of marble and granite floor
- Upholstery cleaning and maintenance



### **Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd**

We are a NEA-licensed company, with 25 years of experience in the industry, providing one-stop cleaning service solution.

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Singapore 169875

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