

SAMUDRA

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

FAMILY THRILLS AT UNIVERSAL STUDIOS



Issue 2
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06

Contents



05



09



25



22



18

SAMUDRA

Features

- 03** ITF 42nd Congress: Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport
- 05** An Exchange Between Two Cities
- 06** Revised STCW Convention and Code Adopted

International & Industrial Relations

- 08** Pandemonium Aboard Tai Yuan 32
- 09** ICMA Drops In at the Seacare Drop-In Centre
- 12** ICSW Party in the Park
- 13** Welcome Aboard!

Membership & Welfare

- 10** BORA Presentation Ceremony and Overseas Learning Journey 2010
- 14** Learning to Think and Practice Cheaper, Better and Faster
- 16** Security Training – No Bed of Roses
- 17** Food for Senior Citizens' Community Home
- 18** Thrills and Spills at Universal Studios
- 20** SOS Digs into "King of Fruits"

Seacare Focus

- 22** Seacare Board Members Receive Vote of Confidence
- 25** SMMC Welcomes Digital X-ray Technology
- 28** Seacare Properties
- 29** Remind; Relearn; Refresh; Retreat for Seacare Co-operative



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ITF 42ND CONGRESS

STRONG UNIONS – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), a global union federation with 760 affiliated trade unions with 4.69 million members in 154 countries, held its biggest ever and first congress in Latin America, on 5–12 August 2010. The theme, Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport was the main thrust where policy documents and strategies were debated in section conferences before being presented at the plenary sessions.

Singapore Organisation of Seaman (SOS) General Secretary, Mr Kam Soon Huat, President, Mr Mohamed Idris B Mohamed Ibrahim and Executive Secretary, Mr Daniel Tan, were among the 1,376 participants representing 368 unions from 112 countries who descended on Mexico City to attend the 42nd ITF Congress, which sets ITF policies for the next four years and elects its president, vice-presidents, general secretary and executive board.

Among the highlights that took place at the 42nd Congress was its first ever ITF Youth conference which relegated more than 100 young delegates, to engage them in the work of the ITF and strengthen the international Trade Union movement; and a highly successful climate change conference, which was held to

address the impact of climate change on transport industry and how transport unions internationally can play a role in fighting for a just transition and a sustainable transport industry.

The strategy documents that were adopted, particularly those that concern seafarers, covered issues on piracy and its impact on seafarers; criminalisation of seafarers; overall time on board; maritime skills; and implementation of the ILO MLC Convention. The following summarises a few of the major highlights:

Paddy Crumlin – the new ITF President

Mr Paddy Crumlin, national secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), was elected as the new ITF President, where his role would be to hold the organisation to account between congresses, which sets its policies for the following four years.

Mr Crumlin, the twenty-second person to take on the post gladly took on the baton, previously held by Mr Randall Howard, declaring: "I'm excited to be able to take on this new role and play my part in moving the work of the ITF, its hundreds of affiliated unions and their millions of members forward through the implementation of a comprehensive organising programme focused on trade union regeneration and revitalisation."



SOS congratulates Mr Paddy Crumlim on his election as the new ITF President. The union would also like to salute the outgoing ITF President, Mr Randall Howard for his leadership and contribution.

ITF FOC Policy Updated

The ITF Congress in Mexico City voted to update the ITF's flag of convenience (FOC) policy, to improve protection for seafarers. Its first major update since 1998, the new policy sets out to create a better balance between unions in beneficial ownership and labour supply countries in order to provide improvements in the protection for seafarers. Of particular interest to seafarers was the update of the ITF's Seafarers' Charter, which seeks to ensure that seafarers covered by ITF agreements have democratic rights within their unions, within the ITF and on their ships. A concerted effort will be given to support cabotage – the system under which shipping between countries is carried out by vessels registered in those countries or the region.

ITF Model Wage Scale Adopted

The new ITF Model Wage Scale for national flags employing non-domiciled crew was approved by the delegates attending the 42nd ITF World Congress 2010 in Mexico City.

The new policy that was approved at joint dockers' and seafarers' meeting was set out to create a better balance between unions and labour supply countries in order to provide protection for seafarers. This wage scale will be the future basis for calculating wages for non-domiciled crews serving on national flag vessels. It is based on the ILO interpretation of minimum wage plus US\$50 for ratings, bringing the wage for able seafarers (AB) to US\$1,007.

International Day of Seafarer

In conjunction with "The Year of the Seafarer" a Campaign Action Pack was circulated to affiliates. The Conference was informed that the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) had decided to declare 25 June as "International Day of the Seafarer".

AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN TWO CITIES

Guangzhou Federation of Trade Unions Visits Singapore

From a union's standpoint, two unique features that have made the labour movement in Singapore unique is its unions' membership strength and tripartism.

To learn more about the Singapore Labour Movement's recipe for success and to strengthen ties, a delegation from the Guangzhou Federation of Trade Unions (GZFTU) paid a visit to SOS.

The meeting was held at Seacare Building on 28 July 2010, where SOS officials led by General Secretary, Mr Kam Soon Huat presented the union's structure; its strategy, programmes and benefits; major milestones achieved and challenges faced in the region.

how the social mission of the Seacare Co-operative has helped achieve this goal.

Following the meeting with SOS, the GZFTU delegates moved on to visit the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC). At the NTUC Centre in One Marina Boulevard, the GZFTU delegation met with Assistant Secretary-General, Mrs Josephine Teo and Assistant Director (International Affairs), Mr Fredrick Ho. NTUC introduced its network of affiliated unions, associations, social enterprises, members and partners; shared about its formation and its structure; its membership benefits and programmes. Of particular interest to the entourage from Guangzhou was the idea of tripartism. Singapore's healthy tripartite



Unionists from both countries mutually agreed that the exchange of ideas and experiences have been very useful and brought about a deeper understanding between them.

Singapore welcomes the following foreign delegates from Guangzhou:

Mr Chen Weiguang, Chairman, GZFTU and Vice Director, Guangzhou People's Congress Standing Committee

Ms Yi Lihua, Vice Chair, GZFTU

Mr Mo Dongcheng, Chairman, Trade Union of Guangzhou Port Group Co Ltd

Mr Pang Guancheng, Vice Division Chief, Corporation Development Dept, GZFTU

Mr Ye Rucheng, Secretary, GZFTU

Ms Wu Lei, Vice Section Chief, International Liaison Dept, GZFTU



Singapore has been known to be among the few industrialised countries where union membership has not declined. This has been the case for SOS. Offering some insights, Mr Kam shared how the union has had to re-invent itself to meet the needs of its members, to stay relevant to the maritime community at large and

relationship has been acknowledged by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as a useful model, particularly in the Asian context. This unique relationship has helped Singapore acquire a distinct advantage and delivered results for all three parties – the Government, unions and employers.

REVISED STCW CONVENTION AND CODE ADOPTED



Among the amendments adopted were:

- Improved measures to prevent fraudulent practices associated with certificates of competency and strengthen the evaluation process (monitoring of Parties' compliance with the Convention);
- Revised requirements on hours of work and rest and new requirements for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse, as well as updated standards relating to medical fitness standards for seafarers;
- New certification requirements for able seafarers;
- New requirements relating to training in modern technology such as electronic charts and information systems (ECDIS);
- New requirements for marine environment awareness training and training in leadership and teamwork;
- New training and certification requirements for electro-technical officers;
- Updating of competence requirements for personnel serving on board all types of tankers, including new requirements for personnel serving on liquefied gas tankers;
- New requirements and provisions for security training to ensure that seafarers are properly trained to cope with pirate attacks;

The 2010 International STCW Diplomatic Conference, held in Manila from 21 to 25 June, saw major revisions and updating of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention and Code to make it relevant to the future.

SOS General Secretary, Mr Kam Soon Huat and Seacare Thrift Pte Ltd Manager, Ms Sharon Li, was part of the delegation from Singapore. They were among the 500 delegates from 85 IMO Member States, and observers from three Associate Members, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the European Commission (EC) and one other intergovernmental organisation; and 17 non-governmental organisations.

At the Conference, major revisions to the International STCW Convention and its associated Code was adopted, ensuring that necessary global standards will be in place to train and certify seafarers to operate technologically advanced ships for some time to come.

- Introduction of modern training methodology including distance learning and web-based learning;
- New training guidance for personnel serving on board ships operating in polar waters; and
- New training guidance for personnel operating Dynamic Positioning Systems.

The Conference also adopted resolutions covering issues such as the verification of certificates of competency; the promotion of technical knowledge, skills and professionalism of seafarers; guidelines to implement international standards on seafarer medical fitness; measures to ensure the competency of masters and officers of ships operating in polar waters; attracting new entrants to the maritime profession; accommodation for trainees; women in the maritime industry and many more.

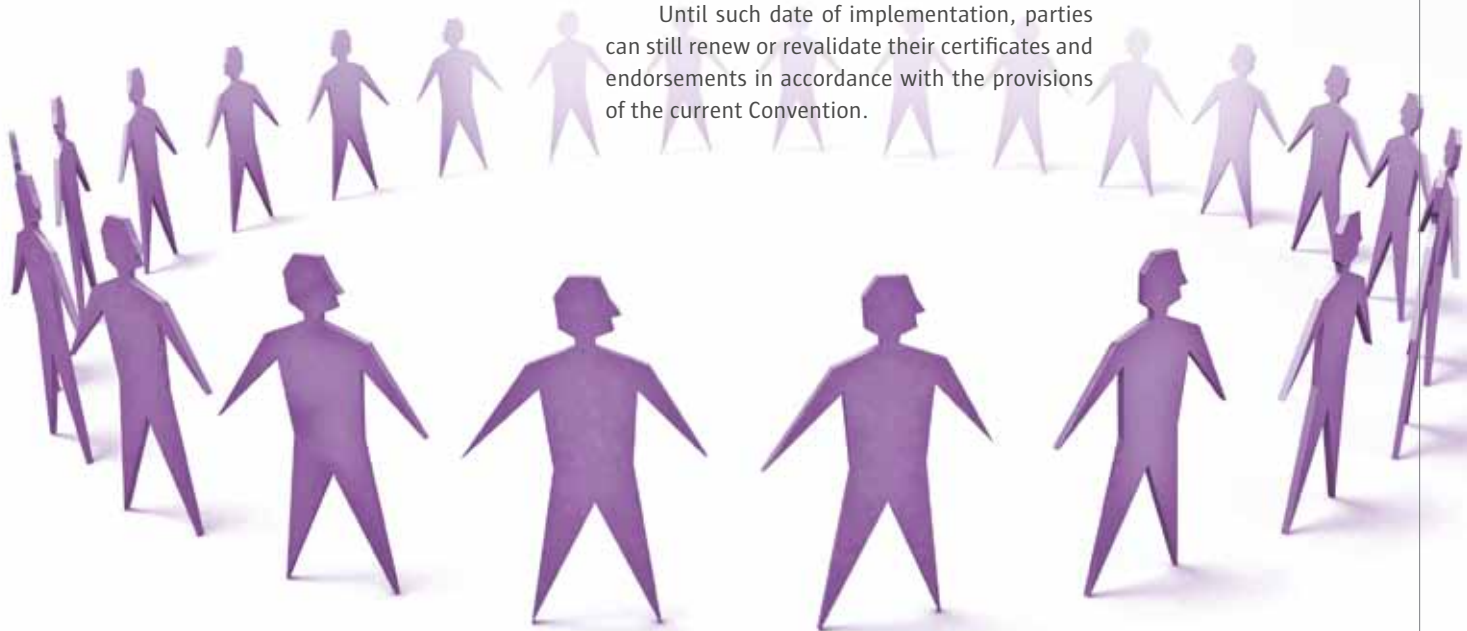
With the unanimous agreement of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Diplomatic Conference in Manila also adopted a resolution nominating 25 June of each year as the 'Day of the Seafarer'. The resolution acknowledges seafarers' significance for the maritime community and encourages Governments, shipping organisations, companies, shipowners and all other parties concerned to duly and appropriately promote the Day of the Seafarer.

Speaking at the close of the successful Conference, IMO Secretary-General Efthimios E Mitropoulos said that the adoption of the revised STCW had brought to a successful conclusion the concerted effort undertaken by so many – Government and industry alike, dedicated seafarer representative bodies, maritime training institutions, and the many other interested organisations – over a four-year period. "The immediate task at hand is to promulgate the standards of maritime excellence we have just come to adopt amongst those working at the sharp end of the industry and to promote their proper implementation and enforcement through the usual means of enacting legislation and introducing enabling measures in maritime administrations and training establishments," he said.

The STCW Diplomatic Conference was held under the auspices of IMO, the United Nations specialised agency tasked with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution from ships.

The amendments, to be known as "The Manila amendments to the STCW Convention and Code" are set to enter into force on 1 January 2012 under the tacit acceptance procedure and are aimed at bringing the Convention and Code up to date with developments since they were initially adopted in 1978 and further revised in 1995; and to enable them to address issues that are anticipated to emerge in the foreseeable future.

Until such date of implementation, parties can still renew or revalidate their certificates and endorsements in accordance with the provisions of the current Convention.



PANDEMONIUM

Aboard Tai Yuan 32



They were stranded in Jurong Fishing Port, Singapore on 2 July 2010. Another had seriously injured his left eye ...

This was the sad state of 20 crew members of a Kaohsiung registered fishing vessel – the Tai Yuan 32, when SOS received a call informing that its ship owner was planning to forcefully fly eight Kenyan crew members back to Kenya without their 13 months salary and free passage home.

SOS IR Executive Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar and a Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) official boarded the vessel at Jurong Fishing Port on 5 July, whereupon the agent, and the injured crew member were immediately referred to an eye specialist that same morning.

The Singapore Unions wasted no time in retrieving the particulars of the ship owner in Kaohsiung, and crewing agent in Kenya from the crew members.

After being paid their outstanding dues three days later, the eight Kenyan fishing vessel crew members were repatriated safely on 9 July.



ICMA DROPS IN

at the Seacare Drop-In Centre

An Asia Staff Meeting organised by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria and hosted by the International Lutheran Seafarers' Mission, a member of International Christian Maritime Association, took place in Singapore on 3 to 10 July 2010. Participants came from South Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia and China.

who have short transit time at ports or restricted port access. Mr Mohamad took the group on a tour of the centre, pointing out the various facilities available such as computer stations with broadband internet access, webcam, private phone booth and more. The centre is also furnished comfortably and well stocked with refreshments and reading resources.



The biennial meeting concluded with a port visit led by Mr Thomas Paulsteiner, East Asia Representative for World Mission Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria. During their tour around the port facilities, the group was amazed by the major expansion of container port facilities that Singapore is undertaking to cater for long-term trade growth.

The high point for the visitors was their visit to the Seacare Drop-In Centre for International Seafarers in Pasir Panjang Terminal Building where SOS Vice President, Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar underscored the main purpose for the setting up of the centre.

Since its opening on March 2008, the centre has been a home away from home for many seafarers, particularly those

While being shown around the place, the visitors were impressed that the centre, although compact in size, was able to meet the varying needs and preferences of every seafarer. What impressed them most was the availability of a friendly staff to provide the personal touch, and the knowledge that such a centre exists to cater to the welfare of international seafarers.



BORA PRESENTATION CEREMONY

It was their time to shine as union leaders were given due recognition for their sterling service and hard work at the 10th Branch Officials Recognition Awards (BORA) Ceremony on 23 June 2010 at Orchid Country Club.

The awards ceremony saw 76 branch leaders from 47 unions being credited for their contributions to members' welfare. For their efforts, the award winners were also rewarded with an all expenses paid, four-day learning trip to Hong Kong from 26 to 29 June.

SOS was proudly represented at both events by EXCO members: Mr Ho Yew Chun and Mr Kamis B Hussain and Standing Committee member, Mr Ramjeet Jadoh Dadhibal.

Applauding the union branch officials for adapting what they had learnt from the Ong Teng Cheong Labour Leadership Institute (OTCi) to their workplaces and communities, Guest-of-Honour, NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Mr Heng Chee How had high praises for the leaders:

"NTUC and OTCi are proud when the leaders we train return to their unions, union clusters, workplaces and interest communities, and put what they learned into practice. We are cheered

when leaders understand the big picture, and make good and useful points and suggestions at dialogues, discussions and negotiations. The value and productivity of OTCi's work are manifested in the strength, resilience and good work of its alumni – the broad body of union leaders. You, leaders of all ages, all collars and both genders, have made the meaning and impact of union work come alive, for the common good of members and workers. Well done!"

Since its introduction in 2001 by the NTUC Leadership Development Department, which has now merged with the OTCi, BORA has recognised 419 unionists in their contributions to members' welfare.

The award which included a four-day learning trip to Hong Kong for all winners, was led by NTUC Assistant Secretary General, Mr Ong Ye Kung and Central Committee Member, Ms Diana Chia.

The SOS awardees visited fraternal labour organisations and other organisations within the service sector to learn about Hong Kong's productivity, innovation policies and strategies.

Here's what they have to say about receiving the awards and their most memorable moments from the trip:

"I'm extremely proud and glad to be recognised by SOS for the award. The most memorable bits of the trip for me were the visits to the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) office and a watchmaker – where we saw how watches were produced and the quality of safety checks performed. It's not often that one gets to observe these processes."

MR RAMJEET JADOH DADHIBAL, SOS
STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER

"I thank SOS for the opportunity to travel and for conferring on me this award. What was interesting was that the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions' (HKCTU) training centre organises courses which are sited close to the homes of workers, so they don't have to travel long distances to attend a course."

MR HO YEW CHUN, SOS EXCO MEMBER

"I'm happy that SOS remembers us in this award. This trip has allowed us to appreciate the value of a well organised and structured tripartite movement and well-negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA)."

MR KAMIS B HUSSAIN, SOS EXCO MEMBER

and Overseas Learning Journey 2010



ICSW

PARTY IN THE PARK

A lively concert, dance competition, quizzes, games and a plethora of fringe activities made this day one to remember.

Jointly organised by the International Committee On Seafarers' Welfare/ International Transport Workers' Federation: Seafarers' Trust (ICSW/ITF-ST) and ICSW South East Asia Regional Seafarers Welfare Committee, Party in the Park was held at Luneta Park Manila, Philippines on 26 July 2010 in conjunction with the "Year of Seafarer 2010".

Dedicated to the welfare of seafarers irrespective of nationality, race or creed, the carnival was organised to pay special tribute to them for their contribution to society and in recognition of the roles they play in the facilitation of global trade.



The carnival was attended by thousands of seafarers, accompanied by their spouses and family members.

SOS Youth Committee Chairman, Mr Abdul Rahim B Mohamed was on-hand as well to lend support to the event.

Some lucky revellers went home with lucky draw prizes such as laptops, digital cameras and electrical appliances in tow.



WELCOME ABOARD!

NEW INSIGHTS FOR NEW SOS/SEACARE STAFF

A ship visit to the Maersk Senang on 3 June for two newly appointed SOS/Seacare Executives, Ms Jullienne Low and Ms Eryka Rostandy, proved to be a foundation lesson in SOS 101.

Join us as we go behind the scenes to find out more about what they do and their experiences on board Maersk Senang.

Samudra: When did your appointments come into effect?

Jullienne: Both of us were confirmed the same day – 12 July 2010.

Samudra: How do you find your new roles?

Eryka: It definitely requires a certain level of IT competence and adaptability as I manage a computerised SPF payment system on a

daily basis. I help to follow up on SPF fund payments from shipping companies and maintain the updated records of the vessels from all these companies.

Jullienne: Rather than just being a desk-bound job, my role allows for greater exposure to communicate effectively with people. Apart from handling the iSPF system, I attend to members' enquiries and perform invoicing on other seafarer benefit schemes.

Samudra: Any job related challenges? How do you overcome them?

Jullienne: Multi-tasking and deadlines are recurrent challenges. So we discuss solutions and resolve them quickly and effectively in our department meetings.

Eryka: We always look for ways to improve our iSPF system for the benefit of seafarers. So we initiate frequent consultations with our system developer to keep the system current, updated and running smoothly.

Samudra: Tell us about your Maersk Senang ship visit since arriving in SOS.

Jullienne: It was a thrilling and extraordinary experience which improved my understanding of ship operations. The visit also gave me a glimpse into life at sea and highlighted the importance of the Captain's role in overcoming language and cultural barriers among crew and planning schedules to ensure prompt delivery of cargo.

Eryka: Indeed, it was an adventurous moment and a completely new experience to observe life on a shipping vessel.

Truly an eye-opener for the two ladies, the ship visit provided an insight into the lives of the seafarers to whom they will serve in their respective capacities as they join the family of SOS/Seacare.

We say, "Welcome Aboard."



Ms Jullienne Low (2nd from right) and Ms Eryka Rostandy (extreme right) with SOS IR Executive Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar and the Ship Captain of Maersk Senang

LEARNING TO THINK AND PRACTICE CHEAPER, BETTER AND FASTER



The phrase, 'Cheaper, Better, Faster' (CBF) was first coined in 2009 by NTUC Secretary-General Mr Lim Swee Say in his appeal to companies and workers to be part of an economy powered by an inclusive 'All CAN' (all collars, all ages, all nationalities) workforce. Now, CBF has become the rallying call for the labour movement to upgrade labour skills in order to improve productivity.

To help SOS members gain a better appreciation of CBF, the SOS Training & Skills Development Division invited a speaker from the Ong Teng Cheong Labour Leadership Institute (OTCi) to help members understand why CBF is key to the future competitiveness of Singapore's economy and what it means to sustain Singapore



as a first class workforce. The half-day workshop on 24 July 2010, held at Club@52 in Seacare Building, attracted some 37 SOS members.

One of the tools that was introduced during the talk was the use of the Business Environment Risk Index (BERI) ranking and report to measure labour skills and productivity of Singapore workforce. The use of the BERI ranking in screening international markets revealed how concepts of labour skills and productivity could be extrapolated to infer useful information.

During the workshop, members looked back at the unions' role in the productivity promotion drive of the 80's and innovation drive of the 90's, the potential threats to the Singapore workforce and its contribution to competitiveness. The speaker went on to explain the concepts behind CBF; the associated funding schemes



and support structures for CBF initiatives such as International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore), Economic Development Board (EDB), Employment & Employability Institute (e2i) and SPRING Singapore; and how to promote CBF in companies by recognising the critical roles that unions and management play in the scheme of CBF.

Apart from learning to appreciate the role of union leaders in working with management and workers driving CBF at the company level, members also saw how different companies achieved CBF through success stories of exemplary CBF implementations.

By the end of the session, members emerged enlightened on the acquired use of good CBF practices and tools to support CBF thinking at their workplace.





SECURITY TRAINING

NO BED OF ROSES

In our previous issue, the Security Course Preview, which was held on 15 May 2010 for interested members at the Security Industry Institute (SII) was highlighted.

Conducted by the SII, the preview had 14 out of the 43 inquirers signing up for the course. Course registrants were asked to attend two mandatory modules for licensing at SII. The first module was the "Handling Security Incidents and Services" module which was held from 5 to 6 July while the second was the "Providing Guard and Patrol Service" module which was held from 13 to 15 July.

Most of the candidates were nervous as they had to memorise the notes for the two days of each module and attend an audition-like assessment the very next day.

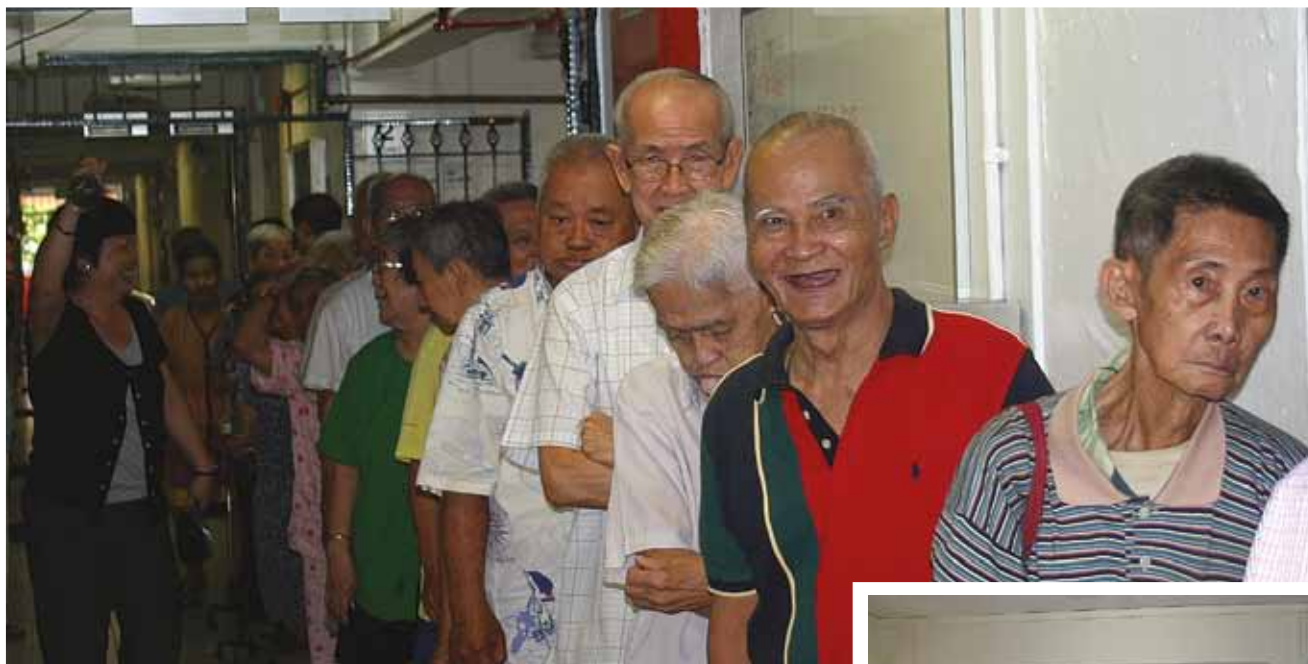
The method of assessment was by manner of a role-play where the trainer presents candidates with case studies and varied situations to test their responses and ability to think quickly on their feet. They were also required to effectively articulate and act out their answers in front of a video camera.



The process was an eye-opener. The retraining sharpened skills and offered new challenges for many as candidates were briefed on the finer points of incident report writing, security equipment and tools, and standard operating protocols and procedures within the industry.



FOOD FOR SENIOR CITIZENS' COMMUNITY HOME



SOS visits



Picture above was the scene during lunchtime at the Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) Community Home For Senior Citizens as a team of SOS staff and Union Welfare and Community Services Committee members donated grocery items and transferred packet food and bottled water to the kitchen in Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6 on the afternoon of 23 June 2010.

Three delicious sets of packet food – Malay Nasi Lemak, Indian and Chinese set lunches were the order of the day as the food packets were prepared to be collected by the 136 residents at their newly-renovated Collection Counter.

After lunch, a nursing staff brought the SOS team for a tour of the home and its different interaction rooms where residents can watch television, read books and even learn to use the computer.

She also explained how each resident was partnered with another resident in a buddy system and introduced them to the team.



It was heartwarming – keeping company with the elderly folk and hearing their stories.



THRILLS AND SPILLS

SOS FAMILY DAY

In an era when Pharaoh's tombs were discovered, terrible curses were unleashed in Ancient Egypt while an inter-galactic battle of good versus evil was waged within the futuristic metropolis of Sci-fi City.

Razor-sharp incisors, raptors and carnivorous dinosaurs gave chase in Jurassic Park while a tidal wave of death amid massive explosions made for a harrowing experience at WaterWorld.

It was an overwhelming response and an awesome buzz of anticipation on 20 June 2010 as 508 members with their families were in for an immersive entertainment experience at Universal Studios Singapore (USS).

Arriving in six busloads were 240 members while the rest headed to Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) on their own.

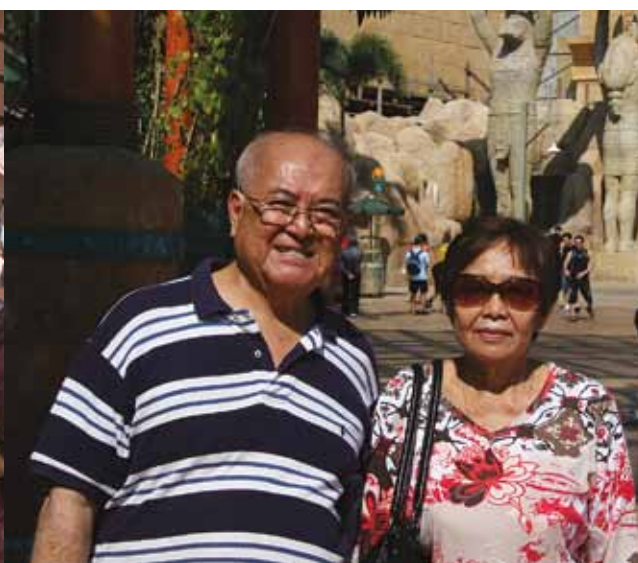
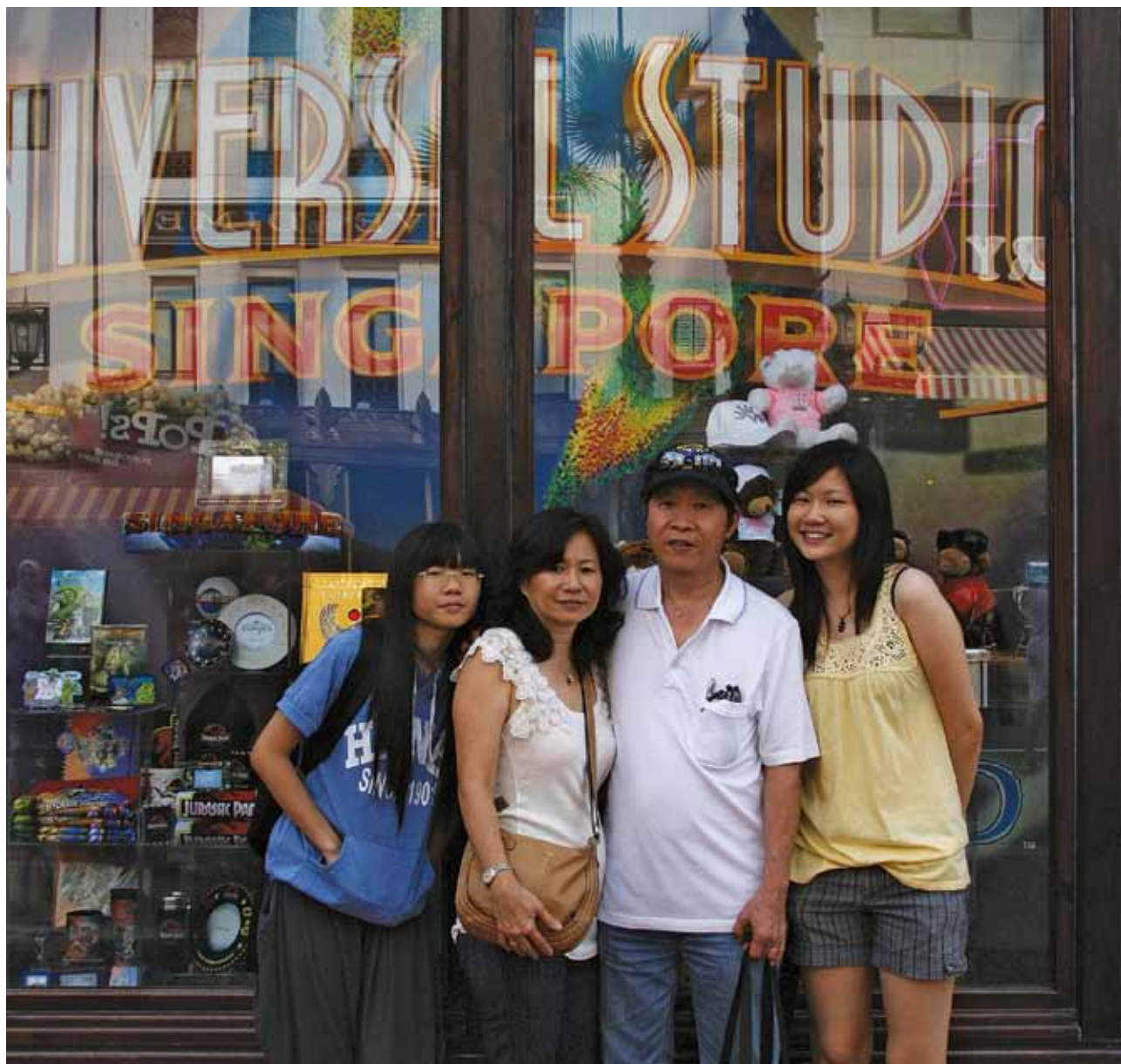
With USS brochures and maps in hand, families received envelopes containing USS Gold Souvenir key chains and meal and shopping vouchers together with their admission tickets.

Group photos were taken at the Universal globe, after which excited members and their families were transported into the exciting and wonderful world of Universal Studios.

Members "rode the movies" on roller coasters and other movie-themed attractions that brought the silver screen to life.

The kids especially enjoyed getting up close and personal with their stars from Shrek and Madagascar – as they encountered talking donkeys in the land of Far Far Away and the dense tropical jungle of Madagascar while dad and mom got a glimpse of glamour – with the renowned "Hollywood Boulevard".

With thematic performances, thrilling rides, mascots, eateries and generous offerings of gripping suspense and adrenaline-pumping action, USS was a heart-stopping feast for the senses. There was definitely something for everyone!





SOS Digs into “KING OF FRUITS”



It attracted a steady increase in members' participation over the years and had always been a popular highlight among members' events.

This year, 198 participants, mainly members with their spouses packed into five coaches and travelled to West Malaysia on 3 July 2010 armed with a single mission – to conquer the durian buffet in Muar Johor.

The participants were well taken care of by capable, well-trained and experienced tour guides from Malaysia, while members of the Welfare and Community Services Committee assisted SOS welfare staff in looking after the safety of its aged members.

First up was breakfast at a coffee shop which served Chinese, Muslim and Indian food in Gelang Patah, a small town in south-western Johor.

After breakfast, visitors adjourned to Oasis Bay Restaurant in Muar, Johor for the much anticipated durian buffet where visitors tucked into thick, fleshy and savoury D169s and 24s among other

local fruits and served dishes. With their own distinct colours and taste, the durian buffet was a delightful sensory experience like none other.

In between, visitors stopped at local products shops in Yong Peng as well as Giant Hypermarket and topped off the evening with a seafood dinner at Senibong Beach Restaurant in Johor before heading back across the causeway.



SEACAREFOCUS



SEACAREFOCUS

SEACAREFOCUS



SEACARE BOARD MEMBERS

RECEIVE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Seacare Co-operative Ltd members gave all nine directors their vote of confidence at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Co-operative held on 28 June 2010.



Among the nine, three were new. While Mr Goh Yeow Tin, Ms Toh Hwee Tin and SOS President Mr Mohamed Idris B Mohamed Ibrahim were elected as members of the Board of Directors for the next three years, Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar and Ms Jessie Yeo stepped down from their post as Directors. Under their leadership, Seacare weathered through the storm and came out stronger than expected. Seacare wishes to thank Mr Mohamad and Ms Yeo for their strong leadership and contribution.

Mr Goh Yeow Tin is no new face to Seacare. In fact, Mr Goh is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Seacare Manpower Services and Seacare Medical Holdings; and Chief Executive Officer for Seacare Education.

Mr Goh started his career with the Economic Development Board, heading the Local Industries Unit responsible for the growth and development of local enterprises in Singapore. His business sense saw him developing a franchising system for three SME sectors, one of which was subsequently bought over and awarded the Top Local Franchise in 2005. He is presently an independent director of Juken Technology Limited and Oakwell Engineering Limited and has served in many committees including Ministry of Trade & Industry, the Japanese Foundation for Asian Management Development (FAMD), Industrial and Services Co-operative Society Limited (ISCOS, a co-operative under the Ministry of Home Affairs) and Singapore Retailers Association. Mr Goh was nominated by the Founder Member of Seacare and his contribution will play a significant role in driving the business of Seacare forward.



The other new member in the Board of Directors is **Ms Toh Hwee Tin**. Ms Toh is trained in business administration and has more than 10 years experience in industrial relations. Her subsequent appointment as deputy director of NTUC Fairprice, the largest retailer in Singapore, puts her in a good position as a valuable contributing member of Seacare's Board of Directors.

Currently, Ms Toh holds two appointments ie Alignment Director for Family Development Unit (FDU) and Deputy Executive Secretary for Food, Drinks and Allied Workers' Union (FDAWU). Her involvement as an elected member to the Board of Directors will ensure accountability of Seacare to its members and a proper representation of its institutional member, the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC).

Mr Mohamed Idris B Mohamed Ibrahim is a familiar figure in SOS as well. He was Vice President of SOS since 1991 before assuming his appointment as President in April 2009.

Mr Idris is presently a Committee Member of the Mission to Seafarers, an Alternate Member of NTUC International Relations Committee, and a Member of both the Norwegian/Asia Seafarers' Committee and NTUC Workplace Health & Safety Committee.





Seacare Seafarers' Club Registered

Another highlight of the EOGM was the motion to approve the formation and the application for registration of Seacare Seafarers' Club (SSC).

The idea of setting up a Seafarers' Club was mooted jointly by SOS and Seacare, to serve as a second channel for Seacare to provide additional welfare and services to SOS members. Seacare Co-operative Limited was approved as Founder Member of the SSC. With the approval for the registration of the club as a society, the SSC would soon be opening its doors; offering a range of services that would focus more on the needs of seafarers and their dependents.

Thank You to Board Of Trustees

The other key agenda of the EOGM was the proposed amendment to the by-laws of Seacare which saw the dissolution of the Board of Trustees. The amendments were carried out to comply with the Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act 2008. Seacare would like to sincerely thank the following persons for their indelible service as members of the Board of Trustees:

.....
Mr Leow Ching Chuan

.....
Mr Lee Van Chong

.....
Mr Kam Soon Huat

.....
Mr Mohamed Idris B Mohamed Ibrahim

.....
Mr Nazarudin B Nandok

BOARD MEMBERS

The composition for the new term of office ending 2013 is:

Board of Directors

Executive Chairman:

.....
Mr Leow Ching Chuan

Deputy Chairman and Treasurer:

.....
Mr Lee Van Chong

Secretary:

.....
Mr David Sim Hor Pheng

Members:

.....
Mr Mohamed Idris B Mohamed Ibrahim

.....
Mr Kam Soon Huat

.....
Mr Goh Yeow Tin

.....
Capt Billy Lee Chee Fong

.....
Ms Toh Hwee Tin

.....
Mr Raja Mohd Said B Raja Mohd Shafik

SMMC WELCOMES DIGITAL X-RAY TECHNOLOGY

Seafarers would be pleased to know that the Seacare Maritime Medical Centre (SMMC) has recently acquired a digital x-ray facility to further enhance the medical centre's service as a one stop clinic for seafarers.

Medical associates gathered at the SMMC to witness the facility's official launch at the SMMC on 29 July.

Reputed as the latest in digital radiography and x-ray imaging, the new Hitachi Clinix II Radiological System employs digital x-ray sensors in place of traditional photographic films. This means that the digital image capture device used to record an x-ray image makes it possible to bypass chemical processing and save the image as a digital file.

Images may also be digitally transferred and enhanced. Digital images can then be transmitted electronically to partner radiologists for reporting or interpretation and saved as part of a patient's medical record.

Not only are reporting fees and power consumption greatly reduced, the new machine is cheaper; lightweight, compact and faster. Less radiation is required to produce an image of similar contrast compared to conventional radiography.



“We are now able to view sharper images on computer. Compared to the days of traditional x-ray machines where films are collected, sent by courier and received the next day, turnaround time is significantly shortened as a result. With the inclusion

of digital radiological services in our clinic, seafarers can now cut down on travelling and processing time for medical reviews.” – Dr Chia Yih Woei, SMMC Chief Executive Officer.



Mr Haider Ariff strikes a pose with the Fujifilm Computed Radiology (CR) and Printer System

SMMC has employed an in-house radiographer in Mr Haider Ariff. Mr Ariff briefed visitors on the facility and the technology that goes into the process – responding to questions along the way.

Demonstrating the benefits of the new technology, Mr Ariff likened sending the images to attaching a photo in an email: “It’s that simple and that convenient! Photo resolutions are of excellent quality and it drastically reduces patient waiting time. One click of the button can save hours of waiting. Insurance companies, ship owners and hospitals can all receive the digital x-ray images at the same time. It sets the standard for every medical centre.”



Mr Ariff briefs visitors on the new system



Mr Ariff demonstrates how images are captured and viewed



The x-ray exposure control panel

Different parts of the body require varying doses of radiation – some more than others. Mr Ariff explained that the exposure control panel fitted on an adjacent wall outside the x-ray room helps to regulate radiation levels with its preset values for different parts of the body: hands, knees, wrists, chest, etc.

Mr Ariff selects on the control panel the part of the body that is being captured, and the system will dispense the corresponding amount of radiation required.

“We have gained the relevant permits, our x-ray room has been properly fitted with lead and we have cleared all the necessary safety requirements with flying colours. So we are glad to have acquired this new technology and proud to finally be able to make this service available for the benefit of seafarers.”



SEACARE PROPERTIES

BIDS FAREWELL TO OUTGOING GM AND WELCOMES NEW GM



Ms Gillan Teo

Having spent almost seven years with the organisation, it's no wonder that Ms Gillan Teo treats SOS/Seacare like her second home. Yet with much difficulty, Gillan, General Manager of Seacare Properties has had to make a decision to leave the organisation. In August, Gillan moved on to devote more time to her family.

Reminiscing on her time spent with SOS/Seacare, Gillan said, "I'm very grateful and value the many lessons I've learnt from my friends, colleagues and mentors. It has been a pleasure and I will miss their company dearly."

Taking over the helm is former Seacare Foundation Pte Ltd, Senior Business Development Manager, Mr Lim Chye Teen. His new role sees him supervising and executing operations in Seacare Properties. In addition to other business investments and joint ventures in property, construction and development fields, he also oversees the development, project and property management of commercial properties like Seacare Building and Seacare Hotel.

All geared up for this new appointment, Mr Lim declared, "My joy and satisfaction stems from seeing our investments do well and flourish. Several of our current projects were embarked upon to serve the welfare of seafarers. This is what keeps me going and working harder to develop more opportunities for the Seacare Group."

With that assurance, SOS/Seacare is confident that Seacare Properties is in good hands and would like to thank Gillan for her unwavering support and service.



Newly installed Seacare Properties General Manager, Mr Lim Chye Teen

REMIND; RELEARN; REFRESH; RETREAT

FOR SEACARE CO-OPERATIVE

SERVICE SECTOR WORKSHOP IN BATAM

A weekend retreat sharpened the effectiveness and leadership skills of more than 30 co-operative leaders and staff from 12 service co-operatives. The educational weekend retreat, organised by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) Service Sector was held in Batam from 24 to 25 July 2010.

For two days, participants, including representatives from Seacare, explored new ways and approaches to dealing with change. Dr Low Guat Tin, Associate Professor, Policy and Leadership Studies, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University led the charge by teaching the importance of “mindset”; what causes “minds” to set, how one can “unset” it and what the results would be if one were to think differently. Dr Low highlighted the need to change in a world that is constantly evolving – “We need to predict and anticipate what’s likely to occur in the future; what result is most desirable; then devise ways and means of maximising the changes. If we know the changes that are coming, we could shape our own future.”

Introducing the concept of the 3R’s approach: Remind; Relearn; Refresh, Dr Low taught co-operative leaders and staff new approaches to changing mindsets. The workshop was facilitated in a highly engaging and interactive manner which included object lessons. The venue provided just the right setting for a relaxing and refreshing weekend retreat.

Seacare Co-operative Limited was represented by Mr Lim Thizi Chee, Mr Chung Keng Meng, Mr Mohamad B Kodrasono, Mr Ramjeet Jadoh Dadhibal and Mr Seow Siow Kiat.

At the concluding segment of the workshop, Dr Low urged all participants to craft a new direction for their co-operative, reflecting on how they could change the way they do things as they consider the influences of globalisation, technology, information explosion and the creation of new knowledge.



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- Free admission for members + 1 accompanied guest

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- \$3.50 per ticket for movie screenings before 6pm on weekdays

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- 1-for-1 house pour except beer every Monday
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Our Seacare International Phils. Inc.
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Tel: (63) 2 521-6839
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SOS Filipino members who need any assistance on Seafarers' Provident Fund Scheme, Seacare Maritime Training Scheme, Seacare Medical Scheme and Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme can get in touch with us at our new office.

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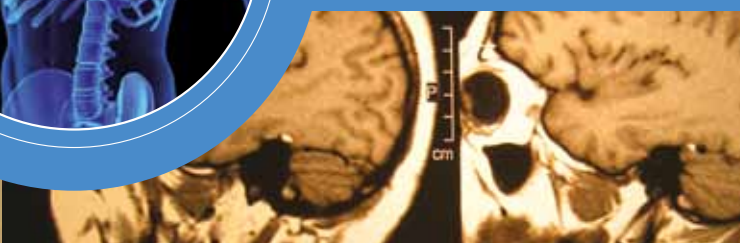


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SMMC Affiliated Clinics

SMMC Singapore

165 Tanjong Pagar Road
#04-19 The Amara
Singapore 088539
Tel: (65) 6222 7728
(65) 6222 2961
Fax: (65) 6224 6387

SMMC Shanghai

Room 509, Apollo Building
No. 1440 Middle YanAn Rd,
Shanghai
Tel: (86-21) 6133 1878
Fax: (86-21) 6133 1879

Indonesia

SMMC/Klinik Baruna
Jln. Cikini Raya
No. 60 R/S Jakarta 10330
Tel: (62-21) 391 8730
Fax: (62-21) 315 1065

SMMC/PT. Indosehat 2003 Clinic
(2 branches),
Jl. Cilincing Raya No. 74,
North Jakarta
Tel: (62-21) 441 1281

Singapore

NEW Optometry & Ocular
Care Centre
300 Margaret Drive
Singapore 149302
Tel: (65) 6471 1771

Philippines

SMMC/Micah Medical Clinic and
Diagnostic Laboratory
3rd Floor Marc Building, 1971
Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila,
Philippines
Tel: (63-2) 536 5289/536 5900
Fax: (63-2) 536 5280

SMMC/Galenus Clinic Inc.
3rd Floor, Ferguson Park
Tower, M.H. Del Pilar cor. A
Flores St. Ermita,
Manila 1000, Philippines
Tel: (63-2) 528 4185
Fax: (63-2) 536 9716

SMMC/Ilano's Medical &
Dental Clinic
Ilano Bldg I, units 4,5 and 6,
Nueno Avenue,
Imus Cavite, Philippines
Fax: (63-46) 471 3428/ 471 5051

SMMC/CMDC Diagnostic Center
Camp Alagar Crossing,
Lapasan Highway,
Cagayan de Oro City
Telefax: (63-88) 856 3045

SMMC/Villanueva Clinical
Laboratory
16th Lacson St.,
Bacolod City
Tel: (63-34) 433 5277

SMMC/ Gillamacs Diagnostic &
Medical Laboratories Inc.
Don Gil Garcia St.
Capitol Site Cebu City,
6000 Philippines
Tel/Fax : (63-32) 416 6000

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