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Singapore Organisation of Seamen and  
Seacare Co-operative Limited

# SAMUDRA

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**SOS ENSURES SAFETY  
AND COMFORT FOR  
SEAFARERS DURING  
CREW CHANGE**

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## SOS SETS ASIDE ANOTHER S\$1.1M TO DEFRAY SAFE CREW CHANGE COST

In the spirit of continued support and generosity in view of the continuous challenges with crew change, SOS has set aside another S\$1.1 million, in the form of meals and accommodation e-vouchers, to help shipping companies defray crew change cost at The Seacare Hotel. This is on top of the S\$1.5 million worth of e-vouchers, which was set aside for crew changes in July 2020, set to expire after 31 March 2021.

The terms of usage for the e-vouchers remain unchanged:

- Shipping companies covered with a valid SOS Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and participating in Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme (SSS) can use the SSS e-vouchers to redeem full board accommodation at The Seacare Hotel.
- CBA shipping companies not participating in SSS will be offered a special room rate at 20 per cent discount and SOS will sponsor three meals per day for their seafarers staying at The Seacare Hotel.
- For shipping companies that do not have CBA with SOS, the Union will also sponsor three meals per day for their seafarers housed at The Seacare Hotel.

“With a prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, shipping companies may continue to face challenges in managing their cash flows and meeting their financial obligations. SOS is committed to ensure safe and comfortable accommodation for seafarers during crew changes while helping shipping companies defray operation overheads through the extension of the SSS e-vouchers.”

Mr Kam Soon Huat, SOS President

# CREW CHANGE EXPERIENCE IN SINGAPORE AT ITS BEST

Seamen Mohamed Ahmed Samy Mahmoud and Dominic Oxales, who were sailing on a Saudi Arabia flag and Liberia flag respectively, shared their crew change experience and stay at The Seacare Hotel.

## How was your crew change experience in Singapore?

**Mohamed:** There is excellent management of crew change, no complications at all. It was really easy and faster than expected actually. It took about two hours to get us from the ship to The Seacare Hotel. There was no congestion or traffic jam. It's a good opportunity to see Singapore. It's a beautiful country.



▲ Left: Mohamed Ahmed Samy Mahmoud

▲ Right: Dominic Oxales

**Dominic:** It's definitely easier to do crew change in Singapore as it's an open country. My crew thinks that Singapore has done an excellent job. But for other countries it may be difficult. After staying onboard for so many months, one of my happiest moment in seafaring is to be able to step onshore

## How long have you been staying onboard before undergoing crew change in Singapore?

**Mohamed:** I have been sailing for almost eight months. For sure, the morale is high now as I am excited to be able to reach home safely and see my loved ones again. I miss my family.

**Dominic:** I have been sailing nonstop for eight and half months. It was tiring but normal and I'm used to it. I kept my spirits up by playing basketball, ping pong and workout in the gym onboard.

## What do you like about The Seacare Hotel?

**Mohamed:** It's close to the port. Checking-in is easy. The staff are very organised. They follow strict rules and guidelines and there is clear communication about what to do, what not to do and where to go when we arrived.

**Dominic:** I like the experience so far. The room is nice and has a nice view. Now I can use the WiFi to chat with my family back in the Philippines. I last called them in August 2020.

## Would you continue sailing despite the pandemic?

**Mohamed:** Sure. We must be resilient and we should keep going no matter what happens. We should not stop the development and production cycle. Its important to always be grateful for what I have and make the best of any opportunity no matter how small it presents. I hope after the pandemic ends, I have the chance to visit Singapore again.

**Dominic:** Yes, I will continue sailing. Everyone is afraid, not just seamen. But we have all the precautions in place. I will keep going.

# CHANGE OF SOS ADVISORS

As of 1 March 2021, Mr Lim Boon Heng, Mr Zulkifli Mohammed and Mr Arthur Fong will step down as SOS advisors while Ms Carrie Tan, MP for Nee Soon GRC for Nee Soon South, will take on the role as advisor to SOS.

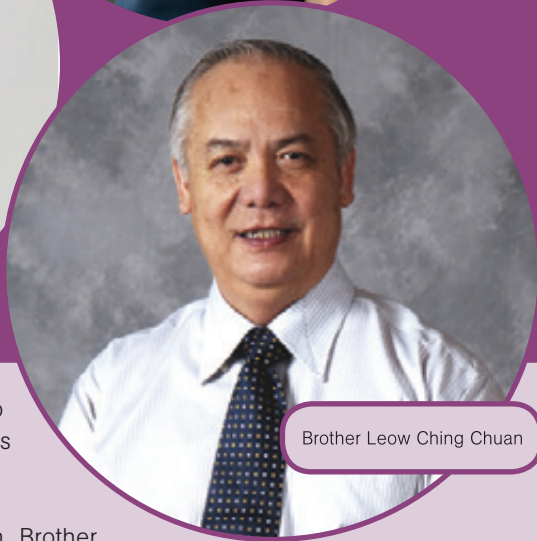
Ms Carrie Tan, a veteran in social service and founder of charity organisation, Daughters of Tomorrow, will assume her new role as SOS advisor, alongside current advisors, Ms Grace Fu (since 2006), Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and Brother Leow Ching Chuan, Executive Advisor.



Ms Carrie Tan



Ms Grace Fu



Brother Leow Ching Chuan

SOS expresses utmost appreciation to Mr Lim, Mr Zulkifli and Mr Fong for their tireless contributions and guidance over the years.

“SOS is privileged to have Brother Lim, Brother Zulkifli and Brother Fong as our past advisors. Many of us share fond memories of their involvement in our union’s activities. We would not have been able to accomplish what we have set out to do without their wise counsel and patient advice. We sincerely thank them for their contributions and in believing in our mission,” SOS President Kam Soon Huat noted.

Mr Lim, an advisor since 1983, played an instrumental role in the development of SOS and Seacare Co-operative, especially during their formative years. Mr Zulkifli and Mr Fong, advisors since 1991 and 2002 respectively, likewise offered invaluable advice and support, which were integral to the success and achievements of both organisations.





◀ Mr Lim Boon Heng at the official opening of Seacare Building on 26 June 2001.

▼ Mr Zulkifli presenting green packets at SOS Hari Raya Celebration 2010



▼ Mr Arthur Fong cheering on members' children at SOS Study Grant 2017.



Welcoming Ms Tan as new advisor, SOS General Secretary Daniel Tan said: "We are confident that Sister Tan will bring invaluable input to our organisation with her wide social network and experience in serving the community."

The Labour Movement's symbiotic relationship with the People's Action Party (PAP) can be traced back to the party's founding in 1954. Unionists formed the majority of the attendants at PAP's inaugural General Meeting as they needed the government to look after the interests and livelihood of workers.

PAP in turn needed the strong support from trade unionists in implementing measures and policies that benefit workers and Singaporeans. The appointment of PAP advisors in unions is an example of strengthening this symbiotic relationship.

## Thank you Brother Lim Boon Heng

Brother Lim Boon Heng has been a good staunch friend of SOS, as well as being its Advisor. Despite his heavy commitment in the NTUC, he thought deeply about the perennial problem of jobless seamen who are SOS members, whose plight he greatly sympathised.

It was Brother Lim who inspired and encouraged SOS to set up Seacare Co-operative to find jobs for seamen and strengthen SOS's funding.

Today, SOS and Seacare stand tall and steady among their respective trade unions and co-operatives, a proud testimony to the vision and foresight of Brother Lim. SOS and Seacare are forever indebted to Brother Lim for his unfailing advice and support. Thank you for serving us all for 38 years as Advisor.

▼ Seen here at SOS 21st Anniversary in 1991, Mr Lim has always been a strong supporter of SOS events.





## ACCREDITED FACILITIES ADDED TO CREWSAFE LIST

**M**ore holding and medical facilities in the region have been verified CrewSafe by the SG-STAR Fund Taskforce (SFTF) audit since the programme kicked off in December 2020.

As of 7 May 2021, the processes at the following facilities in the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia have been verified as CrewSafe.

The CrewSafe audit programme helps crew source nations bring a higher level of assurance and quality control checks into crew change processes, such as quarantine/holding, medical and swabbing facilities. Facility operators must meet auditors' requirements for proper practices in the entire operational process to be accredited as CrewSafe – failing which will result in an immediate suspension from the CrewSafe list.

SFTF is led by the Singapore Shipping Association, with members from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, Singapore Maritime Officer's Union and SOS. The SFTF audit programme forms part of the Singapore Shipping Tripartite Alliance Resilience (SG-STAR) Fund, which supports countries that adopt best practices for crew change.

### Holding Facilities

1. ITF/IMEC-St Giles Makati Hotel
2. Norwegian Shipowners' Association (NSA) / Norwegian Training Centre (NTC) – Manila Marriott Hotel
3. NYK-Bayleaf Hotel – Manila
4. V-Ships-Red Planet ASEANA – Manila
5. Hong Lam-Hotel 89 – Batam
6. NYK-Bellevue Hotel – Manila
7. NYK-Century Park Hotel – Manila
8. Thome-Dusit Thani – Manila
9. NYK-Crimson Hotel – Manila
10. V Ships Red Planet Makati – Manila
11. Hong Lam-Nu Hotel – Kuala Lumpur
12. The SeaCare Hotel – Singapore
13. Hotel Re! – Singapore
14. Thome-Herald Suites – Manila
15. Torm-City Garden Grand Hotel – Manila
16. Copthorne King's – Singapore

### Medical/Testing Facilities

17. AMOSUP Seamen's Hospital Molecular & PCR Laboratory – Manila
18. FHG-Aventus Medical Centre – Manila

# DAY OF THE SEAFARER CALLS FOR A #FAIRFUTURE4SEAFARERS

In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis that has wreaked havoc around the world, the plight of seafarers in the frontline of global response is being highlighted on the Day of the Seafarer on 25 June 2021.

Hundreds of thousands of seafarers face and are still experiencing extended sea times, going out for months at sea without seeing families and loved ones. They are still subjected to difficult working conditions surrounding uncertainties and difficulties in port access, re-supply, crew changeovers and repatriation.

In light of this, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) continues to encourage governments to support seafarers amid the pandemic but will expand its message around urging governments to recognise seafarers as key workers and ease travel restrictions to facilitate crew changes, calling for a fair future for seafarers.

#FairFuture4Seafarers is a campaign advocating for a fair and equal future for seafarers. It will discuss issues relevant to seafarers in post-pandemic future such as fair treatment of seafarers, fair working conditions (in line with ILO's Maritime Labour Convention), fair training, fair safety, etc.

More than ever, the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated just how critical it is to ensure the functioning of the global supply chains and the facilitation of the safe and efficient operation of maritime transport.

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim highlighted that, **“Through these difficult times, the international community has seen how the ability for shipping services and seafarers to deliver vital goods, including medical supplies and food, has been central to responding to, and eventually overcoming, this pandemic. This could not happen without the professionalism and dedication of the world's seafarers.”**

In the lead up to 25 June, the campaign will release short polls aimed at collecting feedback on what a fair future for seafarers looks like. The answers will be shared thereafter, providing a soundboard to help guide IMO's actions moving forward.

For more information, **visit <https://bit.ly/3doJZzc>.**



**DAY OF THE  
SEAFARER**  
— 25 JUNE —



## ITF SEAFARERS' SURVEY

**C**alling all seafarers, national or international, on ships or at home, all across the world.

The ITF Seafarers' Survey for March 2021 was launched on 22 March, and is seeking to gather responses from seafarers about:

- The impact of the pandemic on them and their families.
- The impact of the crew change crisis.
- Their views on vaccines (for themselves, and in the rollout prioritisations by governments).
- If they have taken a vaccine.

All are encouraged to distribute the survey link across their networks and in any opportunities they may have to share it with colleagues by way of newsletters, social media and e-mail blasts.

ITF has indicated that it will report back when the results are in and the data can be analysed.

See here: [www.itfglobal.org/seafarers/surveymarch2021](https://www.itfglobal.org/seafarers/surveymarch2021)

The survey is also accessible on social media here:

**On Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/ITFglobal/posts/1736084516566165>

**On Twitter:**

<https://twitter.com/ITFglobalunion/status/1373939858318581764>

**On LinkedIn:**

<https://tinyurl.com/surveymarch2021>

Completing ITF Seafarer Survey for March 2021 which will only take 5 minutes.

All responses are completely confidential and anonymous.

# SINGAPORE BUDGET 2021 TO EMERGE STRONGER TOGETHER

**E**merging Stronger Together Singapore Budget 2021 was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Heng Swee Keat on 16 February.

In his opening statement, DPM Heng shared facts and figures related to the country's economic performance of 2020. The pandemic-triggered recession hit Singapore's demand and supply, where Singapore's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by 5.4 percent in 2020. Overall, Singapore faced its largest budget deficit since independence at \$64.9 billion, or 13.9 percent of the country's GDP.

The government mounted a swift response with a combination of fiscal, monetary, and transitional measures, which has helped avoid a worse recession, avert job losses, and mitigate inequality. Without the fiscal and monetary policy measures, Singapore's GDP would have shrunk by at least 12.4 percent. The measures implemented managed to save/create 155,000 jobs on average, preventing the resident unemployment rate from rising a further two percentage points in 2020.

This year, Singapore's economy is projected to experience a 4 to 6 percent growth with some sectors growing well, while others remaining under stress.

The Singapore Budget will set aside \$11 billion for a COVID-19 Resilience Package which will have a three-prong approach.



BUDGET 2021	
<b>\$11 billion COVID-19 Resilience Package</b>	
RELIEF FOR RECOVERY	
-	\$4.8 billion for public health and safe reopening measures
-	\$700 million for JSS extension for targeted sectors
-	\$870 million for Aviation sector
-	\$133 million for COVID-19 Driver Fund
-	\$45 million for Arts and Culture Resilience and Sports Resilience Package

First, to address our immediate needs to safeguard public health and re-open safely. Of the \$11 billion, \$4.8 billion will be allocated to public health and safe reopening measures. This includes getting the nation vaccinated against COVID-19 and upkeep and maintain safe distancing measures in public venues.

The second approach seeks to support workers and businesses where needed. The Job Support Scheme (JSS) will be enhanced and brought forward from last year. So far, \$25 billion had been committed to help over 155,000 employees till March 2021. The JSS will be extended to the sectors that are harder hit. Overall, the JSS extension will cost \$700 million.

The third prong is to provide more targeted support for the worst-hit sectors. In this regard, the aviation sector will receive targeted support and cost relief extension, amounting to \$870 million. The land transport sector will receive \$133 million. The government is setting aside \$45 million for the extension and enhancements of Arts and Culture Resilience Package and Sports Resilience Package to support businesses and self-employed persons in the arts and culture, and sports sectors.

Below are summary, with a focus on support for workers and jobseekers, and families, to help Singaporeans emerge stronger, together.

## SUPPORTING WORKERS & JOBBEEKERS

### Jobs Support Scheme (JSS)

- Industries in **Tier 1 sectors** namely Aviation, Aerospace, and Tourism will have support extended.
  - 30 percent for wages paid from Apr to Jun 2021, and 10% for wages paid from July to September 2021.
- Industries in **Tier 2 sectors** such as Retail, Arts and Culture, Food Services, and Built Environment will have support extended.
  - 10 percent for wages paid from April to June 2021.
- Firms from other sectors** will continue to receive support until March 2021, as previously announced.

### COVID-19 Recovery Grant

- Support workers who have lost their jobs or experienced significant income loss.
  - Up to **\$700** per month for 3 months for employees who have lost their jobs or are placed on involuntary no-pay leave for at least 3 consecutive months.
  - Up to **\$500** per month for 3 months for employees and self-employed persons who are facing average income loss of at least 50% for at least 3 consecutive months.

### For Aviation

- \$870 million** to **preserve core capabilities** and **extend cost relief** for the Aviation sector.

### For Land Transport

- COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund** for taxi and private hire car drivers.
  - **\$600** per vehicle per month from Jan to Mar 2021, and **\$450** per month from April to June 2021.

### For Art & Culture and Sports

- \$45 million** for the **Arts & Culture and Sports Resilience Packages** to support businesses and self-employed persons in these sectors.

### SGUnited Job and Skills Package

- \$5.4 billion** for a second tranche of **SGUnited Jobs and Skills Package**.
  - On top of **\$3 billion** already allocated last year.
  - Of which **\$5.2 billion** to extend Jobs Growth Incentive's (JGI) qualifying window to end-Sep 2021, to encourage employers to continue accelerating their hiring.
- Extend the **SGUnited Skills, SGUnited Traineeships, and the Mid-Career Pathways Programmes**.
- Budget set aside in this next phase to support the hiring of **200,000** locals this year through the JGI, and provide up to **35,000** traineeship and training opportunities to continue to support jobseekers in upskilling and access to employment opportunities.

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES

### Household Support Package

- \$200 additional one-off GST Voucher -Cash Special Payment** for all eligible Singaporeans.
- \$120 to \$200 in GST Voucher - U-Save Special Payment** for eligible HDB households.
- Extended **Service and Conservancy Charges (S&CC) Rebate** for all eligible households for another year, to offset between 1.5 to 3.5 months of charges.
- \$200 additional one-off top-up per Singaporean child** through CDA, Edusave, or PSEA, for families with children below the age of 21.
- \$100 CDC Vouchers** for each Singaporean household, to be used at participating heartland shops and hawker centres.

### Older Workers

- Increase budget for the **Senior Worker Early Adopter Grant** and the **Part-Time Re-employment Grant** by over **\$200 million** to support more companies to raise their retirement and re-employment ages earlier.

### Lower Income Families

- Expand Comlink** to a nationwide programme to eventually cover 14,000 families with children over the next 2 years to provide holistic support for low-income families staying in rental housing.

### Children with Special Needs

- Pilot **Inclusive Support Programme** to allow more children with developmental needs to be more meaningfully engaged alongside other children.

# #MANYSTORIESONESOS

*SOS is commemorating its 50-year milestone in 2021.*

*For the first time, we will be hosting a virtual celebration throughout the year. A dedicated website has been created and launched.*

*We invite each of you to open the chest of treasured memories and share your personal SOS story with us.*

**FIND US AT**



**SOS50**

**FOLLOW US ON**



**@SOSSEACARE**



# SOS50: MANY STORIES, ONE SOS



**T**he second instalment of SOS50's Stories is on Brother Haji Eusope, an active Bosun.

"My love for the sea (and seafaring) really started out when I was young. I was drawn to the science of how a huge ship that's made of metal from top to bottom, can float. Because 'conventional science' says metal isn't denser than water compared to, say, plastic, wood, or cork. So, why? I then made up my mind—set out a career as a seafarer to find the 'answer'. Here I am, twenty-five years later and still a seafarer, an active Bosun."

"If you were to ask me how one can stay in the same vocation for his entire life, I'd say this, 'Keep having the curiosity. Keep having the desire to learn.' This mantra has kept me excited every day in my career. That said, this saying isn't just for seafaring—it's applicable to every job out there. Of course, this motivation isn't the be all and end all. The thing is, you still have to love what you're doing. And I do. I love seafaring because: one, I can travel around the world. Two, with travelling, I can expand my social circle. Three, with travelling and a widened social circle, I can immerse myself into another country's culture. That's when you learn life lessons."

"That's the good part about being a seafarer. The bad? I guess it's that consistent long and arduous journey we had to complete to keep the economy moving. My longest voyage was forty-five days, if I calculate it right. I was working in a merchant oil ship sailing from the United States—while transiting at Singapore—to China. You can imagine how tough it was on the seafarers back in the day. We had no access to WiFi then. Technology wasn't ubiquitous."

"Today, we have almost everything onboard ship. So much so, technology is slated to replace the current pool of seafarers in the coming future. A progress towards automation, people say. But as long you're willing to improve yourself as a seafarer, be a 'safe and quality' one; a team player, and one who has good inter- and intrapersonal communication skills and empathy, there's nothing to worry about."

# SOS50: MANY STORIES, ONE SOS



**H**e needs no introduction. A long-time SOS member with a portfolio of contributions as a member of various SOS Standing Committees such as External & Industrial Relations, Membership & Welfare Services, Women & Youth and Corporate Communications, Brother Abdul Rahim Mohamed is also the union's Treasurer.

Brother Rahim was also a former seafarer. In this third SOS50 interview, Brother Rahim shares his seafaring stories and how he found SOS.

## **Is it possible to summarise your sailing experience of nearly twenty years?**

I remember one incident: I was almost washed overboard at the Mediterranean Sea. Due to bad weather, we weren't supposed to work on deck. But somehow, we did—and one wave struck us. I was one of three crew whom the wave swept across the deck. Fortunately, I was stuck between the handrails. Others managed to grab hold of something. At the end of it, we had cuts and gashes.

## **In that case, if you can sail again, would you?**

I chanced upon a seafaring job in the papers. Together with my buddies, we applied for the role. They, however, failed the medical

checkup. And I was the only one who passed. They pushed me to continue, to take on this adventurous job. So, of course, I'd like to sail again.

## **That's how you met seafaring. How did you discover SOS?**

I was onboard this heavy-lifting ship. I met several senior seafarers who donned SOS T-shirts. I asked them one day, "Why are you always wearing this? Where did you get it from?" At that time, I was told that I'm a member—but I wondered why I didn't have any T-shirts. I heard stories about the good work of the union and was encouraged to join its activities. So after I signed off, I went to SOS office, which was then at Midlink Plaza. The rest, as they would say, is history.

## **As an SOS member for thirty-odd years, is there a favourite event of yours?**

The SOS Singles' Night. For that evening, the organisers would invite single ladies from various industries or unions, like banking and finance, to meet us single seafarers. Hoping to match-make everyone. That "party" becomes a safe and meaningful platform for us to socialise. Some failed to find a spark. Others managed to tie the knot—and stayed so until now. It wasn't a favourite per se. Rather it's an event with good intentions.

# \$300 STAYCATION BENEFIT TO COMMEMORATE SOS50

**A**s part of SOS' 50th Anniversary celebration, all paid-up local members are entitled to a staycation reimbursement of up to S\$300, when they book a staycation at any hotel, chalet or service apartment in Singapore from 1 April to 31 December 2021.

The staycation reimbursement benefit replaces the 5 nights of subsidised accommodation benefit (for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2021), previously announced on 9 December 2020.

The staycation reimbursement benefit is subjected to the following terms and conditions:

1. Reimbursement is only applicable for stays between 1 April to 31 December 2021. Each member may claim for reimbursement for up to a maximum of three times only, with the total amount not exceeding the maximum limit. Any unclaimed reimbursement will be forfeited.
2. It is not transferrable and cannot be exchanged for cash.
3. Members are to make arrangements, reservations, and payments to hotels, chalets, or service apartments in Singapore by themselves.
4. All reimbursement claims (with necessary forms and documents) must be submitted within 90 days after the staycation date.

For more information, contact SOS Membership Services at **+65 6379 5666**.

# OUTREACH AND PROOF TO PROGRESS

## YOUNG NTUC WORKPLAN SEMINAR 2021

The Young NTUC Workplan Seminar 2021 had one objective – to work out a plan on how the youth wing of the Labour Movement (LM) can increase its youth leadership and membership in the coming years. Since its founding in 2005, Young NTUC has grown to over 165,000 youth members (aged 18 to 35) from 48 union chapters and six interest groups. And as with any organisation, growth and progress is crucial for the youth wing.

At the Workplan Seminar held on 20 March 2021, Young NTUC committee leaders agreed that the bridge towards progress is outreach. The most efficient way to do this is to leverage on all forms of social media platforms, ranging from Instagram and Facebook, to LinkedIn, and the fastest growing social media platform TikTok.

The work of Young NTUC covers leadership and career development programmes. Opportunities are created for youth to serve the local community, enabling them to give back to society. Its career mentorship programmes with various local industry players (i.e Banking and Financial Service Union) and institutes of higher learning (i.e Singapore University of Social Sciences), are just one of many youth programmes.

Young NTUC leaders and members felt that vital information such as who they are, what they stand for and how they can help, must be easily accessible and visible in the social media space

for youths. One example is how YoungNTUC is using TikTok to engage youth.

Young unionists at the workplan seminar, also identified in what ways they can engage the youth. The key to addressing a common question, “Why must I join the LM?” is to ‘prove’ to the youth of Singapore that Young NTUC is the place where they can learn, lead and collaborate extensively to serve the community and in social causes they hold dear. This can only be experienced when youths take the step to participate in the myriad of industrial, public service, and service sectors in Singapore.

Young NTUC members brainstormed to come up with proposals that could benefit particular target groups. One proposal was to collaborate with the Health Promotion Board (HPB) for a digital marathon (one similar to Run for Hope), targetted at any age group to get them to pledge a distance while contributing to a social cause.

The winning project was on career development for both young and old as its key function. The proposal was favoured on grounds that personal upgrading and retraining is imperative in today's working world.

Young NTUC hopes this upcoming initiative, can become a dynamic duo with ‘outreach’ to help steer the LM forward.



Photo Credit: Young NTUC



◀▲ Representing SOS was Lester Tan. Around him were Young NTUC members Lau Kiat Hong (FDAWU), Pravita Nithiah Nandan (NTWU), Dominic Yong (SMOU), and Joshua Norsen (SPWU).



# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY

**O**n 6 March 2021, the Women's Wing of People's Action Party's (PAP) and National Trades Union Congress' Women and Family Unit (NTUC WAF) co-organised International Women's Day, in partnership with the Textile and Fashion Industry Training Centre (TaF.tc) to "celebrate the aspirations of all women" and "empower every woman in Singapore to realise her fullest potential."

There to kickstart the multi-venue celebrations was Mrs Josephine Teo, Chairperson for PAP Women's Wing; Ms Sim Ann, Chairperson of this year's organising committee; Ms Mary Liew, President of NTUC; and Ms Yeo Wan Ling, NTUC Director of U SME and Women and Family Unit and Member of Parliament (MP) for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC. Ms Shena Foo represented SOS, joining other NTUC Women's Committee members at the NTUC Centre, One Marina Boulevard. Meanwhile, all across the island, varied activities were also planned with the theme of sustainability and the celebrations were virtually presented and led by PAP women MPs Ms Cheryl Chan, Ms Hany Soh, Ms Nadia Samdin and Ms Rachel Ong.

The launch event at PCF Sparkletots Preschool@Punggol Shore, opened with a small-scale fashion show, titled REIMAGINE, that showcased nine unique outfits, created by local designers using upcycled and sustainable

materials, for women working in various vocations. "REIMAGINE is," Ms Yeo said in an interview with The Straits Times, "to let people see how job pathways and livelihoods can be re-imagined in a very visual way."

During the event, Mrs Teo announced the setting up of two new functions within the Women's Wing to better understand the concerns of women and advocate for improvements. Issues such as helping women balance caregiving and career and advocating for stronger gender diversity and equality will be looked into. The Research Group will be helmed by Ms Yeo with Minister of State Gan Siow Huang as Adviser.

The dialogue session also featured NTUC WAF's Passion 2 Profit (P2P), an initiative which hopes to create "alternative livelihood options for women by helping them turn their skills or passion projects into profitable ventures." Other aims include training aspiring entrepreneurs to start and operate their own business. The initiative will benefit women who wish to embark on nonlinear career paths, venture into unconventional careers, and ultimately unleash their potential. "We want to," Ms Yeo said, "inspire all women, not just young girls but also back-to-work women to be bold in their career choices. NTUC WAF endeavours to create new possibilities for women's career options and to support women in reaching their full potential."

# SOS/SEACARE STAFF REWARDED FOR LONG SERVICE

**B**ehind every long service award is a personal story of passion, love and dedication to the work.

On 16 April 2021, 11 long service awards staff from SOS / Seacare were honoured for reaching their 10 or 20 years' service milestone. Held at the Maritime Hall, the Long Service Award Presentation Ceremony saw the awards presented by Mr Kam Soon Huat and Mr Francis Choo to SOS staff, while Mr Kong Mun Kwong, Chairman of Seacare Holdings Pte Ltd presented awards to Seacare staff.

Dr Chia Yih Woei, Koh Boon Wee and Zainulabidin Omar of Seacare Maritime Medical Centre (SMMC); Lim Jit Kwang of Seacare Properties and Lee You Lock of SOS were recognised for 20 years of service, while Jullienne Low Choon Yean of SOS; Abdul Razak Omar of SMMC; Kathryn Ang and Ong Zhiwei of Seacare Foundation; Lai Chee Wah and Ho Lie Choo of Seacare Environmental picked up awards for 10 years.



## Congratulations to 20 years Long Service Awardees

**Dr Chia Yih Woei** joined as the Medical Doctor of Seacare Maritime Medical Centre in April 2000. He was subsequently appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and medical practitioner of the company in April 2003. SMMC is one of the medical service providers for medical assistance in the ports of Singapore. Besides the management of patients at the medical centre, Dr Chia also attends to the medical needs of seafarers by boarding ships calling at the Singapore ports. During this Covid-19 pandemic, Dr Chia worked long hours and went beyond the call of duty to keep Singaporeans and international seafarers safe. A man of few words and definitely a strong CEO, he has managed the medical centre well with stable revenues and leads his team to professionalism.



**Mr Koh Boon Wee** started as Operation Officer of Seacare Maritime Medical Centre when he joined the company in October 2000. He rose through the ranks and has held the appointment of Nursing Manager for Operations since September 2010. His responsibilities include clinic operations and attending to ship calls. As one of our frontline staff Boon Wee has stepped up and made much personal sacrifices during this pandemic. Boon Wee shows leadership qualities and is a man who quietly delivers what he is tasked to do.





**Mr Zainulabiddin Omar** has been a faithful staff of Seacare Maritime Medical Centre since November 2000. He joined as Operations Officer and has rose through the ranks. Zainul was appointed as the Clinic Nursing Manager in September 2010. His responsibilities include clinic operations and attending to ship calls. As one of our frontline staff Zainul has stepped up and displayed unselfish dedication to his job in combatting the pandemic. Throughout his 20 years of service, he has shown great diligence and is focused in the various roles given to him. Zainul is a calm and collected person and has a good wealth of experience from his time at Keppel Fels shipyard where he was the yard nursing officer.

**Mr Lim Jit Kwang** joined Seacare Properties in March 2000 as Building Supervisor, overseeing the inspection and repair of installations, facilities and equipment of Seacare Building. He was appointed as the Chief Engineer in September 2012 and his scope of work was expanded to include The Seacare Hotel. Jit Kwang is a man who possess many years of M&E experience and has good trouble shooting skills. He is very committed to the delivery of tasks assigned and is flexible and accommodating even to urgent and uncertain operational needs and changes. He has a strong rapport with co-workers and contractors because of his cheerful personality.



**Mr Lee You Lock** joined the Singapore Organisation of Seamen on 1 September 2000. Throughout his past 20 years tenure, You Lock has been assigned to provide customer services to seafarers who dropped by at The Seacare Drop-in Centre for International Seafarers which is located at the PSA Pasir Panjang Terminal. Besides attending to the needs of the seafarers, You Lock also conducts port safety briefings and offers valuable advice to the seafarers. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Drop-in Centre's operations have been closed since 7 April 2020. Since July 2020, You Lock has been assigned to provide assistance at The Seacare Hotel, which is designated as a holding facility for crew change in Singapore. He is dependable, a good team player who contributes in whatever ways he can.

## Congratulations to 10 years Long Service Awardees

**Ms Jullienne Low** joined SOS on 12 April 2010. She began as an Executive at Schemes Administration Division and has rose through the ranks to become the Manager at the President and General Secretary's Office since 2015. Among her other duties, Jullienne plays a significant role in ensuring post CBA signing activities such as account receivable collections are closely followed up. Over the years, Jullienne has also participated in and organised several events for SOS Women & Youth Committee, some of which were in collaboration with Young NTUC U Heart. Jullienne is a dedicated colleague who has shown diligence, perseverance and initiatives to go beyond the expected parameters of her work. She is also a strong believer in collaboration with fellow colleagues, where ideas and thoughts are freely exchanged for new perspective and to achieve progress together. Besides, she has good rapport with the many constituents both internally and externally to build meaningful relationships.





**Mr Abdul Razak Omar** has been with Seacare Maritime Medical Centre since December 2010 as a Radiographer. He was in charge of transforming SMMC's X-Rays in the digital age and performs general x-rays, image processing and generate films. Abdul Razak is experienced and knowledgeable in the field of radiology and is passionate about radiology.

**Ms Kathryn Ang** joined in April 2010 as Manager of Seacare Foundation and was promoted to Senior Manager in April 2014. She concurrently is Assistant Head of the HR & Lifestyle and Medical & Maritime Clusters; as well as Senior Manager of Seacare Group Corporate Relations and HR. Kathryn's responsibilities include leading corporate social responsibility initiatives such as the annual Lunar New Year, Hari Raya and Mid-Autumn Festival Celebrations with residents from the Jalan Kukoh housing estate. Kathryn takes pride in her work and possesses a cheerful and easy-going disposition. With her 10-year service, she has also connected and built strong rapport with co-operators from affiliates of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation.



**Mr Ong Zhiwei** joined Seacare Foundation as Marketing Manager in September 2010 and was promoted to Senior Manager in October 2015. He has taken on the new role as the General Manager of Seacare Property Development on 1 April 2021. He concurrently holds the appointments as Assistant Head of the Hospitality and Property & Environmental Clusters and Member of the UK Hotel Management Team. Zhiwei's responsibilities include business development, providing corporate secretarial support and formulating and executing asset investment and management strategies and plans. He is a resourceful, driven and committed staff.

**Mr Lai Chee Wah** joined Seacare Environmental in April 2010. As a member of the Seacare Building Cleaning Team, he is responsible for keeping the common areas and compound of Seacare Building clean as well as maintaining their hygiene. He is a hardworking and attentive staff who maintains a consistent level of performance and takes pride in his work.



**Ms Ho Lie Choo** joined Seacare Environmental in April 2010 and is now 10 years in service. As a member of the Seacare Building Cleaning Team, she is responsible for the cleanliness of our workplace. Lie Choo is a cheerful and friendly person and is able to work without supervision. She is versatile and always willing to accept new challenges.

# SMS BENEFITS FOR FY2021/2022

All paid-up SOS local members will be glad to know that the union's Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) has been reviewed for a fresh term.

From 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, SMS benefits for SOS local members would cover:

- Reimbursement benefit of up to S\$100 per member for medical costs relating to eye examination, eye check-up, consultation, medication, treatment and/or related costs obtained from any Singapore licensed healthcare establishments such as eye centre, clinic or hospital.
- One complimentary Superior Health Screening Package which include tests for lung function and cancer markers at the Seacare Maritime Medical Centre (SMMC). The complimentary health screening package is extended to parent/spouse of the qualified local member.

SOS encourages all members to utilise these medical benefits specially provided for.



Benefits	Free Health Screening	Eye Care
Scope of benefit	Free health screening package 1. Medical Consultation and Complete Physical Examination 2. Biophysical Measurement 3. Office Tests 4. Imaging Studies 5. Lipid Profile 6. Liver Profile 7. Hepatitis Profile 8. Kidney Profile 9. Endocrine Profile 10. Bone & Joint Profile 11. 3 Cancer Markers 12. Veneral Profile 13. Urinalysis 14. Full Blood Count 15. Medical Review	Comprehensive eye examination 1. Eye Examination 2. Eye Check-Up 3. Consultation 4. Medication 5. Treatment 6. Related Costs (For Non-Cosmetic Purposes)
Entitlement	One health screening per member and *dependant per year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.  * For single member, dependent refers to his mother or father. For married member, dependent refers to his legitimate spouse.	Eye examination reimbursement: up to \$100 (nett) per member per year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
Clinic	<b>Seacare Maritime Medical Centre Pte Ltd (SMMC)</b> 100 Tras Street #18-02/03 The Amara Corporate Tower Singapore 079027 Tel: (65)6222 7728 Fax: (65)6224 6387 Email: seacare@pacific.net.sg  Mondays to Saturdays from 9am to 12pm (closed on Sundays & Public Holidays)	<b>Any eye centre, clinic and/or hospital</b> For visits to New Optometry and Ocular Care Centre (NOOCC), pre-booking of appointment is required. Please contact (65)6471 1771 for more details.

*For more information on SMS and appointment booking, please contact*

SOS Membership Services  
 52 Chin Swee Road #05-00 Seacare Building  
 Singapore 169875  
 Tel: (65) 6379 5666 • Fax: (65) 6836 3976 • Email: sms@seacare.com.sg



SEACAREFocus

SEACAREFocus



## LODGING PACKAGE FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS AT CITIN SEACARE HOTEL

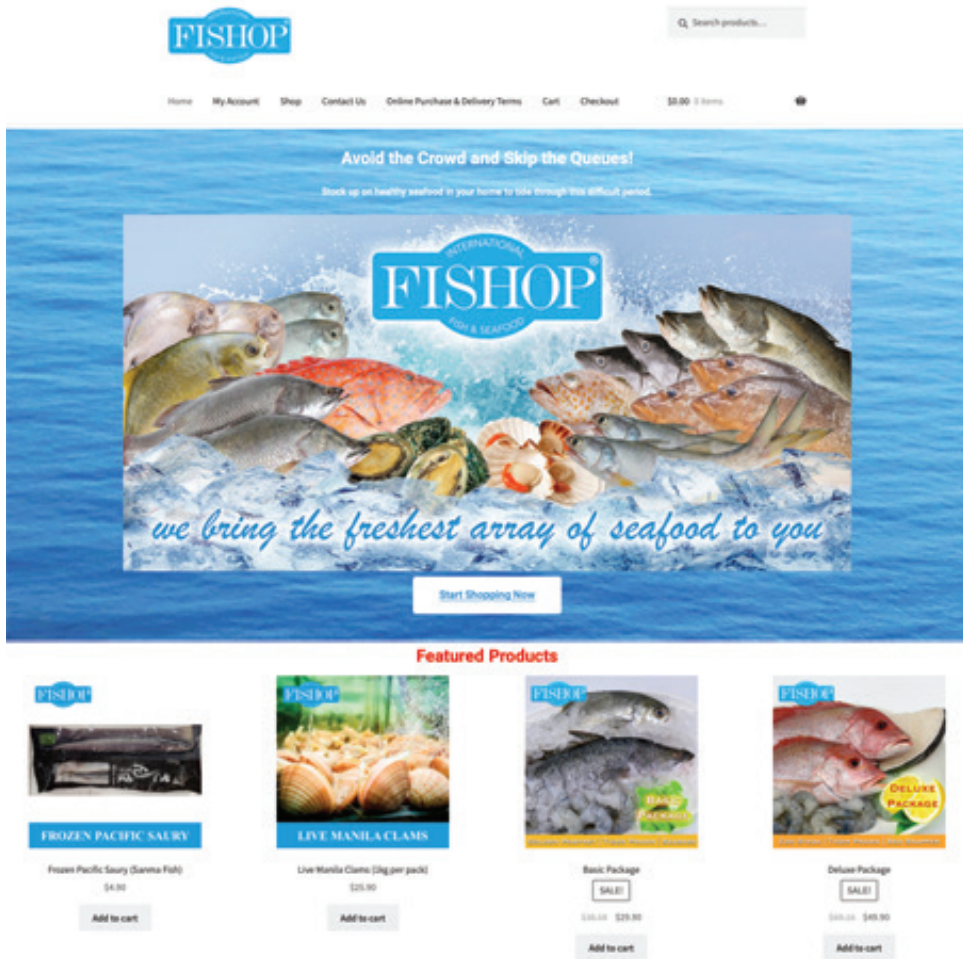
**T**he Citin Seacare Hotel in Kuala Lumpur successfully rolled out its first self-quarantine lodging package for 130 essential workers in March.

These essential workers from the construction sectors had tested negative for COVID-19; but underwent a mandatory 10-day self-quarantine as part of the country's measures to stamp foreign transmission cases of the pandemic.

According to Mr Lim Chye Teen, Chairman of SP K2 Hospitality Sdn Bhd, which owns Citin Seacare, the hotel expects more bookings in the coming weeks as accommodation demand for self-quarantine picks up - driven partly by a recovering economy and labour demand in the construction sector.

Mr Lim said Citin Seacare has been practising stringent safe management measures even before it introduced the self-quarantine package. Its rigorous adherence effectively ensures a smooth implementation of the programme and the safety of all guests.





## REWRITING THE RULES OF RETAIL

**C**OVID-19 has forced businesses to rethink existing business models and adapt to the rapidly changing world. Seafood distributors and wholesalers are no exceptions.

Multiple seafood chains have moved into the retail space, both in-store and online, with many collaborating with retail partners to sell direct to consumers.

Speeding up plans already in the works to reach out to young Singaporeans, BLU Ventures Pte Ltd and Fishop Pte Ltd, both subsidiaries of BLU Ventures Holdings, were quick to introduce seafood packages and products that appeal to this demographic.

### Online purchase and home delivery

After its flagship kicked off in Anchorpoint Shopping Centre, Fishop has been intensifying its marketing efforts to drive traffic to its brick-and-mortar and online stores, since circuit breaker kicked in last year. Its customer base, mostly homemakers and young families, has swelled due to demands for freshly-frozen seafood – that has longer storage life – which the brand personally delivers to their doorsteps.

**“Many families are working and cooking from home more often than usual. The trend of online shopping for seafood and groceries will likely continue even after COVID-19 restrictions eased. This is the ‘new normal’”,** said Mr Terence Chan, Manager for Corporate Finance and Management, BLU Ventures Holdings.

**“What sets us apart is that we don’t just sell our products. We love to engage with customers on-and-offline and via our weekly live streaming to find out about their dietary requirement and educate them the nutritional benefits of different seafood”,** said Mr Chan.

Mr Chan said the strong collaborations with BLU Ventures made it possible for Fishop to not only meet but exceed customers’ demands and expectations.

### **BLU Ventures**

BLU Ventures, a seafood supplier to supermarkets such as NTUC FairPrice, Sheng Siong and Cold Storage, supplies fresh and frozen seafood to Fishop. It collaborates with Fishop through discounts and low margins - allowing cost savings to be passed on to end consumers.

At BLU Ventures’ processing plant in Food Xchange @ Admiralty, fish and seafood produce are cleaned, filleted, vacuum-sealed and immediately frozen to retain freshness before delivery.

**“Everything starts with freshness of your fish from the start”,** said Mr Chan. **“If you are buying portions or fillets that were fresh frozen by the processing plant as soon as they arrived, the meat will be at their absolute freshest.”**

Mr Chan added that the packaging process for frozen fish matters as it can affect its freshness: **“Our processing plant carefully minimises the contact of air and moisture with the fish to avoid “freezer burn” during the freezing process, which reduces the flavour and quality of the fish.”**

### **Post COVID-19**

As COVID-19 measures and movement restrictions in Singapore eased, Fishop has plans for expansion, in terms of the number of physical stores as well as in-store activities that include dining, sashimi counters and mini groceries.

**“Plans are underway to develop our mobile app to boost and ease online transactions. We will also expand our live bidding and sales beyond our usual social platforms to include other e-commerce platforms such as Shopee Live”,** he said.

**“The pandemic has created opportunities for e-commerce to thrive and it is here to stay. As our customers become more familiar and comfortable with e-commerce, so must we.”**

#### **Some of Fishop’s bestsellers**

Norway Salmon (Fresh/Frozen)  
Threadfin (Fresh/Frozen)  
Cod Steak (Frozen)  
Man Shun Cheong Mini-Braised Abalone  
Fresh Prawns of varied specs  
Fishop Abalone



#### **Retail:**

370 Alexandra Road, #B1-58 Anchorpoint  
Shopping Centre, Singapore 159953



[www.fishop.com.sg](http://www.fishop.com.sg)

Check out our weekly live session, “FB Live with Ah Bao”:  
**<https://www.facebook.com/FishopAnchorpoint/>**

# THE Cairnhill 16 PROJECT STEERS AHEAD



Singapore's GDP is projected to increase 5.8 per cent in 2021, according to a quarterly survey released by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS).

The survey, based on the median forecast of private sector economists and analysts, expects market expansion across the board with economic growth tapering to 3.8 per cent in 2022.

"The project team at Cairnhill 16 hopes to ride on Singapore's gradual economic recovery from the pandemic and will be hosting exclusive previews for agents and prospective clients in April and May 2021," said Ong Zhiwei, General Manager of Seacare Property Development Pte Ltd.

Nestled on elevated grounds on the fringe of Orchard Road shopping district, Cairnhill 16 is a freehold development on District 9 comprising 39 luxurious units served by private lift.

Units range from 775 sqft for two-bedroom units to 1,744 sqft for four-bedroom premium units. The development is expected to be completed before 31 July 2022.



### Fittings and Furnishing

Each apartment will be furnished with bespoke finishing and fittings: Natural marble tiles for living room and bathrooms.

The kitchen takes on a modern European theme with fully-fitted Swedish V-Zug built-in appliances while the bathrooms are installed with world-renowned Grohe sanitary fittings.

### Amenities

Cairnhill 16 sits within walking distance to the Orchard Road shopping belt and will provide its residents with convenient access to world-class medical facilities, such as Mt Elizabeth Hospital and Paragon Medical, and the central business district.

The development is close to the CTE, Scotts Road and Bukit Timah Road.

### Luxury Lifestyle package

Homebuyers at Cairnhill16 will be offered a complementary luxury lifestyle package courtesy of the developers' partnership with Laguna National Golf & Country Club and Singapore Airlines. The package comprises a luxury spa experience and curated fine dining for two with round-trip limousine transport.



Cairnhill 16 is jointly developed by TSky Development Pte Ltd, Ocean City Global Limited, Seacare Property Development Pte Ltd and Min Ghee Investments (2018) Pte Ltd.

# FESTIVE MEALS FOR CREW WHO TRANSIT AT THE SEACARE HOTEL

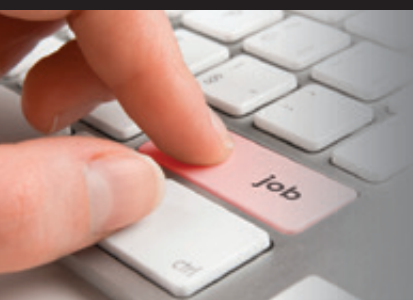
**"It's all about making them feel at home wherever they are,"** said Mr Vincent Ng, Assistant General Manager of The Seacare Hotel. This is why The Seacare Hotel management team decided to put their spin on a festive meal, for the Lunar New Year, prepared for all crew who transit at the building.

The meals were provided throughout the one week of February, featuring various oriental cuisines with tangerines and cookies for lunch and dinner. The festive touch was greatly appreciated and welcomed by the guests.

The Seacare Hotel has been heavily involved in the crew change processes since mid-2020—ensuring crew are quarantined and cared for when they disembark ships, or when they board another. This will continue in Year 2021.

▼ Chinese New Year Eve package brought memories of home.





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- Admin Assistant
- Admin Executive
- Administration Manager
- Accounts Clerk
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- ICT Executive
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- Science Laboratory Assistant
- Operations Manager
- Office Attendant
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- Others...*



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**Saturday 9.00am – 12.30pm**



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**placement@seacaremanpower.com**

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### **Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd**

EA Lic No: 95C4455

52 Chin Swee Road  
#06-00 Seacare Building  
Singapore 169875

.....  
Website: [www.seacaremanpower.com](http://www.seacaremanpower.com)  
Facebook.com/SeacareManpower

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  - Singapore Polytechnic



**ATTENTION**



**seAcare**  
Seacare Thrift Pte Ltd

## **ALL SOS Seafarers' Provident Fund (SPF) Members!**

With the termination of the SPF Scheme, all SOS SPF members can come forward to apply for withdrawal from their SPF account. Deadline for submission of Withdrawal Form and Supporting Documents are to reach SOS Singapore Office by:

**31 AUGUST 2021**

All applications received after the above date **WILL NOT BE PROCESSED NOR ENTERTAINED.**

Withdrawal Application Form is available at [www.ispf.org.sg](http://www.ispf.org.sg)  
You may also contact us at:

**Singapore**

**Seacare Thrift Pte Ltd**  
52 Chin Swee Road  
#08-00 Seacare Building  
Singapore 169875  
Tel: +65 6379 5666  
Fax: +65 6836 3976  
Email: [thrift@seacare.com.sg](mailto:thrift@seacare.com.sg)

**Philippines**

**LSA Consultancy and  
Management Services, Inc.**  
Unit 515 5th floor, S&L Building 1  
1500 Roxas Boulevard  
Ermita, Manila 1000, Philippines  
Tel: +63 2 521 6839  
Fax: +63 2 521 7170  
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**China**

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Fax: +86 27 59902036  
Email: [liuliang@singhai.com](mailto:liuliang@singhai.com)



**SPREAD THIS MESSAGE TO ALL YOUR SEAFARING  
FRIENDS WHO HAVE SAILED ON SOS CBA VESSELS\***

**\*NOTE: SPF IS NOT APPLICABLE FOR SAILING PERIOD AFTER 30 JUNE 2012**