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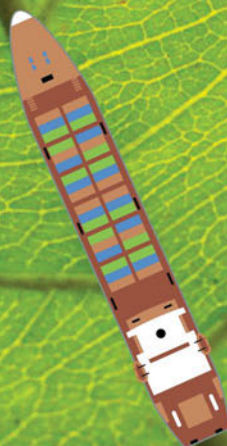
**ISSUE**  
N° 01  
**2021**

# samudra

REVAMP  
ISSUE!

## **Maritime Singapore's decarbonisation vision**

**Nautilus  
Federation calls  
for AB's wage  
increase amid  
Pandemic**



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

inside:

**SEACARE  
FOCUS**

Residential  
property outlook  
brisk in 2021  
and beyond

Easing measures  
set to drive UK  
summer staycation  
bookings



SCAN QR  
CODE FOR  
SAMUDRA  
DIGITAL  
COPY



# #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**

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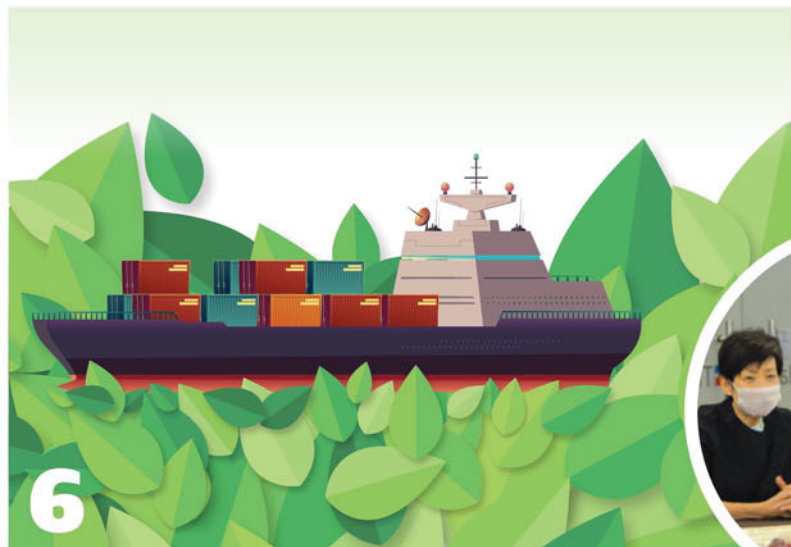
**@SOSSEACARE**



**MANY STORIES  
ONE SOS**

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52 Chin Swee Road, #09-00 Seacare Building  
Singapore 169875 • Tel: (65) 6379 5666  
Email: [sosea@seacare.com.sg](mailto:sosea@seacare.com.sg)





# ADVISORS MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO SOS

## SOS ADVISORS, GRACE FU

(Minister for Sustainability and the Environment) and Carrie Tan (MP of Nee Soon GRC for Nee Soon South) made an official visit to SOS on 15 April – the first call for Ms Tan in her new capacity as SOS Advisor.



Both advisors received a warm welcome and fist-bumped with SOS office bearers and EXCO members, who had eagerly anticipated their arrival.

The EXCO members introduced themselves,

shared their seafaring experiences and their love for the sea, and discussed seafarers' concerns as frontline workers amid the pandemic, such as travel restrictions and crew changes.

Ms Fu and Ms Tan also touched on a range of topics and discussed issues of common interests, such as Covid-19 vaccination, national priorities and areas of collaborations for local community initiatives.

It was a fruitful visit that strengthened existing relationships and kept both the advisors abreast of SOS and Seacare Co-operative's latest developments.



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## SOS50 COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS FOR MEMBERS

To commemorate our SOS's 50th Anniversary this year, we are giving our paid-up members a SOS50 Polo Shirt and a one-

time \$50 Dairy Farm Gift Voucher!

The gift voucher, an initiative under the Seacare Medical Scheme, can be used to purchase health and medical products in Cold Storage, Marketplace, Jasons, Giant, 7-eleven and Guardian.





# BONDING OVER CRISPY REMPEYEK KACANG



**THE KNEADING, MIXING** and frying of Rempeyek (crispy peanut crackers) brought hearty laughter and beautiful memories for SOS members and their families during their stay-home Hari Raya celebration this year.

The DIY rempeyek,



created out of the SOS Hari Raya Activity Box, containing ready-to-use ingredients, recipe and guides, was the brainchild of our Membership & Welfare staff, aimed to

create quality family time over the making of traditional festive snacks.

Many proudly shared on social platforms photos and videos of their spouses and children preparing the rempeyak.

## OUTREACH

# FESTIVE SNACKS FOR HOME RESIDENTS

**SOS STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS ON 3 AND 4 MAY** pulled together to distribute festive goodies to welfare home residents ahead of Hari Raya.

The goodie packs include cookies and cakes for residents from Darul Ihsan Orphanage; Jamiyah Home for the Aged; AWWA Community Home for Senior Citizens; and Ramakrishna Mission Boys' Home.

Our volunteers include members Jeffrey Chew, Tan Eng Huat and Chow Seng Kok.

"On behalf of Jamiyah Home for the Aged staff and residents I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to SOS for supporting us. Beyond the contribution of material items, knowing that there is someone out there always thinking of ways to provide solace and cheer to the residents especially during these challenging times is a great comfort," said Mdm Zubaidah Osman, Superintendent.



# Seafarers deserve vaccination priority and fair treatment

Global seaborne trade continues operating “business as usual” amid Covid-19 as over 200,000 seafarers remain stranded on ships at sea worldwide.



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## THOUGH THE NUMBER HAS HALVED

from 400,000 in 2020, this is no cause to celebrate.

Many seafarers have been barred from entering ports or setting foot ashore.

This is due to strict virus protocols which disrupt not only international shipping but the wellbeing of seafarers.

Increased travel bans on certain nationalities of seafarers and surging Covid-19 cases in those countries, could exacerbate the crisis and push it back to its peak in 2020, industry figures observed.

To date, only 13 percent of the world's 1.65 million seafarers had received at least a dose of Covid-19 vaccine. The South China Morning Post reported a corresponding figure that only 14 percent of Indian seafarers have been vaccinated with at least a first dose; about one percent have been fully vaccinated.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) had urged member states to prioritise and accelerate vaccination for seafarers as they did for other key workers. Despite a slow start, countries such as Australia, United States, and a number of European nations have begun vaccinating seafarers.

Industry experts believe the lack of clear legislations in prioritising vaccinated seafarers for signing-on or repatriation may have caused a lukewarm response for vaccination among seafarers – and possibly prolong existing border restrictions and crew change situation.

The key to resolving such humanitarian crisis calls for corporation from all



stakeholders, member states, ship owners, and seafarers. Member states would need to make vaccine accessible, ship owners to facilitate vaccination programmes and for eligible seafarers to come forward to receive the vaccine.

### **'No Crew-Change' clauses violate human rights**

Since last year, IMO has hit out at charterers demanding 'no crew change' clauses in their contracts. The clauses would allow ships to avoid visiting ports where crew changes normally occur, avoiding possible delays if a new member later tests positive for the virus.

In a statement denouncing the act, Secretary-General Lim told charterers to refrain from including such clauses and urged ship operators to reject them.

Lim said the clauses would exacerbate the mental and physical fatigue of already-exhausted seafarers. It could further undermine compliance with maritime labour laws and put safe navigation at risk.

"It is especially disappointing to see cases of prominent ship charterers, including some who have publicly voiced support for seafarers, demanding the inclusion of 'no-crew change' clauses in their charter parties or

voyage instructions," said Richard Hext, chairman of the ASA Ship Insurance and Liability Committee.

"Such clauses go against the human rights of seafarers and are in clear contravention of Owners' responsibilities under MLC, 2006."

In May 2020, United Nations bodies published a checklist to help firms uphold their responsibilities to protect seafarers' rights when engaging in shipping services. The Human Rights Due Diligence Tool also straightens out due diligence in fulfilling human rights obligations.

"For far too long, shipping has been a human rights blind spot for global brands," Stephen Cotton, general-secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation, said in a statement. "Responsible companies in today's world want to understand how they, or partners in their supply chains, might be violating human rights, even inadvertently."

"SOS is working with tripartite partners through various platforms both locally and internationally to ensure the basic rights of all seafarers are preserved and respected," said President Kam Soon Huat, in sharing the union's commitment to protect seafarers' rights.

**13%**  
OF THE WORLD'S  
**1.65M**  
SEAFARERS  
**HAD RECEIVED AT  
LEAST A DOSE OF  
COVID-19 VACCINE**

### **Day of the Seafarers**

The 2021 Day of the Seafarer campaign – themed "fair future for seafarers" – continues to urge governments to recognise seafarers as key workers and ease travel restrictions for them to facilitate crew changes amid the pandemic.

The campaign also addresses issues relevant to seafarers after the pandemic, such as fair treatment of seafarers, working conditions and safety.

Let us show our support for seafarers to ensure a #FairFuture4Seafarers. [s](https://www.samudra.sea.org.sg)

# **\$120 million fund to aid Maritime Singapore's decarbonisation vision**

Government and private sector push on to advance decarbonisation efforts to boost sustainability in the maritime industry.

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## THE MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (MPA)

has signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) with BW Group, Sembcorp Marine, Eastern Pacific Shipping, Ocean Network Express, Foundation Det Norske Veritas and BHP – in a collective push towards Maritime Singapore’s decarbonisation efforts.

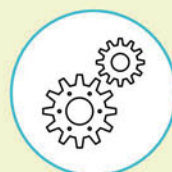
Under the agreement, each private sector partner will contribute \$10 million to support the establishment of a maritime decarbonisation centre in Singapore, fund maritime-decarbonisation-related research and technology development projects and collaborate with institutes of higher learning and research institutes. MPA will contribute \$60 million in research and development funding, bringing the fund to a total of S\$120 million.

The signing of the agreement was one of the two witnessed by Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Transport, Chee Hong Tat, at the Singapore Maritime Week on 21 April. It came after recommendations made by the International Advisory Panel on Maritime Decarbonisation (IAP) at the same event, which identified pathways to maritime decarbonisation, including policy options to accelerate the transition and ways in which Maritime Singapore can support the industry’s decarbonisation.

## MoU with Temasek on maritime decarbonisation

MPA also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with investment firm, Temasek, to explore collaborations related to decarbonisation of port operations, development and the use of low-carbon and/or alternative marine energy sources. Both parties will also explore the decarbonisation of the other parts of the global and regional maritime supply chain.

## THE FOUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES RECOMMENDED BY IAP TO ACHIEVE THIS VISION



**1** Harmonise standards



**2** Implement new solutions



**3** Finance projects



**4** Collaborate with partners

Ms Quah Ley Hoon, Chief Executive of MPA, said, “Maritime decarbonisation is a global challenge requiring a collective responsibility from all stakeholders involved. It is crucial to have strong public-private sector partnerships. We thank like-minded partners that have responded strongly to our call for collaboration. The agreements signed today are two initial steps, which we hope will catalyse a larger, much needed momentum to make international shipping more sustainable.”

Maritime decarbonisation is a global challenge requiring a collective responsibility from all stakeholders involved. It is crucial to have strong public-private sector partnerships.

**Ms Quah Ley Hoon**  
Chief Executive of MPA

**Decarbonise the maritime industry**

At the same event, the IAP has submitted its recommendations to the Singapore government.

The panel, comprising 30 leaders from Singapore and overseas, representing industry, academia and government, has identified nine pathways to maritime decarbonisation, including policy options to accelerate the transition and ways in which Maritime Singapore can support the industry's decarbonisation.

The IAP's vision is for Maritime Singapore to support decarbonisation of the industry to meet or exceed the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) goals for 2030 and 2050 by:



**Deploying incentives** at national, regional or global level, combined with private capital initiatives, to implement solutions for vessel efficiency and new fuels;



**Connecting global stakeholders** to share knowledge and implement actions.

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**Shaping Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** measures to ensure that actions have a real and lasting positive impact;



**Setting standards** for operational, technical and safety factors;



**Piloting innovations** in the technical, operational and digital sphere;



**Building selective infrastructure** to support these innovations;

To achieve this vision, the IAP has recommended focusing on four strategic objectives:

1. Harmonise standards
2. Implement new solutions
3. Finance projects
4. Collaborate with partners

Supporting these objectives are nine pathways to decarbonisation (see *graphics on facing page*).

Mr Chee Hong Tat said, "We thank the IAP for the significant effort and thought which went into producing the report. We will consider their recommendations when developing the Maritime Singapore Decarbonisation Blueprint 2050. The fight against climate change is a global ambition and a collective responsibility. Singapore is committed to do our part to support the IMO and the international maritime community in climate action." 



## NINE PATHWAYS TO DECARBONISATION



### Pathway 1

Shape common metrics for carbon accounting



### Pathway 2

Set standards for new technologies and solutions



### Pathway 3

Pilot trials and deploy solutions



### Pathway 4

Build flexible ship capabilities and relevant infrastructure



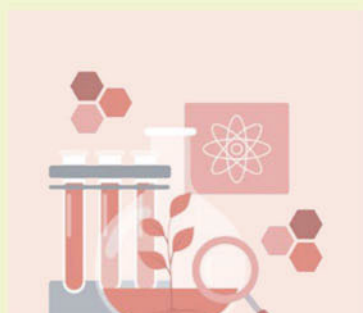
### Pathway 5

Develop green financing mechanisms



### Pathway 6

Develop mechanisms that could support carbon pricing



### Pathway 7

Act as custodian for and deploy research and development funds and grants



### Pathway 8

Multiply local, regional and global collaboration across stakeholders



### Pathway 9

Set up a decarbonisation centre



Photo: Maxime Felder

# Toolkit to aid crew changes and seafarers' rights

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New due diligence tool to help businesses uphold their responsibility to protect human rights at sea as new Covid variants threaten to further delay crew changes.

## A WIDE-RANGING HUMAN RIGHTS

checklist has been issued to global business enterprises engaged with the maritime industry to protect seafarers stranded on ships due to new Covid-19 variants and government-imposed travel restrictions, under a joint initiative by the UN Global Compact, the UN Human Rights Office, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The Human Rights Due Diligence Tool, launched on 6 May 2021, helps cargo owners and charterers ask the right questions of suppliers and business partners in their supply chains to ensure seafarers' human and labour rights are upheld, including to crew change, freedom of movement and freedom from forced labour.

This comes amid concerns that the number of crew stranded working beyond their contracts at sea by Covid-19 restrictions could surge from the current level of 200,000, potentially returning to the peak of 400,000 seafarers at the height of the crew change crisis in September 2020.



The launch of the tool couldn't be more timely as shipping has been a human rights blind spot for global brands.

**Stephen Cotton**  
General Secretary of ITF





Companies now have no excuse not to act. The tool sets out the questions companies need to be asking those shipping their goods. It makes clear the directives companies can give to suppliers to allow diversions, and to ensure that “no crew change” clauses are eradicated from their supply chains.

**David Heindel**

Chair of ITF Seafarers' Section

New variants from India have also exacerbated the situation as more global ports including China, Hong Kong, and Dubai restrict entry to Indian seafarers, who constitute 15 per cent or 234,000 of the world's seafarers.

IMO and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) said the new guidance will help ensure that the working conditions and human rights of seafarers are respected and comply with international standards.

“This tool is an important step forward, providing a practical approach for cargo owners, charterers and logistic providers to consider the human rights of seafarers and ensure they are put first and foremost as they work to deliver the goods that people need and want,” said IMO Secretary General, Kitack Lim.

Mr Lim added that the pandemic has led to hundreds of thousands of seafarers to be denied repatriation, crew changes, shore leave and ultimately forced to stay working on ships long beyond their contracts.

ITF General Secretary, Stephen Cotton said the launch of the tool “couldn't be more timely as shipping has been a human rights blind spot for global brands”. He urged companies to understand how they or their partners in their supply chains might be violating human rights.

According to David Heindel, chair of the ITF Seafarers' Section, the ITF is still alerted to charterers and sub-charterers using “no crew change” clauses and sophisticated means to avoid performing crew changes.

“Companies now have no excuse not to act. The tool sets out the questions companies need



to be asking those shipping their goods. It makes clear the directives companies can give to suppliers to allow diversions, and to ensure that “no crew change” clauses are eradicated from their supply chains.”

The new guidance aims to ensure that seafarers have their rights safeguarded in areas such as physical and mental health, access to family life and freedom of movement. It complements current industry-led collective action, such as the Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing, which has been signed by over 800 companies. [s](https://www.samudra.sea.org.sg)



# Nautilus Federation calls for AB's wage increase amid Pandemic

The Nautilus Federation released a statement on 6 May calling shipowners to comply with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Wage standards for seafarers

**CITING A RECENT REPORT** presented to the ILO that established the need to increase the Able Seafarers' current monthly salary from US\$641 to US\$683 (S\$900) – so that their wages could keep up with inflation and currency movements.

Affiliates of the federation, including SOS, believed that seafarers are overdue a pay rise, especially while the world is facing Covid-19 challenges. This is especially when the shipping industry is reporting a surge in demand, when dividends have been paid to shareholders, and when seafarers have borne the brunt of keeping the shipping industry moving, including the transportation of vaccines and medical supplies.

The federation said the rise, equivalent to US\$1.40 a day is less than the price of a cup of coffee in any major capital city, but a monthly sum that could have a positive impact on the lives of seafarers.

Mark Dickinson, Nautilus general secretary, in an earlier statement pointed

out an ITF research showing a quarter of seafarers are considering quitting the industry due to the ongoing crew change crisis, and another 23 percent of seafarers were unsure about their future, suggesting a seafarer supply crunch was looming.

"Pushing wage cuts now or in the future would therefore represent a 'total own goal' for shipowners. Companies were increasingly sharing their private concerns about labour supply to union officials behind closed doors," he said.

Nautilus said it supports the ITF in their demands that shipowners respect the ILO mechanism and unilaterally impose a new minimum monthly basic wage rate from 1st January 2022, in line with the figure established by the ILO Office report.

It will also urge the ITF to formally advise the ILO Governing Body accordingly of the revised rate.

Visit [www.nautilusfederation.org/](http://www.nautilusfederation.org/) for more updates. 



# NTUC launches \$250M foundation on May Day to support members

The National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) has set up an NTUC Foundation to support members and their families during economically trying years.



Photo: NTUC

## THE NEWS WAS ANNOUNCED BY NTUC

Secretary-General, Ng Chee Meng on 1 May at the NTUC May Day Rally.

SG Ng said the foundation's initial funds of \$250 million will be invested to generate sustainable income stream to boost the welfare, working conditions or social and economic status of members.

"NTUC wants to do more to boost the welfare of our members and their families. Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we have seen the care needs of our members increase, while the ability of our donors to contribute naturally declined. The NTUC

Foundation will be well-placed to improve funding stability for valuable causes that support our members and their families through the ups and downs of life and the economy, giving hope for a better future," he said.

The foundation will complement NTUC's existing U Care initiatives, which support members in the form of financial assistance and grants.

The May Day Rally, attended by Guest-of-Honour, Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Loong, took on a hybrid approach this year with some 200 key Labour Movement leaders and tripartite partners, including SOS Treasurer Abdul Rahim, coming together at Downtown East to reaffirm their commitment to advance workers' interests.

PM Lee also reaffirmed the People's Action Party's support for NTUC in his May Day rally speech.

"The PAP will always stand solidly by the NTUC and by workers because you are at the heart of what we do. You are the reason why the PAP was founded. You are the reason why the PAP exists ... I ask the NTUC to remain steadfast in your mission and strengthen your close partnership with the Government to improve the lives of Singapore workers," he said.

SOS Exco members attended the event virtually via Zoom, where they joined the rest of the Labour Movement family, comprising union leaders and invited guests. [S](#)



# Mural displays honour vital role of seafarers amid pandemic

Two mural art displays at PSA's Pasir Panjang Terminal and Jurong Port Administration Building were unveiled to the public on 7 April to recognise the vital role of seafarers, port workers and frontline maritime personnel in maintaining international trade and supply chains during Covid-19.

**THE 4M BY 2M MURALS WERE COMMISSIONED** by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), together with PSA Corporation Limited and Jurong Port (JP).

The murals incorporated elements and infrastructure specific to their site, such as quay crane, container cargo truck and container cargo ship at PSA terminals, and cement silos and tank terminals at JP terminals.

They also featured brightly coloured containers and free-flying sea birds to



**SOS President Kam Soon Huat (right) with General Secretary Daniel Tan, putting finishing touches to the mural.**



showcase the vibrancy of the maritime industry amidst the uncertainty and challenges of the pandemic, said MPA.

Senior Minister of State for Transport and Foreign Affairs, Mr Chee Hong Tat, together with senior representatives from the maritime sector, added the finishing touches to both murals.

Mr Chee lauded the maritime workers for their courage, commitment and contributions and thanked them for continuing to bring in essential supplies into Singapore.


"We kept our ports open and we kept the supply chains going, and this is critical for bringing in essential supplies into Singapore, and also for us to serve as a hub for the region."

In his Facebook post, Mr Chee added: "MaritimeSG has remained resilient despite the difficult environment last year, an achievement possible only with the strong tripartite partnership we have in Singapore. We will continue to ensure the well-being of our maritime personnel and enhance the vibrancy and competitiveness of the sector by creating more jobs and opportunities for Singaporeans..."



**From top:**  
Mr Chee Hong Tat, with senior representatives from MPA, JP and SOS at Jurong Port terminal; Mr Chee Hong Tat speaking to frontliners from Jurong Port.

SOS President Kam Soon Huat, among representatives invited to add finishing touches to the mural, said he is heartened to raise awareness of seafarers' contribution to keep supply chain open and trade flowing. He said SOS will continue to work closely with tripartite partners to support seafarers during these challenging times.

"SOS expresses our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all seafarers and maritime workers for being the strong pillars of the global maritime trade and supply chain. They are our unsung heroes of the pandemic, who continue to work tirelessly to bring food and essentials goods to our tables, despite facing health risks and international travel restrictions. We salute all seafarers and maritime workers for their dedications and personal sacrifices." 

SOS expresses our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all seafarers and maritime workers for being the strong pillars of the global maritime trade and supply chain.

**Mr Kam Soon Huat**  
President of SOS

# SOS helps recover over S\$500K in owed wages to seafarers

Twenty-one crew from Vietnam, Korea and the Philippines repatriated after ship sold for S\$2.5 million.

## SOS SUCCESSFULLY CAME TO THE RESCUE

of 21 seafarers onboard abandoned Panama-flagged oil tanker, Golden Nori, after the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) raised a red flag over the crew's unpaid wages since July 2020.

Upon ITF's notification on 13 October last year, SOS worked closely with the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) and a sheriff's agent to investigate the issue and assisted the crew in securing their repatriation and the retrieval of their back wages amounting to US\$500,000 (S\$666,000).

Golden Nori, arrested a week later on 22 October, was eventually sold for S\$2.5 million on 7 May 2021. Proceeds from the sale would be paid out to the crew, the last of whom has repatriated on 11 May.

SOS Vice President Mohamad, who was heavily involved in the assistance, said seafarers are often hesitant about speaking up and

reporting their employers over issues such as delayed wages as they fear being blacklisted, which could affect their future employment and income.

"We hope to bring the matter to light so that the growing awareness can help seafarers claim their rights should they encounter similar incidents in future." **S**



We hope to bring the matter to light so that the growing awareness can help seafarers claim their rights should they encounter similar incidents in future.

**Mr Mohamad**  
Vice President of SOS





# SOS50: Many Stories, One SOS

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, themed Many Stories One SOS, we share what our members **Raj Moham, Ho Yew Chun, Lim Thizhi Chee, Alan Toh** and **Phua Bak Khin** love and remember most about SOS.



## **BROTHER Raj**

### **I WILL ALWAYS**

remember how SOS help me, in terms of securing employment benefits and better wages, during a time when bargaining for higher salary was difficult for seafarers who did not join a union. I really appreciate the support from SOS. Even today, SOS continues to provide really good welfare benefits for members. We are the best; we even extend the benefit to our elderly retired seamen.

## **BROTHER Ho**

**AS SOS IS BETTER OFF TODAY**, members receive better benefits. I fondly recall the SOS Study Grant, which my children received, as a form of encouragement for them to study harder. Not just members, I think Jalan Kukoh residents like SOS very much. During every festive celebration, we will invite the residents for a get-together. We also deliver gifts and goodies to their doorsteps.



## **Alan TOH**

### **AS A MEMBER,**

the benefits I get far outweigh the membership subscription. Our year-end gift alone already covers the subscription. For retired seafarers like us, we value these member-centric items such as kettles, pots and irons, which are relevant and useful.



## **BROTHER Lim**

### **IN THE PAST AND EVEN NOW,**

whenever we returned from sailing, and we want to meet up with our seafarer friends and reconnect with them, we will convene at our usual meeting point: SOS.



## **BROTHER Phua**

### **I FEEL THAT ALL SOS** members are

very blessed. We enjoy perks such as hotel stays, gifts and union activities.

You can still see our retired seafarers in their 70s and 80s joining our events every year. I really appreciate what SOS has done for all of us. We are very grateful to SOS!

# Trainees gain confidence in Maritime English



## SEACARE QUALITY RATING TRAINING (SQRT)

cohorts 79, 80,  
81 and 82 were  
successfully

conducted at SNIMI's campuses in Nantong  
and Shanghai from 5 April to 4 June.

A total of 74 trainees, including three women, graduated from the course with accelerated improvement in English, the common language used in seafaring.

Most also did well to attain a 'Good' grade in their English assessment. They are now confident and proficient in Maritime English thanks to the rigorous 4-week training in written and spoken training English taught by English SNIMI specialists.

The Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute or SNIMI conducts SQRT courses to help aspiring seafarers achieve proficiency in Maritime English and competence as future seafarers. **S**

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## Welcome aboard

**MOON TAN JOINED SOS** as an Account Executive in March 2021. She is also pursuing her Bachelor in Accountancy at Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS).

In her free time, she volunteers as a Volunteer Special Constabulary (VSC) with the Singapore Police Force, where she attends cases with regular officers and leads VSC CSR projects.

"I join VSC for personal growth and continuous learning. I can interact with people from all walks of life, which also boost my

communication and leadership skills. I learnt a lot at VSC and made friends who share the same passion to serve and make Singapore a safer place."

Moon is currently into hiking, stand up paddling and fishing. She also enjoys exploring new places and can't wait to travel after the pandemic. **S**



**KELLY LOH JOINED SOS** as a Corporate Communications Assistant Manager in April 2021.

She brings with her over a decade of experience in graphic design and art direction with a forte in print editorial design.

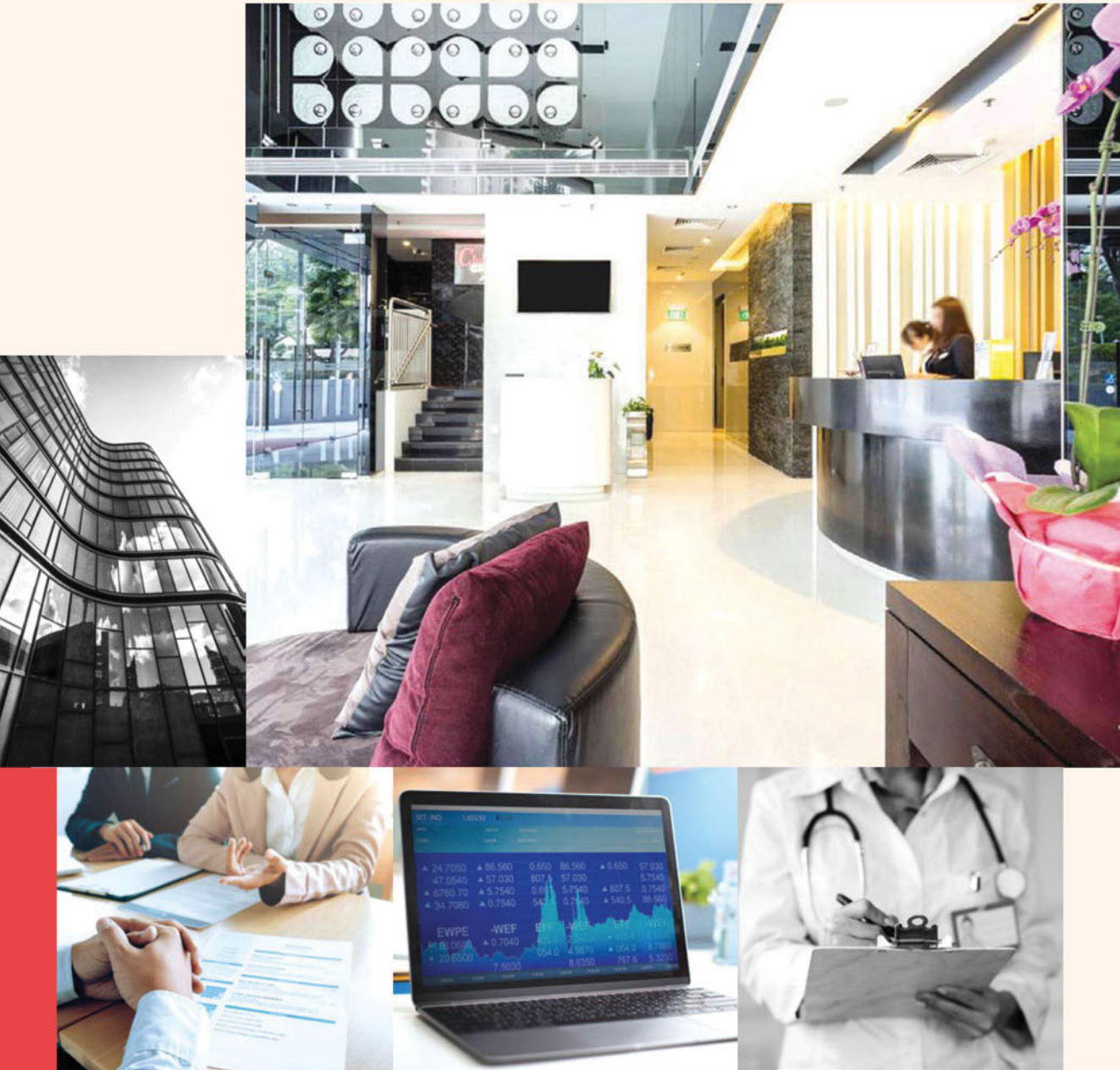
She has produced creative projects for MediaCorp Publishing, SPH Magazines and Emphasis Media and collaborated with international firms such as Changi Airport Group, Singapore Airlines, Banyan Tree and Citibank. In her newly-created role in SOS, Kelly will revamp Samudra, giving it a fresh new look and fortify the art directions in our corporate publications and brands.

Kelly enjoys her "café moment" be it at a local kopi joint or an independent minimalist café, where she catches up on her daily dose reads or just observing the idiosyncrasies of living in Singapore. **S**





# SEACARE FOCUS



## INSIDE:

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# Residential property outlook brisk in 2021 and beyond

Newly appointed Chairman of Seacare Property Development Pte Ltd (SPDPL), Mr Lim Geok Hwee, shares with Samudra the outlook, factors, trend and opportunities in Singapore's residential property market amid Covid-19.

20°21

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**SAMUDRA: What is Singapore's residential property outlook in the current FY?**

**LIM:** The outlook for Singapore's residential property is positive. Many expected the market to suffer as a result of Covid-19. But its performance so far has exceeded expectations. The condominium resale market price increased by 0.9% in May 2021 or 6.9% year-on-year. It is a new high. Barring any government cooling measures, we can expect the residential property prices to continue to rise next year.

**What contribute to such market outlook?**

The momentum is driven by low interest rate, market liquidity, potential asset inflation (as many countries have printed money to boost economic growth), Singapore's economic growth in 2021 and dwindling supply of unsold residential property.

Many expected the residential property market to weaken in 2021 when government relief measures tapered off early this year. This did not happen. The tsunami of distressed properties flooding the market also did not happen. Controlling measures such as the Total Debt Servicing



Ratio (TDSR), Additional Buyer Stamp Duties (ABSD), Seller Stamp Duties (SSD) have weeded out speculators in the property market. Our low interest rate has reduced the burden of holding property and increase property demand.

One other factor I believed contributed to the demand in residential property is the anticipation of cooling measures to be introduced authorities in view of the escalating property prices in the first 5 months of 2021. This may have led buyers sitting on the fence to jump into the market as it may be harder to secure financing when the cooling measures come into play, possibly in 2H 2021.

The government is trying to dampen the “fire” in the residential property market. Government Land Sale sites for 2H 2021 has risen with homes supply from confirmed sites increasing by 25% to 2000 units compared to 1605 units for 1H 2021. The increase will meet demand from developers replenishing their land bank, dwindling supply of unsold homes and to moderate price increase expectation.

We have to be watchful on the potential rise in interest rate. With

countries printing money to support its economic objectives, we can expect asset inflation to happen. Interest rate will potentially rise and this will have a dampening effect on the demand for property.

level, Singaporeans may ask if it is better to buy a landed property and own a land title instead of a condominium, which offers a strata title.

When Covid-19 subsides and Singapore re-opens to the world, we can expect

Opportunities will arise as the market evolves. At the moment, opportunities are present in landed properties.

**Mr Lim Geok Hwee**

Chairman of Seacare Property Development Pte Ltd

### **Where does the opportunities lie?**

As the real estate market is not homogeneous, we will see adjustments, calibrations and swings to happen among the various segments. For example, when the price gap between high-end and mass market residential properties narrowed, we can expect demand to move to high-end properties. This will also apply to landed and non-landed properties, as seen from the recent run in the landed property market.

Opportunities will arise as the market evolves. At the moment, opportunities are present in landed properties. As condominium prices rise beyond a certain

economic growth and tourists and expatriates to return. Demand for residential properties such as high-end condominiums will return too.

### **How can SPDPL take advantage of such opportunities?**

Timing is very important for a property developer. The window is relatively small. It is thus important to seize the opportunities as they arise. This may entail making investment concurrently on a number of projects during that window period and not sequentially. As property development takes about 3 to 4 years, it has to be watchful of the potential changes in the environment during this period. **S**

# Easing measures set to drive UK summer staycation bookings

UK's 'traffic light system' and lockdown easing (stage 3) starting 17 May aim to restart its international and domestic tourism – this will include the reopening of Seacare hotels in UK.



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**THE NEW TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM,** which lists countries by risk codes - red for high risk; amber for medium; and green for low determines the necessity and duration of visitors' quarantine.

The system allows the public to understand Covid requirements when travelling to UK. For instance, travellers who have only visited or transited via a green list country will not be required to quarantine on arrival in the UK.

Stage 3 of the lockdown ease is expected to set off demands for summer staycations and drive hotel bookings among domestic tourists, noted industry figures, as summer staycations are highly sought-after amid travel restrictions as an alternative to recharge and rejuvenate in safe environments.

According to market researcher, Mintel, demand for staycations during the summer period is expected to exceed pre-Covid levels and could well reach a new 10-year record due to pent-up demand following disrupted travel plans.

## **Staycations demand on the rise**

Seacare hotels in the UK include top staycation spots that pamper the mind, body and soul – leading to positive effects on consumers' health and well-being.





Bookings for the Seacare's Crown Spa Hotel Scarborough, a top pick among beauty and spa lovers with its panoramic oceanfront and signature spa treatment, have exceeded expectations and forecast.

"In June 2021, the Crown Spa had already exceeded the June 2019 rooms result by 16 percent. July and August are in great shape and with the travel traffic light in place customers are looking to book UK holidays that appear safe instead of overseas where the possibility of travel ban is highly likely," said GM David Chambers.



In June 2021, the Crown Spa had already exceeded the June 2019 rooms result by 16 percent.

**Mr David Chambers**

GM of Crown Spa Hotel Scarborough



The Suites Hotel & Spa – Knowsley in Liverpool, another hotel under Seacare shares the same appeal to staycationers who yearns for award-winning spa treats. Since its re-opening on 17 May, it has seen a jump in corporate and leisure bookings, especially during the Bank Holiday weekend, when visitors travelled to Liverpool to reunite with family members.


Suites Hotel & Spa is especially quick to win-over lady clients with exclusive spa membership and packages, offering spin, conditioning and yoga classes. It focuses on niche clientele – including ladies wish to stay fit and trim after the lockdown.

The hotel's JUST SWIM membership saw a corresponding jump in its pool, sauna, steam and jacuzzi usage, as it expands the membership to ladies and children, a well-marketed strategy that generates new revenues.

### Stringent protocols to keep guests safe

Compass Hospitality, which manages Seacare's hotel in the UK, has long implemented stringent protocols to assure the safety of staff and guests.

Suites Hotel & Spa, GM Lyndsay Tyer: "Covid has brought about challenges and changes but with the face of hospitality changing daily it has also enabled us to deliver immediate reaction to these challenges. With support from Compass Hospitality, we are able to do well, and the phoenix is now once again rising from the ashes. The future is positive and we look forward to welcoming larger weddings and functions again soon".

Despite an uncertain outlook for UK tourism, indicators are pointing to a steady and gradual recovery led by the hospitality and recreation sector. There is excitement in the air this summer as our hotels begin to welcome back guests in a covid-secure manner. 



# Learning to save lives in fun interactive training

Seacare Manpower Services staff commit themselves to learn and apply effective first aid with confidence in the event of emergency.



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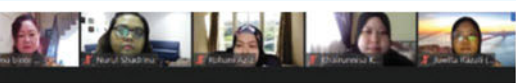
## SEACARE MANPOWER SERVICES STAFF

underwent a full day first-aid training to learn a full spectrum of workplace first aid skills that allow them to administer first aid, CPR and AED confidently and manage injuries such as bleeding and wounds.

The Zoom training on 4 June was a useful refresher for all 23 staff, most of whom work in a school environment, where knowledge and competency of first aid skills are vital, in the event of emergencies.

The training, conducted by Emergencies First Aid & Rescue Pte Ltd, were presented in interactive and realistic scenarios featuring medical conditions such as fracture and dislocation; choking; shock management; allergic reactions and burns.

While most participants would prefer taking part in physical training – which could not materialise due to Covid



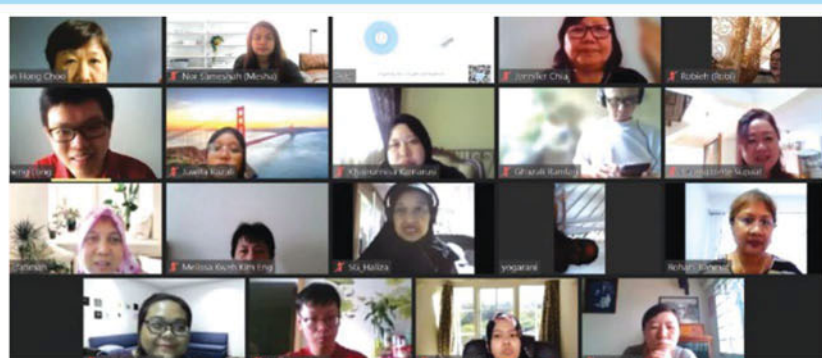
## Aim of **FIRST AID**?

1. To preserve life.
2. To prevent condition from worsening.
3. To promote recovery.
4. To provide comfort and relief.

I enjoy most in learning more about the different types of danger that we might encounter on a daily basis. Before this training, I was not aware on most of the information.

**Juwita Binte Mohammad Razali**  
Admin Executive






Receptionist Robieh said she had a fruitful training that helped her learn new things, such as the "using of ice pack for some injuries,

measures – they were nevertheless impressed by the knowledgeable trainer Mr Zheng Long and discussions of first-aid applications in different situations.

use pressure to stop bleeding and many more!"

Fellow participant, Senior Library Assistant Huang Yin agreed: "I learnt basic first-aid skills and knowledge, and how to react when someone is in a dangerous situation." 



## Participants who have completed the training

### PARTICIPANT

Zainon Binte Yahya	Ahmad Ibrahim Primary School
Tan Hong Choo	Alexandra Primary School
Yogarani D/O Tegerajan	CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh)
Huang Yin	Dunman High School
Robieh Bte Mokhtar	Endeavour Primary School
Zanariah Binte Mohd Sap	Fengshan Primary School
Kartini Binte Sahrul	Fern Green Primary School
Chia Swee Gek	Kheng Cheng School
Quek Nancy	Maris Stella High School (Primary)
Rohani Binti Rahmat	National Library Board
Kweh Kim Eng	Rosyth School
Goh Si Hui	Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd
Priscilla Goh	Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd
Juwita Binte Mohammad Razali	Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd
Sulena Supaat	Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd
Nurul Shadrina Binte Jumain	Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd
Khairunninsa Binte Kamarusi	Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd
Nor Sameshah Bte Sapari	Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd
Fatimah Bte Mahmod	Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd
Juminah Binte Bakri	ST Stephen's School
Rohani Binte Aziz	Teck Ghee Primary School
Tan Yeow Heng (Chen Yaoxing)	Westwood Primary School
Ghazali Bin Ramlan	Yio Chu Kang Secondary School

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- Laboratory Assistant

Others...

## Seacare Manpower Services A Contractor of Vital

Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd is one of the biggest and most reputable suppliers of manpower in Singapore. It is one of the appointed contractor for vital, a department under the Ministry of Finance (MOF)

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- Ministry of Education (MOE)
- Ministry of Manpower (MOM)
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)
- Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
- Singapore Polytechnic



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**Email resume to: [placement@seacaremanpower.com](mailto:placement@seacaremanpower.com)**





# Hari Raya gift packs for Jalan Kukoh residents

Volunteers from Seacare pack and deliver 100 gift packs to share festive warmth and cheer with Muslim residents



**AHEAD OF HARI RAYA AIDILFITRI,** Seacare Co-operative and SOS prepared 100 gift packs consisting of essential household and food items as well as specially selected festive savouries for Muslim residents of Jalan Kukoh, as part of its annual Hari Raya celebration and efforts to promote neighbourliness with the residents.

On 7 May, staff volunteers from Seacare dedicated their time and efforts to assemble the items and hand-delivered them to the Jalan Kukoh Residents' Committee (RC) office, the collection venue for the gift packs. The gift packs include chill beef dendeng, premium honey, dates and traditional snacks for the family to enjoy the festive meals and celebrations.



In observing safe distancing, the staff volunteers did not deliver the gift packs to the residents' homes, unlike the previous year. Rather, they happily exchanged festive greetings with recipients during the collection.

Organising Chairman, Ong Zhiwei, who attended the distribution event at the Jalan Kukoh RC with colleague Kathryn Ang, told Samudra: "In trying times like these, all the more we should foster the spirit of giving back to the community who need the festive cheer more than ever."



“In trying times like these,  
all the more we should  
foster the spirit of giving  
back to the community  
who need the festive cheer  
more than ever.”

**Mr Ong Zhiwei**  
Organising Chairman

Jalan Kukoh RC Chairman, Lim Kay Yong said he is heartened by Seacare's support and care for the residents, especially during this trying period.

"We want to thank Seacare and SOS for the nice Hari Raya gift packs. It's a wonderful thoughtful gesture that delighted our Muslim residents at Jalan Kukoh. Our RC enjoys the amazing partnership, support and collaboration with your organizing team every year and we definitely look forward to more upcoming collaborations." 





# E-Payment for SOS membership fees, benefits and claims

SOS is moving towards digitalisation and is now adopting e-payments for all membership fees, benefits and claims.

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(Example: SUBS 07654 S1234567E)

Once paid, please **email a screen-capture (photo) of the transaction proof to: [sosmembership@seacare.com.sg](mailto:sosmembership@seacare.com.sg)**

*PayNow is supported by Bank of China, DBS / POSB, HSBC, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited, Maybank, OCBC, Standard Chartered and UOB.*



# ATTENTION!

## 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)

#### CHINA

##### **Singhai Marine Services (Shanghai) Co Ltd**

Building 4, No 600  
Min Sheng Road,  
Pudong District,  
Shanghai, China 200135  
Email: [liuliang@singhai.com](mailto:liuliang@singhai.com)

#### INDONESIA

##### **c/o Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia (KPI)**

Jalan Cikini Raya 58 AA / BB,  
Jakarta Pusat 10330  
Tel: +62 21 314 1495  
Fax: +62 21 314 1491  
Email: [ppkpi@indosat.net.id](mailto:ppkpi@indosat.net.id)

#### PHILIPPINES

##### **LSA Consultancy & Management Services inc.**

Unit 515, 5Th Floor, S&L Building I  
1500 Roxas Boulevard Ermita,  
Manila 1000, Philippines  
Tel: +63 2 521 6839  
Fax: +63 2 521 7170  
Email: [phils@seacare.com.sg](mailto:phils@seacare.com.sg)

##### **Singhai Marine Services (Wuhan) Co Ltd**

Heping Avenue,  
Wuchang District,  
19-25, Kanjiang Building,  
Shui An International,  
Wuhan, China 430000.  
Tel: +86 27 5990 2035  
Fax: +86 27 5990 2036  
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

