

INFORM. EDUCATE. ENGAGE.

ISSUE
N° 02
2021

samudra

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

**Singapore tops
shipping hub
list for 8th
consecutive
year**

ITF Seafarers' Trust Portrait Competition

"Out of Sight Not Out of Mind"

A glimpse into seafarers' lives during Covid-19

inside:

**SEACARE
FOCUS**

Seacare Hotel Guest Service
Executive Yvette Yong
wins Singapore Tourism
Awards 2021

ACLC 2021:
"Emerging
Stronger Together
with Co-ops"



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

FOLLOW US ON



@SOSSEACARE



**MANY STORIES
ONE SOS**

contents

ISSUE
N° 02
2021



HAPPENINGS

- 2 SOS50: Many Stories, One SOS
- 4 Labour Chief's 2021 National Day Message
- 5 Let the party begin!

TRAINING

- 5 Seacare Quality Rating Training 83 & 84

SPOTLIGHT

- 6 Seafarers at the core of shipping's future
- 7 IMO acts to cut ships' CO2 emission; launches rating system
- 8 Singapore tops shipping hub list for 8th consecutive year
- 10 Singaporean seafarers enjoy extended financial aid
- 11 Update of CrewSafe facilities
- 12 Symbolic masks to thank seafarers

IR DIARIES

- 13 ITF sends oxygen concentrators to India to aid seafarers
- 14 'A fair future for seafarers' meaningless without vaccines and rights restored
- 16 Rise in sea robbery in Singapore Strait
- 18 "Out of Sight Not Out of Mind"

21 SEACARE FOCUS



www.sosea.org.sg



www.seacare.com.sg



Samudra is published bi-monthly by the Singapore Organisation of Seamen and Seacare Co-operative Limited. Copyright is held by the publisher. No part of this material may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means. MCI (P) 063/04/2021. Printed by KHL Printing Co Pte Ltd

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





SOS50:

MANY STORIES, ONE SOS

We shared what five members fondly recalled about SOS in our last edition. As part of our SOS50 celebration, we ask our staff, members and their dependants what they love most about our union and share their well-wishes for SOS.

2°3

samudra
Issue N°02
2021



Mahmod Mohalas

Member

MY SON IS STUDYING FOR

his diploma in Nautical Science as he also wants to sail. SOS has been supportive of my family's education. My children receive study grants; I also took IT courses sponsored by SOS for career development. I appreciate it. Viva la SOS, stay strong. I hope you will continue to be strong for another 100 years.

Tan Meng Lin

**Member's dependant,
Computer Science
undergrad**

I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING

the SOS study grant for 17 years since primary one. I am very grateful to SOS as the study grant helped me cover my expensive textbooks and focus on my studies without financial worry. I think the best way forward is to study hard and contribute to society. Happy 50th Anniversary SOS!



**Leow
Peng Kui**

Founding Member

WHEN SOS STARTED

using an office room in NTUC, many leaders from other unions chipped in to help. I remembered some donated printing papers; some contributed financially; some gave physical assistance. The moment the union is formed, protem officers had to go out to recruit members. Because we started with zero ordinary member, we have to recruit with little resources at our disposal. Some members may have been disappointed by the experience with previous unions. So how do you convince them that you're offering them something much more positive and more credible? Winning the trust and confidence of your members-to-be has always been a difficult challenge in the early formative years.



Eugene Guo

Research, External &
Industrial Relations Manager

AT THE FOREFRONT OF

championing seafarers' rights and improving their welfare, SOS in 2018 launched an on-demand shuttle service for seafarers in Pasir Panjang Terminal following feedback from our members and visiting seafarers. The initiative cuts waiting and travelling time, maximising their shore leave to relax at our Seacare Drop-in Centre or head out to the city for sightseeing and shopping. I am happy to be part of an organisation that puts seafarers first!



David Lim

Member

I WISH SOS A HAPPY 50TH

Anniversary. I hope we will continue to enjoy the range of benefits as we did before or maybe more. I also hope SOS officers continue their outstanding leadership to lead the union into a brighter future.



Geeta Bagga

IT Manager

I LIKE THE CULTURE,

the strong bond and the respect shown among colleagues and members. These are reflected in our efforts to serve members and the community through our initiatives, events, and celebrations. My best wishes are with SOS on its 50th anniversary, and I hope SOS will grow exponentially and keep contributing to our society.

Sharon Li

Schemes Administration,
Director

SOS CONTINUALLY ENHANCES OUR

membership welfare and schemes to suit members' changing demographic and lifestyle needs. Our members enjoy financial, training, medical and accommodation benefits via our wide-ranging schemes, many of which are also enjoyed by their dependents. During

Covid-19, we continue to help members via vouchers and care packs, putting their interests ever more at the forefront as we ride out of the pandemic together.



Wani

Member's dependant,
Social Work undergrad

I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING

the study grant since primary school. Over the years, my family would save up the money from the grant for my university expenses, such as tuition fees. My siblings also receive the grant and use the money to buy their textbooks and uniform. I fondly recall an SOS Mother's Day activity, which helped my mother put on a beautiful makeup. I also remember a Zumba session that we took part in. Happy Anniversary, I wish you many more successful years to come!

Maximillian Theodore

Member

I WANT TO

CONGRATULATE SOS FOR

its 50th Anniversary and thank SOS for improving our quality of life all these years. SOS has never forgotten us retired seamen and always helped us so generously over the years. I am very proud to be an SOS member!



HAPPY NATIONAL DAY 2021!



Photo: NTUC

ntuc

#EVERY
WORKER
MATTERS MEMBERS FIRST
WORKERS ALWAYS

4°5

samudra
Issue N°02
2021

LABOUR CHIEF'S 2021 NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE



MORE THAN 32,000 WORKERS have secured jobs with help from the NTUC Job Security Council (JSC), said NTUC Secretary-General Ng Chee Meng in his National Day 2021 message.

Job seekers were matched to jobs from more than 10,000 companies partnered with JSC, a jump from the 4,000 companies when the council started last year.

The council, set up during the pandemic, helps at-risk or displaced workers with career coaching, skills evaluation, training and

job-matching services.

SG Ng highlighted in his message that NTUC will continue to represent vulnerable and low-wage workers, freelancers and PMEs - three groups of workers "still reeling from the prolonged effects of the pandemic".

He said works are in the pipeline to speed up the expansion of the progressive wage model to improve wages, welfare and work prospects for lower-wage workers.

The Labour Movement will also continue to lobby freelancers to support their

income security, work prospects and health, he said, adding that NTUC will soon put up its recommendations to support PMEs at their workplace and careers.

SG Ng also shared that the government has heeded the Labour Movement's call to safeguard the Singaporean core by forming the Tripartite Committee on Workplace Fairness.

He said the country's fight against Covid-19 is making good progress, and NTUC will continue to support workers' vaccination to protect their health and ensure business continuity.

SG Ng was joined by union leaders, including members of SOS Executive Committee, at the virtual NTUC National Day Observance Ceremony (NDOC) 2021 on 6 August.



SHIPS PARTICIPATING IN THE SEACARE MEDICAL SCHEME can receive an additional grant for health products purchased for the crew, such as vitamin and supplement pills, to promote healthy living onboard.

Please approach Seacare Thrift for more information.

LET THE PARTY BEGIN!

To celebrate SOS's 50th Anniversary with members onboard, we share our joy through a sumptuous treat via a one-off SOS50 celebration

grant for ships with CBA. It's our little way of saying Thank You to all members for their past and continuous support! Let the party begin!



TRAINING

SEACARE QUALITY RATING TRAINING 83 & 84



Photo: File photo

THE SINGAPORE SINGAPORE (NANTONG) INTERNATIONAL MARITIME INSTITUTE

or SNIMI conducted two Maritime English proficiency training over June and July, aimed at helping seafarer trainees improve their communication skills for future work onboard.

Held over four weeks respectively, Seacare Quality Rating Training (SQRT) 83 and 84 sharpened the communication skills of 50 trainees, most of whom came from provinces where Mandarin and

dialects are commonly spoken languages and knew little English.

Trainers integrated fun and lively approaches into the course and delivery to help trainees grasp Maritime English effectively. The trainees felt at ease conversing in English at the end of the course.

In addition to English proficiency and maritime skills, they learnt essential skills such as fire-fighting and life-saving, which boost their confidence at sea and make them well-rounded mariners.



Seafarers at the core of shipping's future

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has marked 2021 as a year of action for seafarers – key workers who continue to power global supply chains, despite facing unprecedented hardship due to the pandemic.

6°7

samudra
Issue N° 02
2021

THIS YEAR'S WORLD MARITIME THEME,

"Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future" seeks to increase the visibility of hundreds of thousands of seafarers who remained stranded on ships for months beyond their original contracts, unable to be repatriated due to national travel restrictions.

A similar number of seafarers are unable to join ships and earn a living. The ongoing crew change crisis is a humanitarian emergency that threatens the safety of shipping.

"We all must do better to support our brave professionals who continue to deliver global trade. The dedication and professionalism of more than one and a half million seafarers worldwide deserve our great admiration and gratitude – but most importantly, immediate action," said IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim.

Throughout the year, the theme has put a spotlight on issues related to the human element of shipping - including safety onboard ships, seafarers' well-being, and the importance of a trained

and qualified workforce to meet the demands of digitalisation and automation.

IMO has also launched a series of profiles in which seafarers express their views on their work and the future of shipping.

New technologies for greener shipping

The IMO Council, in June, chose 'New technologies for greener shipping' as the World Maritime theme for 2022. The decision supports the green transition of the maritime sector into a sustainable future while leaving no one behind.

Mr Lim said the theme will focus on maritime sustainability in a post-pandemic world.

"IMO actively supports a greener transition of the shipping sector into a sustainable future, and showcases maritime innovation, research and development, and the demonstration and deployment of new technologies."

World Maritime Day falls on 30 September. [S](#)

IMO acts to cut ships' CO2 emission; launches rating system

THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME

ORGANIZATION (IMO) has intensified efforts to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of ships, setting the shipping industry on course to meet its GHG reduction targets set in 2018.

IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee in June 2021 adopted amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex VI.

The new measure will require all ships to improve their energy, technical and operational efficiencies using indicators, such as the Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI) and annual operational Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) rating system.

The CII measures how efficiently a ship transports goods or passengers by calculating the amount of CO2 emitted per nautical mile. The ship will then be given an annual rating from A to E; whereby the rating thresholds become increasingly stringent towards 2030.

Rating system

IMO encourages administrations, port authorities and stakeholders to incentivise ships rated as A or B and asks for ships

rated D for three consecutive years, or E to submit a corrective action plan to meet a C (or above) rating.

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said the adoption of the new measures would build on IMO's previously adopted mandatory energy efficiency measures, to lead shipping on the right path towards decarbonisation.

"The path to decarbonisation is a long, but also a common path in which we need to consider and respect each other's views. We have made a considerable amount of progress since the start of our journey," Mr Lim said, " ... your progress will continue to provide the benefit of experience to be able to make ambitious, and evidence-based decisions for phase 3 of the implementation of the operational measure which will be further strengthened and developed taking into account the review of the short-term measure and the latest climate science," he added.

The amendments will enter into force on 1 November 2022 and take effect beginning 2023 for all cargo, RoPax and cruise vessels above 5,000 GT and trading internationally.

The initiative forms part of IMO's target to lower carbon intensity to 40 percent by 2030, relative to 2008. [S](#)



Graphics courtesy of IMO



Singapore tops shipping hub list for 8th consecutive year

8°9

samudra
Issue N°02
2021

Singapore kept its position as the world's top shipping hub on the 2021 Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development (ISCD) Index for the eighth consecutive year.

THE REPUBLIC WAS FOLLOWED BY

London, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Dubai.

The top 10 rankings remained largely unchanged from the previous year, despite the pandemic-induced drop in global trade and business disruption in 2020, according to the Baltic Exchange, a global maritime market data provider.

Asia occupies three of the top five spots while Ningbo in China replaced Tokyo in the top 10.

The ISCD Index, part of the annual Xinhua-Baltic Report provides an independent ranking of the performance of the world's largest cities that offer port and shipping business services.

Singapore has consistently led the index, thanks to the size of its port,

number of internationally focused shipbrokers, financiers, lawyers and insurers based here, and supportive government policies, the report noted.

Overall, 43 locations were rated with Singapore achieving a score of 97.2. The average score for a location was 58.8 points.

Senior Minister of State for Transport Chee Hong Tat said Singapore, as the world's busiest container trans-shipment and bunkering hub, has done well to support global seaborne trade during this pandemic.

"Our international maritime centre remains a vibrant marketplace centred on a strong core of shipping companies and a comprehensive pool of maritime



services such as shipbroking, marine insurance, ship financing and maritime law and arbitration.”

Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) Chief Executive Quah Ley Hoon said Singapore’s status in the global maritime industry is due to the combined efforts of an ecosystem of many strong partners.

She said MPA will continue to work closely with its partners, including supporting the industry on its immediate challenges facing sea crew, and its transformation along digitalisation,

Singapore’s robust tripartite partnership involving MPA, SSA, SMOU and SOS allows us to effectively address issues that arise amid the pandemic, such as crew changes.

Kam Soon Huat
President of SOS

decarbonisation and capability development.

SOS President Kam Soon Huat congratulates MPA and its partners for achieving the top position amidst a turbulent backdrop.

“Singapore’s robust tripartite partnership involving MPA, SSA, SMOU and SOS allows us to effectively address issues that arise amid the pandemic, such as crew changes. Recognising the crew change crisis and the predicament faced by seafarers, the national taskforce, led by tripartite partners, has established a safe and scalable crew change model that ensures a safe crew change process for repatriating and signing-on of seafarers. Our tripartite efforts play a crucial role in Singapore’s success as a maritime nation and a global maritime centre.” **S**

Ranking	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
1	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore	Singapore
2	London	London	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	London
3	Shanghai	Shanghai	London	London	Hong Kong
4	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Shanghai	Shanghai	Hamburg
5	Dubai	Dubai	Dubai	Dubai	Shanghai
6	Rotterdam	Rotterdam	Rotterdam	Rotterdam	Dubai
7	Hamburg	Hamburg	Hamburg	Hamburg	New York
8	Athens/Piraeus	Athens/Piraeus	New York/ New Jersey	New York/ New Jersey	Rotterdam
9	New York/ New Jersey	New York/ New Jersey	Houston	Tokyo	Tokyo
10	Ningbo	Tokyo	Athens/Piraeus	Busan	Athens/Piraeus

Singaporean seafarers enjoy extended financial aid

The Seafarers Relief Package (SRP) has been extended for another six months till 31 December 2021.



10°11

samudra
Issue N°02
2021

THE EXTENSION ANNOUNCED BY MPA, SOS and the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union in June supports Singaporean seafarers whose employment have been affected by the pandemic.

Singaporean seafarers who are unable to secure shipboard employment between 1 January and 31 December 2021 can apply for up to \$700 per month in financial assistance, for a maximum of six months.

SRP forms part of the MaritimeSG Together package that offers financial support to the maritime industry in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak. [S](#)

Applications and supporting documents can be submitted via the following QR code.



Update of CrewSafe facilities



THE SINGAPORE SHIPPING TRIPARTITE

Alliance Resilience (SG-STAR) Fund, set up to facilitate safe practices in crew change facilities and testing centres beyond Singapore, is the world's first tripartite initiative involving maritime partners, unions and governments.

The CrewSafe audit program, an initiative under the SG-STAR Fund helps

seafarers supply nations, such as India and the Philippines, administer quality control checks in crew change processes which include quarantine, medical and swabbing facilities.

Processes and facilities that meet these stringent requirements are verified as CrewSafe; those that fail the audit will be delisted. **S**

THE PROCESSES AT THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES (UPDATED 16 JULY 2021) HAVE BEEN VERIFIED AS CREWSAFE

INDIA

Maersk-Holiday Inn Mumbai International Airport	Mumbai
MASSA-FOSMA-Hyatt Regency Chennai	Chennai
Synergy- Hotel Taj Coromandel	Chennai
Synergy-Hotel Grand Chola	Chennai

PHILIPPINES

AMOSUP 'Seamen's Hospital Molecular & PCR Laboratory	Manila
Columbia-Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria	Manila
FHG-Aventus Medical Centre	Manila
ITF/IMEC-St. Giles Makati Hotel	Makati
Maersk-Holiday Inn Makati	Makati
Norwegian Shipowners' Association (NSA) / Norwegian Training Centre (NTC)	Manila Marriott Hotel
NYK-Bayleaf Hotel	Manila
NYK-Bellevue Hotel	Manila
NYK-Century Park Hotel	Manila
NYK-Crimson Hotel	Manila

PACC-Red Planet Hotels Manila Bay	Manila
PACC-Red Planet Manila Binondo	Manila
Thome-Dusit Thani	Manila
Thome-Herald Suites Solana	Manila
Torm-City Garden Grand Hotel	Manila
V Ships Red Planet Makati	Manila
V-Ships-Red Planet ASEANA	Manila

INDONESIA

Hong Lam-Hotel 89	Batam
V Bunkers-Crowne Vista	Batam

MALAYSIA

Hong Lam-Nu Hotel	Kuala Lumpur
-------------------	--------------

SINGAPORE

Copthorne King's
Hotel Re!
The Seacare Hotel

Symbolic masks to thank seafarers

The Day of the Seafarer (DOTS) is an annual celebration that pays tribute to seafarers and acknowledges their contributions in maintaining world trade and the flow of goods.




CELEBRATING THE DOTS ON 25 JUNE, SOS

joined MPA, PSA, SMOU, Jurong Port and the Mission to the Seafarers in presenting gift packs to transiting seafarers at The Seacare Hotel, a designated crew change facility.

The gift packs include a commemorative DOTS themed face mask and pouch, and protective items to keep seafarers safe from the virus.

SOS Vice President Mohamad Abu Bakar presented the items to the seafarers and expressed his appreciation for their hard work and sacrifices to keep the industry moving, despite the challenging times.

SOS wishes all seafarers safety and health, and a happy DOTS! 



12°13

samudra
Issue N° 02
2021



ITF sends oxygen concentrators to India to aid seafarers

Hundreds of lives will be saved thanks to two emergency projects funded by the ITF Seafarers' Trust and delivered via two Indian-based seafarers' unions.

THE TRUST FUNDED OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS

and emergency supplies for affected seafarers and their families in India, as the country's health system teeters on the brink of collapse amid Covid-19. The two grants totaled £215,000 (\$\$405,000).

The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) tapped on its country-wide network of branches to deliver oxygen concentrators to seafarers and their families, while The Forward Seamen's Union of India (FSUI) coordinated efforts to deliver emergency supplies to seafarers in locked down ports and their families who are facing hardship.

"Now we are all bearing witness to the human tragedy unfolding in India with this deadly second wave, and the ITF Seafarers' Trust is proud to support unions stepping up to save as many lives as possible and reduce the hardship being faced by Indian seafarers and their families," said Katie Higginbottom, head of the ITF Seafarers' Trust.


NUSI General Secretary Abdulgani Y. Serang said the grant for oxygen concentrators will save hundreds of lives as it addresses the chronic lack of breathing aid.

"People all over India, including seafarers, have been trying to source oxygen cylinders or oxygen concentrators for themselves or their loved ones so that they can battle this virus at home. The hospitals, too, need more of these machines – many patients cannot get oxygen beds and lives are being lost," said Serang.

"Many seafarers have tested positive, and many have died. Too many. We are doing our best to provide the necessary support to seafarers' families in very challenging circumstances," said FSUI General Secretary Manoj Yadav.

Outbreak may worsen crew change crisis

Concerns are growing that India's health crisis may double the number of seafarers being trapped onboard, in a matter of weeks, due to tighter border and travel restrictions. Already 200,000 seafarers are stuck on vessels beyond their contracts.

"New restrictions targeting Indian seafarers will worsen the crew change crisis. We need systems that get Covid-negative and fully vaccinated seafarers onto ships to relieve crews who have been onboard for far too long," said David Heindel, chair of the ITF Seafarers' Section. 

'A fair future for seafarers' meaningless without vaccines and rights restored

The life of a seafarer has always been one of sacrifice and hard work. Days, weeks and months at sea away from their families in all weather; relied upon to keep the world and its people moving.



14°15

samudra
Issue N°02
2021

SEAFARERS ARE ALSO SUBJECTED TO unfair and unethical practices which include poor working and living conditions onboard ships, and owed

wages and abandonment by shipowners.

In the past year, Covid-19 has brought on additional challenges and thrown long-standing problems faced by seafarers into the spotlight. From the MV Ever Given and MV Aman, to local stories of seafarers trapped working onboard, the public has borne witness to the growing waves of injustices that crash onto the backs of seafarers.

In 2020, the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) recovered US\$44.6 million (S\$60.2 million) of wages owed to seafarers. That same year, the number of abandoned vessels reached a record 85 compared to 34 in 2018. The figure is believed to be a fraction of actual abandonment cases, as many happened under the radar.

Shore leave and repatriation

ITF ascribes the crew change crisis to governments' denial of seafarers' long-held rights to be repatriated at the end of their contracts. Many governments had barred seafarers from entering their countries for crew changes due to fear of virus transmission.

ITF reported that seafarers are also barred from entering or leaving their home countries to work onboard ships.

These policies result in an increasingly fatigued workforce that is

Vaccinations are seafarers' passports to return to some degree of normality; and the way to restore their rights as part of the conversation on 'a fair future'.

shunned by the people they serve while being told they are 'heroes' of the pandemic. Imagine what it is like to "spend time" with families through a small screen for a prolonged period onboard?

Vaccination for seafarers fallen through the cracks

While the Covid-19 vaccine is seen as the saving grace with governments around the world racing to vaccinate citizens, vaccination for seafarers has fallen through the cracks.


Global vaccinations of seafarers are progressing at snail's pace with a handful of countries providing vaccines to foreign seafarers. This prompted the IMO and ITF to reiterate calls for governments

to prioritise seafarers in their national vaccination programmes.

Both organisations also urged governments to recognise seafarers as "key workers" and be exempted from specific travel restrictions to facilitate crew changes.

Vaccinations are seafarers' passports to return to some degree of normality; and the way to restore their rights as part of the conversation on 'a fair future'.

World governments can help seafarers by:

- Supporting TRIPS (WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) vaccine patent waiver.
- Purchasing enough vaccines to vaccinate visiting seafarers
- Purchasing enough vaccines to vaccinate seafarers working on vessels that fly their national flags or partnering with other governments to introduce permanent 'green lane' exemptions for vaccine-certified seafarers as part of crew changes.
- Restoring visiting seafarers' rights to shore leave and medical assistance.
- Scrapping bans on repatriating seafarers' bodies to their grieving families.
- Publishing accurate information on how seafarers can access both vaccines and their restored rights in your country, online, in plain English. 





16°17

samudra
Issue N°02
2021

Rise in sea robbery in Singapore Strait

This is despite a drop in overall incidents in Asia against the same period in 2020

THE SINGAPORE STRAIT SAW A RISE

in the number of armed robbery incidents against ships in the first half of the year, with the majority involving bigger vessels such as bulk carriers and container ships.

This is despite a 35 percent drop in overall incidents in Asia against the same period last year, said the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed

Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre.

ReCAAP reported 37 sea robbery incidents between January and June, down from the 57 incidents in the same period a year ago. No piracy incident was reported.

The centre said the dip was due to fewer incidents in Asia, namely, in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and the South China Sea.

ReCAAP Executive Director, Masafumi Kuroki said incidents in the Singapore Strait are “likely to continue to occur if perpetrators are not arrested.”


Armed incidents in July

On 17 July, two incidents of unauthorised boarding occurred, in proximity of each other, off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, in the Singapore Strait.

The incidents took place within a 30-minute span, after midnight, with knife wielders sighted in the engine and steering gear rooms. The perpetrators escaped after being spotted; the crew was unhurt, and no goods were stolen.

A separate incident took place on the same morning in the South Harbour Anchorage off Manila, Philippines, when a perpetrator pointed a gun at the duty watcher, took away his two-way radio and tied him up.

Seven other accomplices emerged, broke into a locker and escaped with a new roll of rope mooring line. The duty watcher was unhurt.

Ships are advised to intensify vigilance and lookout in the Singapore Strait after sundown, adopt preventive measures and report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal state. 

The Singapore Strait saw a rise in the number of armed robbery incidents against ships in the first half of the year, with the majority involving bigger vessels such as bulk carriers and container ships.



“Out of Sight Not Out of Mind”

A glimpse into seafarers' lives during the pandemic

THE CAMPAIGN TO HIGHLIGHT THE

experiences of seafarers during the Covid pandemic has taken a leap forward on Day of the Seafarer as the winner of the ITF Seafarers' Trust portrait competition is announced.

“Out of Sight Not Out of Mind” invited seafarers of all nationalities to submit images of themselves or colleagues to the Trust, giving a window into what life has been like for them during the pandemic.

The award-winning shot came from Filipino seamen, Aljon Manlangit, whose portrait on board a vessel shows fellow crewmate, Wendell after work on the inert gas system. Behind the image is the sad, but all too common, story of a father's self-sacrifice. After his first contract as an engine boy, Wendell embarked again after less than 3 weeks in his home country spent entirely in the quarantine facility of his province.

“I hope people will see it and recognise the work and sacrifice that we make to keep this world moving forward even at this time of pandemic,” said Aljon. **S**

Photo source: ITF Seafarers' Trust Competition 2021.

The ITF Seafarers Trust, a UK charity established in 1981, funds programmes that advance the wellbeing of maritime workers, seafarers and their families.



Papa is tired, but Papa will never give up
by ALJON MANLANGIT



Ahoy there!
by HAROLD PAPA MELENDEZ



Of Butterflies and of Battlecries
by VAN ALFRED M. VILLANUEVA



18°19

samudra
Issue N° 02
2021

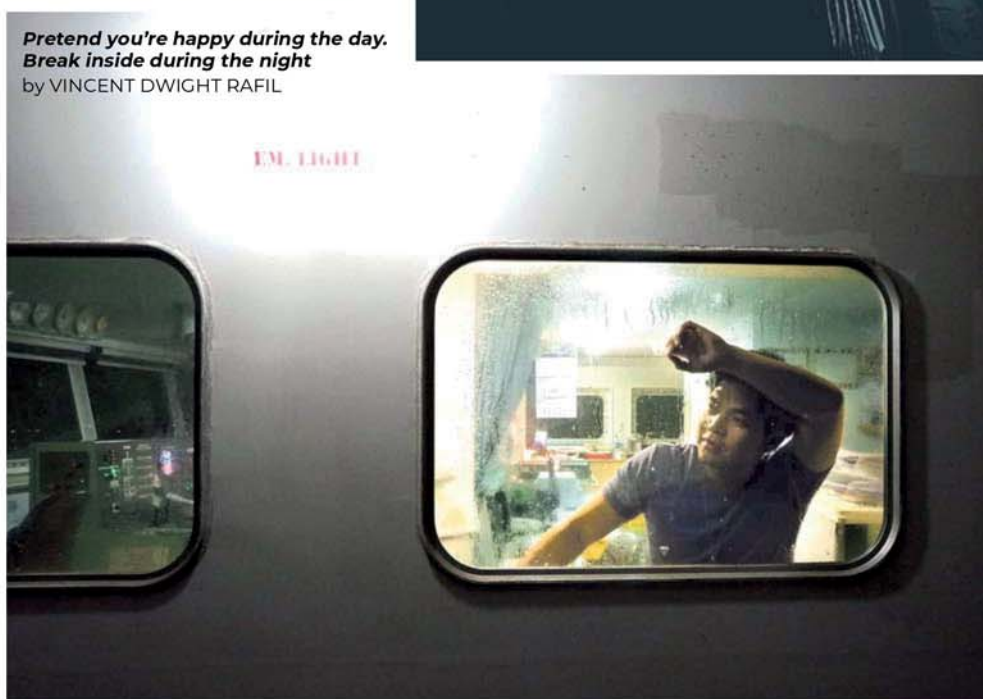
Lost Integers
by ALDRIN M. ULEP



Not just a Sailor
by RUSTUM SCIADES T. DUQUE



**Pretend you're happy during the day.
Break inside during the night**
by VINCENT DWIGHT RAFIL



**Prayer is my armor in the battlefield (with
GOD in my vessel I can smile at the storm)**
by JOEMIL M. MARGATE

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.

Members can now transact digitally in a hassle-free and seamless manner. And it's secure too.



**To pay, scan the QR code below
using your own online banking app:**

SINGAPORE ORGANISATION OF SEAMEN



SCAN TO PAY

Under **"Bill Reference"**, please indicate:
SUBS, Membership Number & Member's NRIC No.

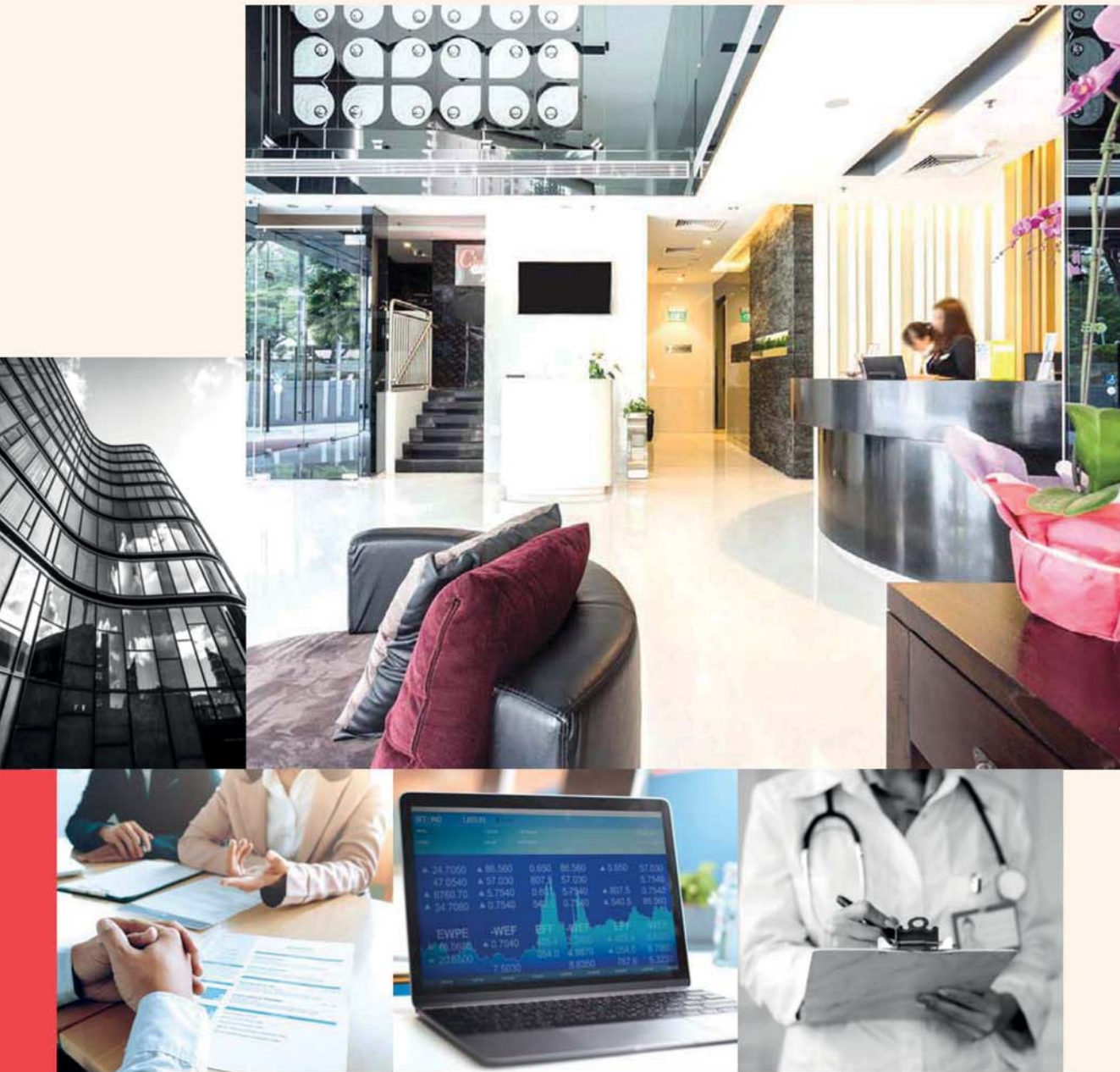
so that we can match it to your records in our Membership System.

(Example: SUBS 07654 S1234567E)

Once paid, please **email a screen-capture (photo) of the transaction proof to: 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.

SEACARE FOCUS



INSIDE:

22 Compassion and empathy for others from the bottom of my heart

25 One in four Singaporeans anxious and depressed

27 ACLC 2021: "Emerging Stronger Together with Co-ops"



22° 23'

samudra
Issue N° 02
2021

Compassion and empathy for others from the bottom of my heart

– Yvette Yong

Seacare Hotel Guest Service Executive **Yvette Yong** is one of the winners of the Singapore Tourism Awards 2021. This year's award recognises and celebrates the extraordinary resilience and dedication" shown by professionals in the tourism industry during the pandemic.

YVETTE, A RECIPIENT OF THE CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE FOR HOTELS

AWARD, won the award for serving pandemic-related hotel guests. She said Covid-19 has changed her role as a guest service executive and altered how she interacts with guests.

"As a guest service executive, I am trained to provide a home-away-from-home experience to my guests," said Ms Yong in an interview with *Today*. Yvette enjoys making her guests feel at home at the hotel by periodically calling to check in on them. In this issue, she shares some of her most memorable experiences at work.



SAMUDRA: What do you enjoy most at work?

YVETTE: As frontline staff, I enjoy meeting and interacting with people from different parts of the world. It is interesting to learn and understand their cultures. I do my best to create a "Home Away from Home" experience for guests at The Seacare Hotel, so they will return when they revisit Singapore or recommend our hotel to their friends.

Any memorable experience serving guests?

Before The Seacare Hotel embarked on the crew change project, we served Malaysian workers who could not return due to the lockdown in Malaysia. In the middle of the night, a lady guest called the front desk and cried as she missed her family. As a Malaysian, I also missed home and used to go back every two months before the pandemic. I can empathise with her. I understand how homesick, sad and depressed she must have felt. I often worry about my family as I couldn't be by their side to care for them. Thoughts like *How are they living? Do they have sufficient food?* often occupy my mind. I sought my manager's

permission, went up with a hot drink, and consoled her. We chatted outside her room; I told her not to worry and that things would turn out well. She felt comforted that I understand what she was going through.

How about during the pandemic?

When our hotel was converted into a designated holding facility, we began attending to seafarers doing crew changes in Singapore. They have to be isolated as part of the crew change protocol. One day, a crew called the reception, informing me he had to be quarantined as his Covid pre-departure test result came back positive. He cried over the phone, saying he was looking forward to reuniting with his family in Indonesia until the news came. He was worried about how his family would cope if he succumbs to the virus. I told him I understand his situation as I am also away from my loved ones. I calmed him down, encouraged him to stay positive and assured him he would receive quality examinations and treatment in Singapore. I told him he would be fine and see his family soon. He felt better after our conversation and thanked me for sharing his woes.

How do you stay motivated?

Since the pandemic broke, I have been cautious about the risk of infection as frontline staff. Thankfully, our management implements strict SOPs and practices, such as wearing full PPEs, N95 masks and face shields at all times. I feel safe as long as I adhere to the requirements. It's motivating to see everyone at The Seacare Hotel putting their hearts and souls to add value and contribute to the hospitality and maritime industries. I have been here for three years; I cherish our great culture and the warmth shared by colleagues, whom I now call friends. All these keep me going and staying positive every day.

What is your life's philosophy?

Have compassion and empathy for others from the bottom of my heart. Staying positive and sincere will always help me find a way out of the most challenging situations.

We congratulate Yvette Yong for winning the Singapore Tourism Awards 2021! *Samudra* also got Yvette's colleagues, **Tong En** and **Nami**, to share their guest service experience at The Seacare Hotel.



What are some interesting encounters in your daily operation?

TONG EN: Many years ago, a seafarer checked in at 2 am. He was feeling hungry and wanted to order a McDonald's meal. But food delivery was unavailable back then. Knowing how uncomfortable it is to go to bed hungry, I got the duty manager's permission and walked to the nearest 24-hour McDonald's outlet in Chinatown to get him a meal. The guest was so touched that he tipped me when he checked out. I did not accept the tips as I felt my responsibility was to provide an excellent guest experience.

NAMI: I attended to an unhappy guest who had to settle the bill,

as he could not bill it directly to his company. I patiently explained and showed him the supporting documents from his company. In a fit of anger, he shouted at me and threw his credit card at the reception. Understanding his frustration, I sincerely apologised for the inconvenience and quickly processed his payment so he could catch his flight.

How different is your job during Covid-19?

TONG EN: Before the pandemic, we could interact with guests face-to-face to better demonstrate our hospitality and professionalism. The pandemic limits such interactions as

the crew must remain in their rooms at all times after checking in. We could only assist in their enquiries through phone, thus lacking the essential human touch.

What's your takeaway from the pandemic?

NAMI: I learnt to be more compassionate and empathic. There is always a turning point in any adverse situation. We are glad to be gainfully employed and serve our guests with added pride during the pandemic. **S**



I learnt to be more compassionate and empathic. There is always a turning point in any adverse situation. We are glad to be gainfully employed and serve our guests with added pride during the pandemic.

Nami

Guest Service Executive of Seacare Hotel

One in four Singaporeans anxious and depressed



Almost 25 percent of Singaporeans suffer from anxiety and depression, driven by financial and work stress during the pandemic; spouses also fight more often, especially those with young children at home.

THE FINDINGS, SHARED BY A HEALTH SURVEY released in July, revealed that one in four had considered suicide at least once in the last year, with the number rising among the unemployed.

The survey, conducted by marketing communications agency Wunderman Thompson, polled 1,000 Singaporeans aged between 18 and 70 across various income groups, races, and professions; and looked at sentiments in physical, mental, relational, and financial health.

Seventy percent of respondents believe there is stigma against mental health issues in Singapore, with a similar number avoiding the topic with their family.

Causes of mental health

Fifty-five percent of respondents ranked financial stress as the top cause for mental health issues, followed by work stress, job security worries, and long working hours.



Almost a quarter of Singaporeans suffer anxiety and depression



Financial and work stress is the largest contributor to poor mental health



68% believe there is a stigma against mental health issues in Singapore



More than diabetes or heart disease, depression, stress and anxiety are the #1 current health conditions


CAUSES OF MENTAL HEALTH



SINGAPOREANS ARE UNHAPPY
IN THE WORKPLACE



How to help someone with a
mental condition?

If you believe someone is in immediate danger of harming himself or others, contact a doctor or emergency helplines such as **Samaritans of Singapore (SOS)** at **1800-221-4444** or **Institute of Mental Health (IMH)** at **6389 2222**. 

26° 27'
samudra
Issue N° 02
2021

Increased responsibility at home and tensions with the family has also taken a toll on the mental well-being of Singaporeans. This is in addition to the loss of privacy and personal space due to work from home – with 24 percent citing anxiety and 21 percent depression.

Unhappiest
workforce

Incidentally, Singapore is also the least happy workforce in the world, alongside the UK, followed by Malaysia (42%), New Zealand (41%) and Australia (40%).

The finding derived from a 2021 global report on the Impact of COVID-19 on Business Owners and Employees, Employment Hero, surveyed over 1,000 Singapore employees and employers.



CONNECT WITH
OTHERS

Use this time as an opportunity to proactively connect with friends, family, and colleagues, and build a sense of optimism collectively.

DRAW ON YOUR
RESILIENCE

Draw on skills that you have used in difficult times. Think of positive things to lift your mood. Try journaling, meditation or a relaxing activity.

FOCUS ON WHAT
IS GOING WELL

It is easy to ruminate on what is wrong in situations. Instead, think about what you are grateful for, and what is going well, how we are fighting this together.

BE MORE
UNDERSTANDING

It is natural to feel distressed, worried or scared because of covid-19. Seek to practice greater empathy and kindness towards others during this period.

Questions? Email ccmh@aic.sg

Created: 2 April 2020





ACLC 2021: “Emerging Stronger Together with Co-ops”

For the first time, the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) held its Annual Co-operative Leaders' Conference (ACLC) in partnership with the Registry of Co-operative Societies and the Singapore Institute of Directors.

THE CONFERENCE WAS ALSO SNCF'S

first *phygital* or hybrid event with in-person and virtual participants, including special guest, Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth, and Trade and Industry Alvin Tan.

ACLC 2021: “Emerging Stronger Together with Co-ops” continued its engagement session last November, which focused on helping co-operatives address challenges and stay relevant in the post-Covid world.

The conference anchored on three

key themes – corporate governance, personal data protection, and safe event management – to create a stronger and more resilient co-operative movement in the long term.

“While Singapore's co-operative movement has remained relevant for nearly a century, we all know the world is changing and we are not returning to a pre-Covid world. We should not be preparing for ‘business-as-usual’ or preparing to return to the good old normal. This is an opportune time to

The topics in ACLC 2021 are highly relevant, especially as we enter the post-pandemic new normal. The conference emphasises the importance of compliance, adaptability and governance, which co-operatives must apply to stay relevant and sustainable to better serve members and the community.

Shena Foo

Chair of SNCF Service Sector and Deputy Chairman of Seacare Co-operative



28°

samudra
Issue N°02
2021

transform the co-operative movement to make it stronger and better prepare for the future," said SNCF Chairman Tng Ah Yiam

Industry experts shared their knowledge and expertise and joined panellists to discuss and engage with the audience.


Lyn Boxall, director of Lyn Boxall LLC, shared practical tips on why and how to protect personal data and the latest PDPA regulations on what it means to employers and staff.

Barkathunnisha, founder and principal consultant of Elevated Consultancy & Training, discussed the forms, risk assessment and safe

management strategies event planners should consider during and after the pandemic.

Daniel Teo, member of nonprofit committee, Singapore Institute of Directors, shared how good corporate governance can help organisations achieve competitive advantages and sustainability through risk mitigation and fostering a culture of integrity.

SNCF Service Sector Chair and Seacare Co-operative Deputy Chairman Shena Foo attended the physical event on July 30. Shena was joined by colleagues Kathryn Ang on-site and David Sim, Ong Zhiwei and Mohamad Abu Bakar virtually.

"The topics in ACLC 2021 are highly relevant, especially as we enter the post-pandemic new normal. The conference emphasises the importance of compliance, adaptability and governance, which co-operatives must apply to stay relevant and sustainable to better serve members and the community," said Shena. 



LOOKING FOR A JOB?



Job Vacancies

- Teacher Aide/Assistant
- Receptionist cum Admin Assistant
- Admin Assistant
- Admin Executive
- Administration Manager
- Accounts Clerk
- AV/IT Technical Assistant
- ICT Executive
- Librarian/Library Assistant
- Science Laboratory Assistant
- Operations Manager
- Office Attendant
- Home Economics Attendant
- 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)

Its clientele includes:

- 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



Call: 6379 5632

Monday – Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm Saturday: 9.00am – 12.30pm

Email resume to: placement@seacaremanpower.com

SAMUDRA

HOME ABOUT US CONTACT US

17 SHARES
Thanks to old crew changes and sailors' rights
 17 March 2017

171 SHARES
Change of SOCs Address
 17 March 2017

16 SHARES
Sailors deserve vaccination priority and fair treatment
 16 March 2017

100 SHARES
Mary Burke, One SOCs Beans (B) Except shares sailing window
 12 Jan 2017

100 MEMBERS
SOs Celebrate 50th Earth Summit
 Throughout the Entire Year
 12 November 2017

100 SHARES
Crew change experience in Singapore at its best
 12 March 2017

100 SHARES
SOs will make another \$13M to develop safe crew change zone
 12 March 2017

100 SHARES
SOs/Sailors Staff honored at Long Shender Awards
 12 March 2017

100 SHARES
Longing package for essential workers at Cebu Sincere Street
 12 March 2017

100 SHARES
Sincere Environmental expands its clients
 12 March 2017

100 SHARES
Sincere Staff honored at Long Shender Awards
 12 March 2017

100 SHARES
Celebrating Lunar New Year with 4 Welfare Boxes and 100 SOs Members
 12 March 2017

The magazine cover for 'samudra' features a large, vibrant green leaf as the background. A small, colorful boat is positioned vertically along the leaf's central vein. The mast of the boat is decorated with a rainbow flag, and the hull is white with a red stripe and the word 'HAPPY' written in red. The boat is oriented upwards, appearing to travel along the vein. The title 'samudra' is printed in a large, bold, black sans-serif font at the top left. Above it, the tagline 'INFORM. EDUCATE. ENGAGE.' is written in a smaller, black, all-caps font. In the top right corner, the text 'ISSUE N°01 2023' is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font. Below this, an orange circular badge contains the words 'REVAMP ISSUE!' in white, all-caps font. A yellow rectangular box in the center-right contains the main headline 'Maritime Singapore's decarbonisation vision' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the headline, the text 'Nautilus Federation calls for AI's surge increase amid Pandemic' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there is a small section titled 'Editorial' followed by the text 'every outlook' and 'July 2023'. To the right of this, there is a section titled 'Easing measures' followed by the text 'not to drive UK summer staycation bookings'. At the bottom right, there is a QR code and the text 'SCAN QR CODE FOR SAMUDRA DIGITAL COPY'.



samudra.osea.org.sg