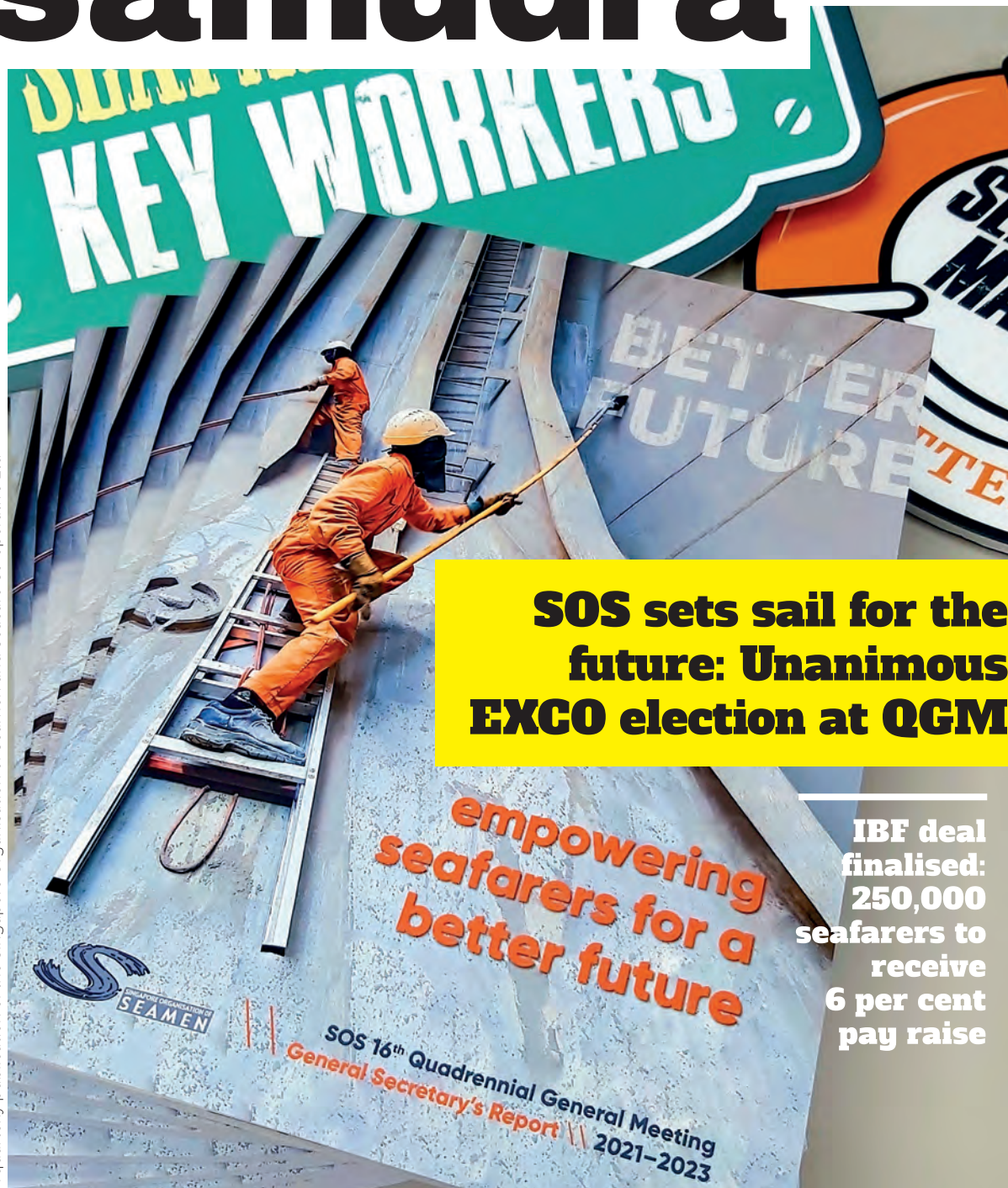


INFORM. EDUCATE. ENGAGE.

**ISSUE**  
N° 03  
**2023**

# samudra

A quarterly publication of the Singapore Organisation of Seamen and Seacare Co-operative Ltd



## **SOS sets sail for the future: Unanimous EXCO election at QGM**

**IBF deal  
finalised:  
250,000  
seafarers to  
receive  
6 per cent  
pay raise**

inside:

**SEACARE  
FOCUS**

Seacare OKiKi and Pudong  
New Area Chuansha  
New Town solidify  
agricultural partnership

Seacare hails  
Evelyn Siow's  
new role in  
SNCF leadership



SCAN QR  
CODE FOR  
SAMUDRA  
DIGITAL  
COPY

To protect my friends  
and family from scams,  
I share the latest scam  
alerts with them and  
report scam encounters  
to the authorities.

By **TELLING** my loved  
ones and the authorities  
about scams, I can  
prevent others from  
falling prey to scams.  
You can too.

Sofea Shakil Maricar, 24

# *I Can* **ACT** Against Scams

**ADD**  
security apps and  
privacy settings

**CHECK**  
with official  
sources

**TELL**  
friends and family  
about scams



**SPOT THE SIGNS.  
STOP THE CRIMES.**



**SINGAPORE  
POLICE FORCE**  
SAFEGUARDING EVERY DAY

**tote  
board**  
Giving Hope  
Empowering Lives





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## 21 SEACARE FOCUS



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## CELEBRATING NATIONAL DAY WITH MERDEKA SENIORS OF AWWA

### SOS WOMEN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD AN EXCLUSIVE HI-TEA BUFFET

for Merdeka Seniors of AWWA Senior Community Home at Club@52 on Aug 7. The event featured an array of activities,



including songs, games and quizzes in honour of Singapore's 58th year of independence.

The 52 participants sang along with iconic national day numbers and had rounds of bingo sessions, where they won an assortment of prizes, adding excitement to the fun-filled

afternoon. The celebration was further enriched with a polaroid photo session, capturing moments of joy and laughter. Lucky draws added an extra layer of anticipation, and as a final touch, each resident received a commemorative goodie bag, thoughtfully assembled by volunteers, as a memento of the special day.

Not forgetting the seniors who were unable to attend the event, SOS's volunteers went down to AWWA Senior Community Home and to deliver the goodie bags to them.



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## MOONCAKE GIFTING TO AWWA

Volunteers from SOS and its Women & Youth wing extended their outreach by spreading the Mid-Autumn Festival joy to AWWA Senior Community Homes on Sep 26.

The volunteers personally delivered boxes of mooncakes to some 130 residents and welfare home staff. The mooncakes were distributed directly to individual living space, spanning 50 units across three floors of the facility.

As volunteers made their rounds, the atmosphere was filled with anticipation



and delight. Residents' faces lit up at the sight of the mooncakes and their smiles are a testament to SOS's success in bringing joy and a sense of belonging to the members of the community.



# NATIONAL DAY THEMED MEMBERS' NIGHT

## SOS HELD A NATIONAL DAY THEMED MEMBERS' NIGHT ON AUG 12

celebrating the special occasion with live music, performances and tribute to seafarers who play a vital role in Singapore's maritime industry.

The event was filled with laughter and camaraderie as they played nostalgic games that challenged their memories of yesteryears.

A lucky draw segment at the end of the event concluded the evening on a high note with members feeling a deeper sense of appreciation for the maritime heritage that binds them.







# SOS sets sail for the future: Unanimous EXCO election at QGM

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SOS members convened for the union's Quadrennial General Meeting (QGM) on Aug 26 at Furama City Centre Hotel

**IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS, GS DANIEL TAN** welcomed the attendees to the QGM, themed 'Empowering Seafarers for a Better Future' and reflected on initiatives undertaken by SOS to help seafarers and members in the past four years.

These initiatives include the designation of The Seacare Hotel as a crew changeover facility in Singapore and collaborations with maritime tripartite partners to safeguard seafarers' jobs during the pandemic.


Brother Tan also highlighted SOS's efforts to address the evolving needs of seafarers in the post-Covid world. He cited





various initiatives, including the recent refurbishment of the Seacare Drop-In Centre at the Pasir Panjang Terminal, which allows seafarers to unwind and enjoy high-speed internet, streaming content and seamless connection with their loved ones.

On behalf of SOS, Brother Tan expressed gratitude to all members and stakeholders, reaffirming SOS's commitment to continue innovating, adapting and collaborating with maritime partners to enhance the lives of seafarers.

A key agenda of the QGM was the election of EXCO members for the 2023-2027 term, which is crucial to shaping the future direction of SOS. All 18 EXCO nominees were successfully elected. Their unanimous election reflected the collective confidence in their leadership and set the stage for navigating the evolving post-Covid landscape of seafaring challenges and opportunities. 



All 18 EXCO  
nominees  
were  
successfully  
elected



Below: SOS  
EXCO for  
the term  
2023 – 2027





New sofa and a revamped kitchen with fresh laminates; (below): new shower screen

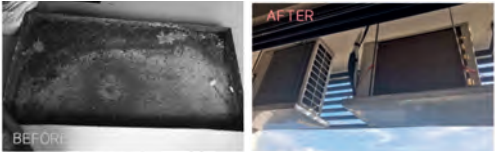


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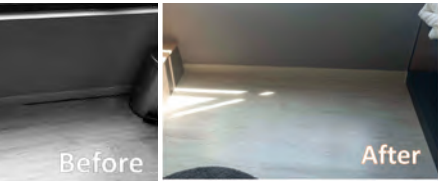
# SUASANA SUITES UNIT GETS CHIC MAKEOVER

**SOS'S SUASANA SUITES UNIT IN JOHOR BAHRU** has recently undergone a sweeping upgrade to elevate guest comfort and aesthetic appeal. Key enhancements range from modern bathroom fixtures to efficient air conditioning units and chic wallpaper. The flooring has transitioned from dated tiles to water-resistant vinyl, offering a seamless, clean look. A plush, vibrant new sofa and a revamped kitchen with fresh laminates round out the transformation. The unit now stands as a stylish, contemporary sanctuary, significantly enriching the hospitality experience for SOS members.

## AIR-CONDITIONING



## FLOOR LAMINATES



## MASTER AND COMMON TOILETS



## FLOOR SKIRTING







## NTUC WOMEN'S COMMITTEE ANNUAL SEMINAR

**THE NTUC WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CONVENED ITS ANNUAL SEMINAR IN PORT DICKSON,**

Negeri Sembilan, from Aug 27 to 29.

The event saw participation from over 55 union representatives and members of the NTUC Women and Family Unit (WAF); SOS AS Shena Foo was among the attendees.

A highlight of the seminar was a fireside chat with Malaysia politician Nicole Tan, also a Negeri Sembilan state



executive councillor. Ms Tan shared insights on Malaysia's initiatives to support working women and her leadership journey.

The seminar was a platform for WAF to update attendees on three pivotal areas: combating discrimination and harassment against women in the workplace; assisting women in re-entering the workforce; and nurturing leadership within the labour movement.

The agenda also included debates on the relevance of unions and the scope of the Tripartite Guidelines on Flexible Work Arrangements. The event concluded with team-building activities, fostering a sense of camaraderie among the participants.



# A tribute to Brother Lee Van Chong's 47 years of unwavering service

In July, SOS and Seacare convened to pay tribute to Brother Lee Van Chong, celebrating his outstanding contributions over a 47-year tenure



**AT THE CEREMONIAL EVENT, BROTHER LEE WAS PRESENTED WITH A RETIREMENT TOKEN OF APPRECIATION.** Colleagues from both organisations honoured this distinguished individual, lauding a luminary who unreservedly dedicated his life to service, marking an era of excellence and steadfast commitment.


Embarking on his career as an IRO in 1976, Brother Lee navigated through choppy waters during the formative years of SOS. With unwavering dedication, he championed seafarers' rights and safeguarded their welfare, ensuring their sacrifices were duly acknowledged and rewarded. Yet Brother Lee's aspirations extended beyond local boundaries; he consistently forged enduring and robust relations with global unions, maritime stakeholders and the wider maritime community. Such outreach

became instrumental in collaboratively addressing the multi-faceted challenges faced by seafarers on a global front.

Brother Lee was also elected as SOS treasurer, a pivotal role he served with distinction for 37 years from 1976 to 2013; before assuming the responsibilities of deputy group COO. Beyond these foundational roles, Brother Lee chaired the Investment Committee, where his strategic foresight and financial expertise fortified the union's fiscal bedrock, ensuring its stability and growth.

In addition to contributing to SOS, Brother Lee extended his influence to Seacare Manpower Services, where he served as managing director until July 2022, driving its growth. Within Seacare, he also served as deputy chairman of the Board, treasurer of the co-operative and deputy group CEO.

In recognition of his dedication, Brother Lee was awarded the prestigious Public Service Award, PBM, in 2014. While transitioning into retirement, his invaluable wisdom remains accessible; from Sep 1, 2023, he assumed the role of SOS advisor and, starting Aug 1, 2023, provides guidance as Seacare group advisor and consultant to Seacare Manpower Services.

As Mr Lee embarks on retirement, SOS and Seacare extend heartfelt appreciation and look forward to his continued counsel. We wish him a fulfilling and joyful retirement. 




# Onboard and onwards!

## GOH YI HUI JOINED SOS AS HUMAN RESOURCE & POLICY SENIOR EXECUTIVE IN MAY 2023,

bringing extensive experience in security and facility management. Inspired by his passion for judo, he embraces a positive and persevering mindset. This enables him to overcome challenges and create a better work environment.

Brother Goh's enthusiasm for working with people and helping them achieve their professional goals is evident in his role at SOS. He finds fulfillment in making a positive impact on colleagues' lives while contributing to the organisation's success; he also appreciates SOS's commitment to giving back to the community, which aligns with his values.




Brother Goh's positive attitude, diverse skill set and dedication make him an invaluable asset to the SOS family, and he is eager to continue making a difference to the maritime trade union movement. 



## EUGENE LIM JOINED SOS AS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS SENIOR EXECUTIVE IN JUNE 2023,

coming from the social service sector. With a passion for giving back to society and uplifting marginalised communities, he believes in providing a platform for those whose voices are often unheard.

Outside of work, Brother Lim enjoys immersing himself in quiet moments with a good book. His philosophy in life is to draw wisdom from diverse sources, understanding the importance of different perspectives.

The mission of SOS deeply resonates with Brother Lim as it aligns with his belief in amplifying the voices of seafarers and shining a light on the challenges they face. He is inspired by the opportunity to contribute towards creating positive change in the maritime industry. 

FOSTERING  
KNOWLEDGE  
EXCHANGE  
AND  
SOLIDARITY  
AMONG  
TRANSPORT  
UNIONISTS

**SOS WAS PRIVILEGED  
TO PARTICIPATE IN  
THE ITF ASIA-PACIFIC'S  
'Learning Journey and  
Affiliation Networking'  
event held on Sep 4 and 5.**

SOS representatives  
Brother Alan Kor, Brother  
Eugene Lim and Sister  
Moon Tan were among  
the participants who welcomed  
and engaged with delegates  
from the Indonesian Railway  
Union, Serikat Pekerja Kereta  
Api (SPKA), comprising young  
unionists from Jakarta, Padang  
and Bandung.

The participants benefitted  
from informative sessions from  
Singaporean transport unions  
such as the National Transport



Workers Union (NTWU), Singapore  
Port Workers Union (SPWU) and  
Port Officers Union (POU). The group  
also joined in a practical research  
seminar at the Singapore University  
of Social Sciences.

An educational tour of Singapore  
Mass Rapid Transit's Mandai Depot  
further enriched the learning  
experience. The gathering served as  
a valuable platform for knowledge  
exchange and relationship-building in  
the transport sector.



# Smartphone training: mastering WhatsApp and Facebook

The Seacare Maritime Hall became a bustling hub of digital enlightenment as SOS organised an engaging smartphone training workshop for members on Jul 22

**THE EVENT, WHICH DREW A CROWD OF 21 PARTICIPANTS**, zeroed in on two pivotal platforms that have fundamentally altered the landscape of human interaction: WhatsApp and Facebook.

The workshop was meticulously designed to cover the A to Z of both platforms. Participants were guided through the steps of setting up their profiles before transitioning into the intricacies of privacy settings, ensuring that attendees could navigate these platforms securely.

## Adding friends and sharing media

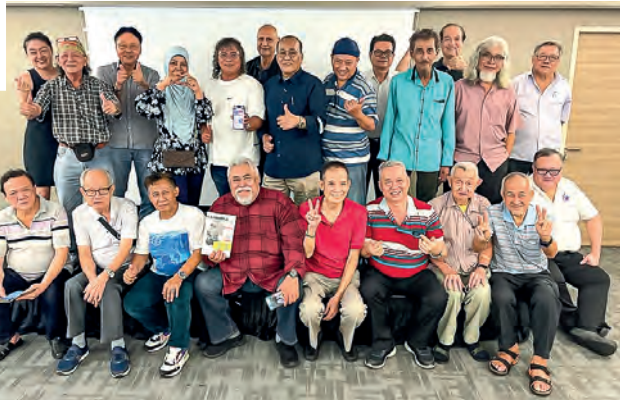
The workshop delved into the mechanics of friend requests and media sharing.



Participants learned how to connect with family and friends and enrich those relationships by sharing photos, videos and other media.

The workshop also taught them how to add SOS as a friend on Facebook and access Samudra online to keep abreast of the latest maritime developments.

The participants left the workshop with a renewed sense of community in an increasingly digital world. [s](https://www.samudra.sea.org.sg)





# Empowering members with Health & Wellness

## SOS PARTNERED WITH THE HEALTH PROMOTION BOARD

to host a Health & Wellness programme for some 40 members on Aug 12.

With a focus on fostering a healthy lifestyle, the event shared insights on chronic disease management and overall physical well-being. The agenda featured an informative talk that underscored the importance of self-care in managing chronic conditions, offering attendees actionable tips and techniques for effective health management.

The event also highlighted the multifaceted advantages of stretching and deep breathing exercises, including enhanced mobility,

increased stamina and mental clarity. The day concluded with a hands-on 'Stretch & Breathe' session, where participants were guided on safe and effective stretching techniques. **S**



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# Exploring maritime training possibilities in Hainan

## THE HAINAN (SINGAPORE) INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EDUCATION GROUP

inked an MOU with Hainan University on Jul 4 to evaluate the feasibility of maritime training initiatives in Hainan, China.

Comprising Singhai Marine Services Singapore, GPO Singapore and SOS, the group will examine the prospects for educating and training seafarers.

The exploratory phase could serve as a stepping stone for future collaborations in maritime training and offer insights into enhancing the quality and reach of maritime education. **S**





# Bridging language gaps for global seafaring

The Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute (SNIMI) held two batches of the Seacare Quality Rating Training (SQRT) from Jun 19 to Jul 14

## THE FOUR-WEEK PROGRAM AIMED TO BOOST THE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

of 46 trainees, aged between 28 and 44, to enable them to work effectively on vessels. Most of these trainees came from Jiangsu Province, with one travelling from as far as Inner Mongolia, highlighting the programme's broad reach and appeal.

The SQRT curriculum integrated the International Phonetic Alphabet into daily readings and offered practical onboard training. The trainees lauded the comprehensive curriculum. Mr Cheng Feng, a 31-year-old AB from Shanxi, credited his progress to the supportive learning



Visiting  
mock-up ship

environment and the trainers' professional expertise.

Mr Li Han Zhang, a 35-year-old OS from Jiangsu, emphasised the importance of lessons on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Fire Fighting Appliances (FFA), noting their potential life-saving applications in emergencies. The positive feedback from trainees attests to SQRT's role in transforming Maritime English from a barrier into a bridge to new career opportunities. **S**



Clockwise from left: Wearing  
fire fighting respirator;  
safety training; and safety  
briefing for all trainees





# World Maritime Theme 2024: 'Navigating the future: safety first!'

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In an era marked by swift advancements in technology and the rise of alternative energy sources, the IMO has aptly chosen 'Navigating the future: safety first!' as its theme for 2024

**THE THEME WILL SERVE AS THE CENTREPIECE** for the World Maritime Day celebrations on Sep 26, 2024.

The occasion is doubly significant as it coincides with the golden jubilee of the 1974 SOLAS Convention — an instrumental accord that has shaped the IMO's safety protocols for maritime operations.

'Navigating the future: safety first!' encapsulates the IMO's unwavering dedication to enhancing maritime safety and security, all while conscientiously safeguarding our oceans.

The theme also highlights IMO's proactive approach to staying ahead of technological shifts, thereby ensuring that maritime regulations adapt and evolve in tandem.

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim expressed his thoughts: "This theme

would allow us to focus on the full range of safety regulatory implications arising from new and adapted technologies and the introduction of alternative fuels, including measures to reduce GHG emissions from ships as IMO strives to ensure the safety and efficiency of shipping are maintained, and potentially improved so that the flow of seaborne international trade continues to be smooth and efficient."

The 2024 theme aligns with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and several other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 7, 8, 9, 13, and 14, focusing on clean energy, sustainable economic growth, resilient infrastructure, climate change action, and sustainable use of marine resources. **s**



# Hong Kong Convention ratified, set to enter into force in 2025

Convention marks a game-changing moment for ship recycling, setting a global standard for safety and environmental responsibility

## THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECYCLING OF SHIPS (HKC)

is set to enter into force on Jun 26, 2025, after the ratification by Bangladesh and Liberia, two pivotal players in the maritime world.

The HKC, adopted at a diplomatic conference held in Hong Kong, China in 2009, aims to ensure that ships, when recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and the environment.

IMO stated that the HKC embraces the 'cradle to grave' concept, addressing all environmental and safety aspects relating to ship recycling, including the responsible management and disposal of associated waste streams in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

"The convention places responsibilities and obligations on all parties concerned – including shipowners, shipbuilding yards, ship recycling facilities, flag States, port States, and recycling States."

IMO stated that ships to be sent for recycling

would be required to carry onboard an inventory of hazardous materials. Ship recycling facilities authorised by competent authorities would also be required to provide a Ship Recycling Plan, specific to individual vessel to be recycled. Additionally, governments would be required to ensure that recycling facilities under their jurisdiction comply with the convention.

Secretary-General Kitack Lim of the IMO commended Bangladesh and Liberia for ratifying HKC. Mr Lim emphasised that the convention's entry into force is a 'momentous day' for the maritime industry and particularly for ship recycling countries. **S**

A ship waste recycling site in Yau Tong, Hong Kong



# Uptick in armed robbery in Singapore Straits in first half of 2023



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The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) has unveiled its 2023 Half-Year Report, spotlighting a troubling uptick in piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) are particularly affected

**OUT OF 59 REPORTED INCIDENTS, 38 TOOK PLACE IN THE SINGAPORE STRAIT** — a 41 per cent increase from the first half of 2022. Notably, two-thirds of the targeted ships were bulk carriers in transit. A staggering 87 per cent of these incidents occurred under the cover of darkness, between 1800 to 0559 hrs. The primary targets for theft included ship stores, scrap metal, and machinery parts.

Most attacks exploited vulnerable ships — those ill-prepared, with low freeboards, and moving slowly in SOMS's restricted zones. The assailants typically employ a non-confrontational, 'hit-and-run' strategy. In 42 per cent of the Singapore Strait incidents, either nothing was stolen or losses remain unquantifiable. The remaining 58 per cent involved thefts of engine parts, ship stores, and unsecured items.

ReCAAP ISC Executive Director,

Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, said "The increase in incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore is likely due to the socio-economic situation worsened by the pandemic, lower fish catch due to climate change as also the prevailing Southwest monsoon. These factors may have led the locals of the Strait to turn to sea robbery and petty crimes to make ends meet. I urge the law enforcement agencies of coastal States to enhance surveillance, increase patrols and respond promptly to reports of incidents."

In response to the rise in piracy incidents in SOMS, ReCAAP ISC has been actively engaging the littoral States of the SOMS, the shipping industry, and relevant agencies to discuss ways to enhance cooperation and information sharing to expedite operational response to deter sea robbery incidents in the SOMS. [s](#)



# IBF deal finalised: 250,000 seafarers to receive 6 per cent pay raise

In a landmark agreement, the International Bargaining Forum (IBF) has secured a four-year deal promising wage hikes and improved working conditions for over 250,000 seafarers serving on more than 10,000 vessels.

**THE PACT WAS SIGNED IN BERLIN, GERMANY, IN SEPTEMBER,** with maritime stakeholders and union representatives, including SOS President Kam Soon Huat and HR & Policy Manager Eugene Guo.

Seafarers will benefit from a 6 per cent wage increase over two years: 4 per cent starting Jan 1, 2024, and an additional 2 per cent from Jan 1, 2025. The 2026-27 pay deal and cost items will be negotiated in 2025.

## Safety and Harassment


The agreement includes ILO Convention 190, aiming to eliminate workplace violence, discrimination and harassment. There was also a joint recognition of the importance of safe working practices in cargo lashing in the common fight against malpractice.

A new working group was also established to address industry challenges, technology shifts, alternative fuels and ensure a just transition as the industry responds to climate change.

## Additional Provisions

The Joint Negotiating Group of Maritime Employers (JNG) committed to remind members to respect national cabotage laws and to work towards providing seafarers with free internet access.



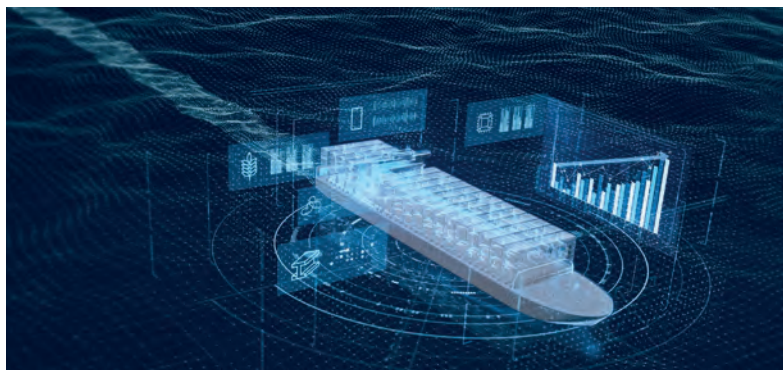
"SOS is happy with the conclusion of the IBF agreement and the wage adjustments to be made for ratings. The agreement has been forward looking in its approach to meeting the changing needs of the maritime sector. It also promotes the attraction and retention of seafarers and acknowledges their invaluable contributions," said Mr Kam .

SOS is happy with the conclusion of the IBF agreement and the wage adjustments to be made for ratings. The agreement has been forward looking in its approach to meeting the changing needs of the maritime sector.

**Kam Soon Huat**  
SOS President

# Seafarers push for worker-led tech shifts in shipping

In an era marked by swift tech innovations, seafarers are urging for a transparent, worker-led approach to incorporating autonomous ships into commercial fleets



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## A JOINT STUDY BY THE KOREA MARITIME INSTITUTE, ITF, AND KOREA INSTITUTE OF MARITIME AND FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY

underscores the irreplaceable role of human expertise in the sector, even as automation gains ground.

The study, based on in-depth interviews with 17 maritime experts, indicates that seafarers see the rise of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) as a boon, not a bane. They believe the tech leap could address various issues, from safety to environmental sustainability. However, they caution the need for transparent, reliable technology backed by government and corporate

supervision.

ITF Seafarers' Section Chair David Heindel notes that while full automation is on the horizon, it's not imminent. He believes the gradual uptick in automation

levels will not jeopardise jobs but will enhance safety and work quality. This, he says, positions the industry better to confront challenges like climate change.

The report also forecasts a sustained need for maritime skills until at least 2040, despite the gradual introduction of automation. It highlights immediate concerns, such as seafarers' well-being and the necessity for training in new tech.

Heindel adds that the maritime industry is at a pivotal stage, balancing tech evolution with the urgent need for sustainable energy. He champions the inclusion of seafarers' perspectives for a worker-led, equitable tech transition. Their firsthand experience, he contends, is vital for ensuring that tech upgrades maintain or even elevate work conditions at sea.

The findings were shared at the 107th session of the IMO Safety Committee, setting the stage for debates on competencies needed for emerging roles like remote navigation. **S**





# SOS celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival with seafarers

SOS IROs added a festive touch to their routine ship visits in September

**LED BY VICE PRESIDENT MOHAMAD ABU BAKAR, THE IROs BOARDED VESSELS BEARING BOXES OF MOONCAKES** to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with seafaring members.

The gesture was met with radiant smiles as the crew took a momentary break from their duties to partake in the festivities. The distribution of mooncakes, an iconic pastry symbolising unity and prosperity, added a touch of cultural richness to the atmosphere.

The ship visits also served as wellness check-ins as our IROs engaged with seafarers, inquiring about their working and living conditions. The IROs also encouraged the crew to visit the newly refurbished



**The ship visits also served as wellness check-ins as our IROs engaged with seafarers, inquiring about their working and living conditions**



Seacare Drop-In Centre For International Seafarers at Pasir Panjang terminal.

The crew, spending long periods away from home and their loved ones, expressed heartfelt gratitude, appreciating the IROs for both the festive delights and their genuine concern.

Ship visits form part of SOS's ongoing commitment to seafarer welfare, serving as a vital connection between seafarers and the broader maritime community. **S**





# SOS delegation forges bilateral ties with NCSU, visits Evergreen Training Center

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SOS delegates comprising President Kam Soon Huat, AS Norani Mohamad Rais and IRO Alan Kor visited the National Chinese Seamen's Union (NCSU) in Taipei in August 2023

**THE VISIT AIMED TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES** between the two maritime trade unions, particularly in the post-pandemic context.

During the visit, NCSU provided an overview of its history, welfare schemes and pandemic response measures. Both parties engaged in constructive discussions, exploring opportunities for future collaboration and sharing best practices.

The SOS delegation also toured the Evergreen Seafarer Training Center, enabling them to assess the training

equipment and programmes aimed at enhancing seafarers' skills and productivity.

The visit marks a significant step in fostering stronger ties between SOS and NCSU and providing SOS with insights into innovative maritime training facilities and modules. 






# SOS and SMOU host NCSU's visit in Singapore

In late August, SOS and SMOU had the privilege of hosting delegates from the National Chinese Seamen's Union (NCSU), led by NCSU President Chang Lieh-Jong and General Secretary Hwang Hung-Chyi

**NCSU'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE WAS PART OF A STRATEGIC EFFORT** to strengthen solidarity in the region. The engagement also served to study the best practices in Singapore, as well as to discuss key challenges in the maritime industry, including decarbonisation.

The three unions pledged to collaborate closely and build on each other's capabilities to explore potential initiatives to improve the working and living conditions of seafarers.

NCSU's visit to SOS on Aug 28 centred on gaining insights into its welfare benefits and schemes for seafaring members. The delegation also had the opportunity to tour The Seacare Hotel, which played a key role as a dedicated crew-change facility for seafarers during the pandemic. 



**NCSU's visit to SOS centred on gaining insights into its welfare benefits and schemes for seafaring members**





# FKSU delegation deepens solidarity and bilateral ties with SOS

A nine-member delegation from the Federation of Korean Seafarers' Unions (FKSU), spearheaded by President Park Seong Yong, visited SOS and SMOU on Jul 17 and 18 in a move to foster maritime unity and strengthen bilateral ties

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**FKSU'S VISIT INCLUDED A JOINT MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOS AND SMOU** at Wavelink Building.

The meeting delved into the issues confronting seafarers amid the pandemic, highlighting collective initiatives to bolster their well-being. The dialogue also explored areas of future relevance in the maritime sector, including the environmental ramifications of shipping, technological advancements in ship digitalisation and strategies for decarbonisation.

The FKSU delegation also visited SOS and met with President Kam Soon Huat and GS Daniel Tan. The



**The delegation was given an exclusive tour of The Seacare Hotel's amenities and facilities**

meeting, which included VP Mohamad Abu Bakar and ES Chen Chuanyi, offered the delegation an insightful overview of SOS and Seacare Co-operative. They were also given an exclusive tour of The Seacare Hotel's amenities and facilities.

The visit served as a testament to the growing solidarity among maritime unions, setting the stage for collaborative efforts to navigate future challenges and opportunities in the maritime industry. **S**





# SEACARE FOCUS



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Photo: The Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF)

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# Seacare hails Evelyn Siow’s new role in SNCF leadership


In a milestone achievement for Seacare Co-operative, Ms Evelyn Siow, managing director of Seacare Manpower Services, has been elected as an EXCO member and appointed as Chairperson for the Service & Campus Sector of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF)



**THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME ON THE HEELS OF THE SNCF’S TRIENNIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (TGA) ON SEP 21**, a pivotal gathering that sets the strategic direction for Singapore’s co-operative movement for the next three years.

Earlier this year, Ms Siow outperformed four strong candidates in the Service and

Campus Sector Election on Mar 10, securing her a spot on the SNCF EXCO for the 2023-2026 term. Her impressive showing led to her nomination and subsequent appointment as Chairperson for the Service & Campus Sector at the TGA.

Seacare congratulates Ms Siow and looks forward to her transformative impact on the co-operative scene. 



# Seacare Hospitality (UK) eyes strategic expansion with acquisition of Dilkhusa Grand Hotel

In a strategic move to expand its hospitality portfolio, Seacare Hospitality (UK) Ltd has announced its intent to acquire the Dilkhusa Grand Hotel

**SLATED FOR COMPLETION BY THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2023**, the acquisition could add the Victorian gem to Seacare's existing portfolio of 13 hotels. Situated in Ilfracombe, the gastronomic hub of North Devon, the hotel is surrounded by a diverse culinary landscape, ranging from artisanal cafes to restaurants with Michelin-star ambitions. This prime location provides a rich tapestry of experiences, positioning the Dilkhusa Grand Hotel as a compelling asset in a fiercely competitive market.

Architecturally, the hotel is a five-story marvel that seamlessly blends Victorian elegance with modern conveniences. With its 101 en-suite bedrooms, the property caters to a spectrum of guests, from leisure travellers to business executives. The versatility enhances the hotel's capability to generate multiple revenue streams, making it a robust player in the hospitality sector.

Adding to its investment allure, the hotel is located near key tourist sites. The scenic Ilfracombe Torrs are visible from selected rooms, a unique selling point for nature lovers. The hotel is a mere



2-minute walk from the iconic Tunnels Beaches, 6 minutes from the Holy Trinity Church and 5 minutes from the Ilfracombe Museum.

Seacare Hospitality (UK)'s planned acquisition is poised to unlock potential revenue

by tapping into Ilfracombe's burgeoning tourism sector. The Dilkhusa Grand Hotel's unique blend of historic charm and modern amenities is expected to

strengthen the firm's position in the UK hospitality market. **S**



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# Seacare OKiKi P-Hub’s first batch of Shanghai-grown vegetables debuts at Sheng Siong Supermarket

Marking a significant milestone in Singapore’s retail landscape, Seacare OKiKi P-Hub (S) Pte Ltd has successfully introduced the first batch of Shanghai-grown vegetables to Singapore in an exclusive partnership with Sheng Siong Supermarket





**THESE VEGETABLES, CULTIVATED, HARVESTED AND EXPORTED FROM SHANGHAI,** are available at selected Sheng Siong outlets, including locations with heavy foot traffic, such as Clementi West, Punggol Central and Woodlands Rd.

A celebration to mark the partnership was held at Sheng Siong's outlet at Bedok Central, Block 209 on Sep 24.

The event was graced by key figures from both organisations. Seacare OKiKi P-Hub was represented by Chairman Mr Yuan Min and board members Mr Lau Wah Ming, Mr Leow Ching Chuan, Prof. Wu Wei, Ms Kathryn Ang and Mr Leon Tan.

Sheng Siong was represented by Executive Chairman Mr Lim Hock Eng and Executive Director Ms Lin Ruiwen.



**Ms Lin presented Mr Lau with a symbolic winter melon as a commemorative gesture; Below: Sheng Siong Executive Chairman Mr Lim Hock Eng with Seacare OKiKi P-Hub Prof. Wu Wei**

As a commemorative gesture, Ms Lin presented Mr Lau with a symbolic winter melon, which featured a receipt with her signature. The winter melon was among the first batch of vegetables to debut on the shelves of Sheng Siong Supermarket.

These fresh vegetables serve as a pilot and a proof of concept that could pave the way for a wider range of Chinese agricultural produce for Singaporean consumers; it also underscores the strong business ties between Singapore and China.

As the global demand for fresh, quality produce continues to rise, such strategic partnerships play a pivotal role in meeting consumer needs, setting a precedent for future collaborations with Seacare OKiKi P-Hub in the international food trade. **S**



These fresh vegetables serve as a pilot and a proof of concept that could pave the way for a wider range of Chinese agricultural produce for Singaporean consumers

# Seacare OKiKi and Pudong New Area Chuansha New Town solidify agricultural partnership

Seacare OKiKi entered into a Strategic Cooperation Agreement with Pudong New Area Chuansha New Town, a new municipality of Shanghai, in a landmark move underlining the growing cross-border cooperation between Singapore and China

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**THE SIGNING CEREMONY, HELD AT THE SHANGRI-LA SINGAPORE ON JUL 3, 2023,** saw the attendance of a high-level delegation from Shanghai, led by Prof Ji Zhaoliang, chairman of the CPPCC Pudong New Area.

The delegates included notable figures such as Mr Wu Ganfeng, deputy secretary-general of the CPPCC Pudong New Area; Mr Shen Min, mayor of Chuansha New Town; Mr Yuan Xuewu, deputy director of the Commerce Committee of Pudong

New Area; Mr Li Tao, division head of the Commerce Committee of Puxin District; and Ms Xu Yuehua from the Pudong New Area Commerce Committee.

The ceremony was also graced by luminaries, including former Minister of State Prof Chan Soo Sen (Guest-of-Honour), who was the first president of the



Guest-of-Honour Prof Chan Soo Sen



Suzhou Singapore Industrial Park; Dr Lee Peng Shu, president of the Singapore Sam Kiang Huay Kuan and former standing director of Pudong New Area Foreign Chambers of Commerce; Ms Lin Ruiwen, executive director of Sheng Siong Group; and Mr Terence Zhao, chairman of Singhai Marine Group.

Mr Goh Yeow Tin, director of Seacare OKiKi; Prof Wu Wei (NTU), director of Seacare OKiKi; and 18 Seacare management staff jointly witnessed the ceremony. The compere was Ms Shena Foo, deputy chairman of Seacare Co-operative Ltd.

Termed the “Strategic Cooperation Agreement” the pact focuses on the mutual goal of promoting the implementation of the Seacare OKiKi (Chuansha) High-tech Agricultural Park Project, reflecting the shared vision of both parties for sustainable future growth and innovation in the agricultural sector.

The event commenced with a warm welcome speech by Mr Yuan Min, chairman of Seacare OKiKi. Mr Yuan thanked the delegates for their presence, acknowledging their instrumental roles in bringing the partnership to fruition.

The floor was then given to the distinguished guests, Prof Ji and



**Prof Ji Zhaoliang, chairman of the CPPCC Pudong New Area**

Prof Chan, who highlighted the significance of the collaboration and the development of talent, technology and cooperation in the agricultural business.

Both emphasised the transformative potential of this partnership, not just for the agriculture sector but also for the broader economic and social development of China and Singapore.

The much-anticipated signing ceremony kicked off, officiated by Mr Shen Min, mayor of Chuansha New Town, alongside Mr Lau Wah Ming, director of Seacare OKiKi.

Four eminent figures – Prof Ji, Prof Chan, Mr Yuan Min and Mr Leow Ching Chuan (Executive Chairman of Seacare Co-operative Ltd) – served as official witnesses, underscoring the significance of the agreement and a new beginning of a robust partnership between Seacare OKiKi and Pudong New Area.

Post-signing, the delegates and attendees commemorated the occasion with a group photo, capturing the landmark moment before a dinner reception, marking the end of the memorable evening. **S**





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# Igniting community spirit with Mid-Autumn Festival extravaganza at Club@52

Seacare Co-operative celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival with senior residents of the Jalan Kukoh and Chin Swee on the evening of Sep 27 in a heartwarming community gathering at Club@52

**THE EVENT WAS A VIBRANT SPECTACLE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND A LOGISTICAL FEAT,** with Club@52's floor space maxed out to accommodate 120 residents.

The air was thick with laughter and applause as the residents clapped, danced and lent their voices to festive evergreens. For many residents of Chin Swee, it was their first time attending such an event, turning the venue into a space of newfound connection.

"Through our ongoing CSR initiatives, we are extending our



care, love and joy to you, the residents dear to us; Every effort, every smile we bring, makes it all worthwhile. This Mid-Autumn Festival is just the beginning of our continuous journey of giving and community-building





that Seacare is honoured to lead,” said Kathryn Ang, in her welcome speech.

The residents enjoyed a sumptuous meal served in special bento boxes, which they could bring home and re-use. Beyond the gastronomic delights, the celebration featured songs and entertainment by celebrity singers.

The highlight of the evening was the gifting of a \$50 Hong-Bao (red packet) and a set of mooncakes for each resident, distributed by Chairman of Seacare Holdings, Mr Kong Mun Kwong and Chairman of Seacare Foundation Mr Goh Yeow Tin and other senior management.



**The highlight of the evening was the gifting of a \$50 Hong-Bao (red packet) and a set of mooncakes for each resident**



The event was made possible with the hardworking volunteers of Jalan Kukoh RC and Chin Swee RC, who were instrumental in organising the residents to the event. **S**





# Celebrating Mid-Autumn with Mooncake gifting to Jalan Kukoh and Chin Swee residents

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In celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival, traditionally marked by family reunions and the savouring of mooncakes, Seacare Co-operative distributed 360 boxes of these symbolic treats to residents of Jalan Kukoh and Chin Swee communities

**THE ANNUAL INITIATIVE, UNDERTAKEN IN COLLABORATION WITH TWO RESIDENTS' COMMITTEES (RC),** forms part of Seacare's ongoing community outreach efforts to bring joy to the community.

Most of the mooncakes — 300 boxes — were delivered to Jalan Kukoh RC, a long-standing collaborator in Seacare's community initiatives. Breaking new ground, Seacare gifted 60 boxes to Chin Swee residents for the first time. The residents,

mostly elderly, responded with heartfelt smiles and excitement, turning a simple act of giving into a heartfelt community connection.

Kathryn Ang, the Chairperson behind the initiative, took a hands-on approach by personally distributing the mooncakes to Chin Swee residents and Jalan Kukoh residents. More than just a ceremonial role, she spent time interacting with the residents, asking about their well-being and engaging in meaningful conversations.

For these residents, the mooncakes were more than just a festive delight; they symbolised unity, respect and a promise of ongoing community support. Such simple gestures do sometimes leave lasting impressions. **S**





# Club@52 OPENS FOR *Private Events*



## OPERATION HOUR

**MON – SAT**

(closed on Sun/PH)

**DAY EVENT** 10am – 5pm  
**NIGHT EVENT** 5.30pm – 1am

**CAPACITY**  
up to 150 pax

## FACILITIES

- 8 foot pool table
- Surround sound Karaoke system
- High stool/high table seating

## PACKAGE

- Venue Rental at S\$850++ inclusive of free flow of soft drinks
- Halal catering menu available for selection
- Other beverages at bar price



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