# SAMUDRA

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

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# FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR SEAFARERS CALLING AT PASIR PANJANG TERMINAL

hanks to SOS, seafarers calling at PSA's Pasir Panjang Terminal in Singapore can now enjoy free, on-demand shuttle service.

An initiative of the Union and supported by Seacare Co-operative and PSA Singapore, the service goes a long way to help maximise shore time for visiting seafarers in addition to the scheduled Pasir Panjang Terminal bus service.

"We hope to reduce transport waiting time for seamen, who otherwise have limited time on shore, due to shorter turnaround times in ports," said SOS General Secretary, Kam Soon Huat.

The shuttle service ferries seafarers from bus stops at the berths to-and-fro the Seacare Drop-In Centre For International Seafarers, a resting point that provides free WIFI

Seacare Drop-in Centre for International Sealaren

and beverages. The centre is a short walk to the terminal's canteen and crew immigration.

The service, launched on The Day of the Seafarers, on 25 June, is part of a series of initiatives rolled out by SOS to improve the working and living condition of seamen.



- Tang, 3rd Officer, APL Detroit

We appreciate the service provided by SOS. It is more convenient and we have no worries getting back to the ship on time.

– Lin Yu, 2nd Officer, Seaspan Chiwan



## SEAFARERS' WELFARE SURVEY SHED LIGHT

Seafarers' Welfare survey conducted by SOS shed light on the concerns of cooks in performing their duties as spelled out by the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006.

With the assistance of shipping companies and social partners supporting and facilitating the survey, SOS reached out to cooks working onboard 41 vessels to understand the long term effects of the MLC on seafarers and identify the challenges they face in ensuring food safety and quality of onboard.

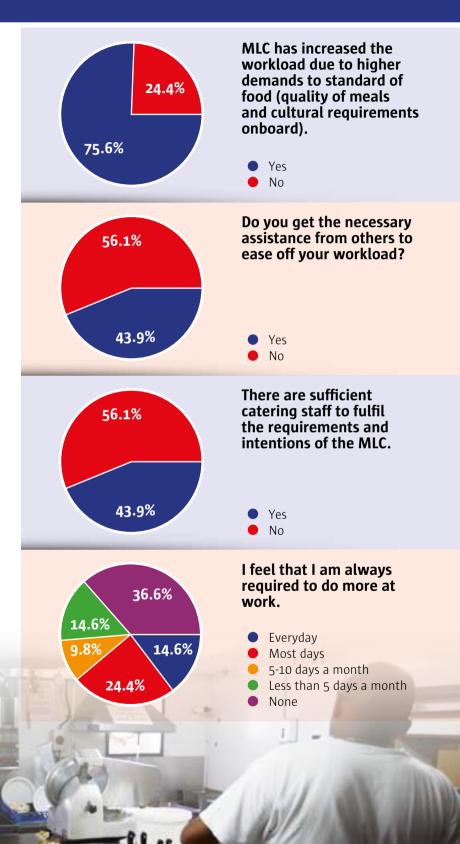
The full findings will be shared with the shipowners and the shipping community at large to help resolve some of the concerns currently faced by the seafarers and improve their daily operations onboard vessels.

The survey covered 29 cooks who sail on container ships, six on oil tankers, four on car carriers and one each on a fishing vessel and a dry bulk ship. Among the 41 responders, only one did not know his rights and entitlements as a seafarer, as spelled out in the MLC 2006. Out of the 40 who knew their rights; 33 felt they could benefit from the MLC, with seven seafarers feeling otherwise.

SOS would like to sincerely thank the shipping companies and their social partners for their assistance in carrying out the survey.

For the complete survey result, visit the Bulletin Board at

www.sosea.org.sg





### **KSSU LEARNING VISIT**



wo officials from Korea Special Seafarers' Union (KSSU) had the first-hand perspective on SOS work when they were here for a learning visit.

The SOS team engaged the visitors on 26 April 2018 by sharing the uniqueness of the Union and highlighted the work it does to

improve the lives of seafarers through the range of membership benefits, welfare schemes, events and industrial relations matters.

Besides the meeting at Seacare Building, Yun Hyen-No, General Manager of International Department, and Kim, Bu-Young, Manager, Organisation & Negotiation Department, also visited Seacare Dropin Centre at Pasir Panjang Terminal to check out the shore facilities available for seafarers.

The joint meeting (SOS, SMOU and KSSU) inspired a better understanding and appreciation of each other.

## CALLING FOR GLOBAL SEAFARER WAGE INCREASE

he time has come for a significant rise in the global minimum wage for seafarers.

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and Nautilus International will be making the call for "real" increase in monthly pay for the world's lowest paid seafarers at the Joint Maritime Commission – an International Labour Organisation (ILO) standing body.

The Commission, which includes ship owner and seafarer representatives, is responsible for setting the global minimum wage for seafarers – currently the equivalent of approximately USD614 per month.

In the press release, Nautilus International General Secretary Mark Dickinson was quoted as saying that seafarers commonly work over 90 hours a week, and are away from home for up to eight months at a time.

"When you consider what seafarers endure at work and the

efficiencies that the merchant navy has achieved in recent years, as well as the importance of cargo carrying to the global community, it is clear that the time has come for a significant rise." he said.

"The case I will be making in Geneva is fundamentally a moral oneseafarers deserve a pay rise. Seafarers deliver for us every day, it is time we delivered for them."

The Commission will be meeting to decide the global minimum wage agreement in Geneva in November 2018.





# TOLL LEADS THE WAY TO PUT WORKERS FIRST

he Toll Group has signed a 'global charter of principles' with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and its affiliated unions.

The charter, which was launched at the ITF Singapore office on 25 April, outlines "guiding principles by which crucial decisions will be made around the working conditions for Toll workers focusing on health and safety standards, business strategies and initiatives, improvements in working conditions in developing countries and the development of projects

that increase industry standards and safety".

By signing the agreement, Toll Group has committed to abide by international labour standards and underlines its strong commitment to ensuring safe and fair working standards for all its 44,000 employees in road transport and distribution, logistics, supply chain and warehousing across its 1,200 sites in 50 countries.

The event was attended by ITF General Secretary Stephen Cotton, ITF



Head of Inland Transport Noel Coard, National Secretary of the Transport Workers' Union (TWU) Tony Sheldon and Michael Byrne, Managing Director of Toll.

Cotton said: "The unions we represent continually strive to protect and honour their members and today marks a giant step in the right direction for raising standards for workers."

## IFOMS STAYS INFORMED

he delegation of six youths from the Independent Federation of Myanmar Seafarers (IFOMS) came hungry to learn and network with SOS leaders.

For two days on 7 to 8 May 2018, the visitors caught the passion and commitment of SOS to enhance the workers' welfare. The host was more than happy to share the unique SOS



story and the membership benefits, welfare scheme and social activities it offers and organises for the seafarers. SOS also touched on the industrial climate that Singapore enjoys.

The exchange programme included the visit to Wallenius Marine

office where the delegates had a dialogue with Capt San Win; and a tour of Wavelink Maritime Institute simulation centre.

Established in 2014, the relatively young IFOMS is all set to develop and grow.

SOS PRESIDENT VISITS MTWTU

OS President Mohamad Abu Bakar visited the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union (MTWTU) of Ukraine from 9 to 11 May 2018.

He was among the regional seafaring unions delegates invited to grace a range of activities such as the Education, Training & Crewing Conference 2018; Europe-Asia Maritime Summit; and the tour of the new MTWTU Head Office.

"It is an excellent opportunity for us to better understand the development of the Maritime economy in Ukraine, as we work towards a stronger solidarity among maritime unions to improve the lives of seafarers," he said.

MTWTU posted a message in LinkedIn, thanking the guests for the visit and support: "Three days, ten foreign guests, six events the MTWTU has taken part in – it's time to remember what we do and what we've done!"









May, 10 - 11, 2019 externational Conference on Seafarers EDUCATION, TRAINING & CREWING



## AN EYE-OPENING LEARNING VISIT TO CSU







n eye-opening and enriching learning visit to Beijing, China, saw a delegation of 15 SOS Executive Committee members, Standing Committee members, Union and Seacare staff coming home with a new found knowledge.

Organised by SOS Leadership Development Committee, the trip on 3 to 7 May 2018 gave an opportunity for the delegation to dialogue with the officials from Chinese Seamen and Construction Workers' Union (CSU) and All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) over at the CSU office.

Both unions shared their experiences and exchanged ideas pertaining to union members' benefits, welfare programmes and efforts in promoting seafaring careers. Mr Zhang Jingyi, CSU Vice-Chairman also warmly hosted a lunch reception for the Singapore guests.

The highlights of the learning trip included a visit to Tianjin Port where the participants gained insights on the container port and cruise terminal operations. The delegation also toured Sinotrans Logistics, a state-owned and largest logistics company in China, and saw how the warehouse leveraged on new technology and automation in storage management.

















# SQRT 51 & SQCT 52 GRADS READY TO SAIL CONFIDENTLY

ongratulations to the class of Seacare Quality Rating Training (SQRT) 51 and Seacare Quality Cooks Training (SQCT) 52 for completing the four-week course offered by Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute (SNIMI).

The maritme ratings, who attended the course which ran concurrently from 2 May to 28 May 2018 at Nantong Shipping College, not only found their English proficiency improved by many notches, they also gained new found technical knowledge of working onboard a ship.

The trainers covered topics on familiarisation onboard, fire fighting, safety onboard, behaviour and work attitude, personal protective equipment, basic understanding of personal hygiene, garbage management on board, introduction to international regulation and more.

For these deck and engine ratings and cooks, the course goes a long way in building up their confidence and preparing them to work onboard with multi-national crew.

Over all, the performance of the SQRT 51 class is satisfactory. The trainees are hardworking and they have good attitude towards learning. We could see improvements week by week.

Most of them are ready to join ship after learning about basic maritime English communication, cross-cultural integration and safety procedures on board.

- Capt John Liew, Training Manager, Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute

The trainees' attitude was exemplary. They were very eager to learn and to join the ship. Most of them are experienced Chinese seafarers but their level of spoken English is not good enough to communicate with others. After training, most of them are good enough to work in mix-crew vessels.

- SQCT 52 Trainer, Lilith

The course helps me a lot. I can't speak English before. Now I can with the encouragement from the course trainer. I got to know more people and basic safety on board.

- SQRT 51 Trainee, Chao Xiang Yang

The English speaking environment and good trainers help us to improve our standard of oral Maritime English. I enjoyed speaking the language and learning about safety on board.

- SQCT 52 Trainee, Chen Hong

# INDONESIAN AB SEAMEN TURN CERTIFIED COOKS

eacare Thrift conducted two batches of Certified Cooks Training Course for Indonesian Able-Bodied seamen (AB) cum Chief Cooks from Ocean Tankers Pte Ltd in May 2018.

The training on Food Hygiene was useful as it covered important points about sanitary food handling, like preventing cross contamination and checking the temperature danger zone.

The two classes held on 3-4 May and 24-25 May 2018 respectively, covered aspects of sanitary food handling, such as preventing crosscontamination and ensuring personal hygiene and food safety.

The trainees had to undergo a refresher course on First Aid and the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006. They also had to pass a gruelling 80-question assessment in order to be certified competent to be Ships' Cooks in the galley.

The course is recognised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and aligns with the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 requirements.









UNIQUE WAYS TO CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY



others of all races and ages were gathered under one roof to celebrate a special day dedicated to them.

The SOS Women and Youth Committee honoured the mums, comprising of members, members' spouses and mothers, on Mother's Day at Club@52 on 12 May 2018, by pampering them with fun entertainment such as make-up session, cake decoration by their loved ones and brush calligraphy name cards specially created to delight them.

All of them went home with well-deserved sweet memories of their Union and families showing touching appreciation for their sacrifices.

















### facebook

S SOS Women & Youth

#SOS #Seacare #WYC #sosea #youth@sosea











# RAYA TIME – A SPECIAL FAMILY TIME

aya time is a special time for the family. For SOS, family extends beyond its members to include those in need in the community.

Besides SOS members, Hari Raya cheers were brought to close to 70 residents from AWWA Community Home for Senior Citizens, Jamiyah Home for the Aged (Darul Takrim), Ramakrishna Mission Boys' Home, and Darul Ihsan Orphanage (Boys & Girls).

Held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel on 29 June, the SOS Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration had Mr Zainal Sapari, NTUC Assistant Secretary-General, and Member of Parliament for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC, as the Guest-of-Honour.

The joy began with the pre-event activities like Instant Photo Booth Jelly Candle Making and Roving Kampung Games.

Various performances, lucky draw and stage games were specially put up for the enjoyment of all. The audience beamed with ecstatic smiles when veteran performer Rahimah Rahim appeared on stage to sing her evergreen songs. The antics of the famous Malay entertainer Suhaimi Yusof were met with hearty laughter.

The beneficiaries were specially thankful for receiving green packets presented by Mr Zainal Sapari, General Secretary Kam Soon Huat, SOS Advisor Mr Zulkifli Mohammed and SOS President Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar. They left the event feeling grateful for being able to have such a heart-warming experience.













































## REWARDING TIME BLESSING THE COMMUNITY



1 00 Muslim families living in 10 blocks of flats located at Jalan Kukoh were in for a heartwarming surprise on the Friday night of 8 June 2018.

A group of 41 volunteers, making up of SOS Exco/Standing Committee members, SOS/Seacare staff and SNCF staff, had spent some time packing \$100 worth of seafood, cookies, dates and chocolates into each chiller bag to be personally delivered to the homes. They did this with much love and care knowing how much joy and delight they

















would bring to the beneficiaries.

Accompanied by the Jalan Kukoh Resident Community representatives, the volunteers, divided into 7 teams, visited the households. Besides the chiller bag of food and goodies, each family also received \$60 cash given out in green packets.

The most uplighting moment was the connection the volunteers had with the residents when they asked about their well-being and wished them an early Hari Raya greeting.



grateful for the SOS and Seacare's kind gestures and happily posed for photos with the volunteers. For those who served, they were rewarded with a strong sense of fulfillment of having done something good to bless the community. No matter how humid the































# THE FIRST MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION WITH JALAN KUKOH'S RESIDENTS



others in the Jalan Kukoh community were in for a special treat. For the first time, Seacare celebrated Mother's Day with 110 residents living in the estate, honouring them for their sacrificial contribution to their families.

The guests, with age ranging from 55 to 95 years, turned up at Club@52 on 11 May 2018 dressed to the nines, all ready to have a good time. Among them were an 89 year old Malay senior and a 95 year old Chinese elderly.

An initiative of SOS and Seacare staff, the event saw 20 volunteers helping out at the photo booth, serving food, distributing gifts and ushering the guests.

The guests were seen soaking in the personal attention and many sang, hummed and clapped along to evergreen songs and latest hits belted out by the entertainers. Some even got off their seats and danced on stage.

The mothers went home with a stylish designer handbag and six bottles of birdnest; a pink carnation and a heart fill with glee.











## GET HIGH ON VIEWS AT HIGH FUSION SKY BAR

ars are great for catching up with your friends, but when you're looking for something more special, rooftop bars have it all - from the chill alfresco setting to the sweeping views of the city. There's no better place to wind down and fuel up than the High Fusion Sky Bar at Seacare Hotel.

High Fusion Sky Bar joins the elite group of rooftop bars with views in Singapore. Launched on 4 June, the bar offers a unique and authentic dine and drink experience. The food and drinks served here are of top quality, crafted with customers in mind, and most definitely not going to break the bank. Along with the spectacular view of Singapore's downtown area, and amazing crew members, this bar will be one of the go-to places.

Able to accommodate up to 80 patrons, the food and drinks menu is extensive. Order our most sought-after dish - wagyu beef dons, or perhaps fresh oysters and hot salted egg yolk fish skin if you are craving for seafood. For drinks,

a variety of cocktails, beers and whisky, are handpicked to suit your palate.

The place is for anyone who wants to have fun while enjoying time with friends be it having a party or rooting for your favourite football team. High Fusion Sky Bar is also ideal for businesses who wish to book the space for meetings during the day. You can simply pop by for business or casual lunch, with set lunches starting at only \$15.

So, next time, when you're ready to get social, get up and out to High Fusion Sky Bar, instead of your usual drinking and eating haunt. There's plenty of great chews and brews, among best buds. You'll be loving the fresh air and cool breeze. And well, there'll be the much-coveted rooftop view.

#### Sky Bar Opening Hours

11am to 12am 11am to 2am Sundays to Thursdays Fridays, Saturdays, and eve of public holidays.









## ACLC GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

eacare Co-operative leaders recognised the benefits of being stronger through collaboration when they gathered together for the 2018 Annual Co-operative Leaders' Conference (ACLC) in Phuket Thailand, from 21 to 24 April 2018.

The gathering of 120 cooperative leaders and speakers was the largest turnout, spread across 28 co-operatives. Focused on the theme, 'Stronger Together: Collaboration for a Sustainable Future' the conference kickstarted with SNCF Chairman Kwek Kok Kwong, sharing his vision that the co-op movement can continue to grow and remain sustainable through collaboration.

This year, co-operative leaders were in for a treat with the insights of keynote speaker Mr Heng Chee How, Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Secretary-General of NTUC. He reminded co-operators that Co-ops are businesses driven by values, and not just profit. Through collaboration, co-ops are able to deliver greater impact. Mr Heng challenged co-ops to think critically about whether their business is the preferred partner. He also advocated that change should come naturally and past results do not guarantee future success. He further emphasised that to

stay relevant; companies need to have the DIANA factors – Data, Innovation, Adaptation, Network, and Agility, and be the organisation that "make things happen."

Seacare Deputy CEO and SNCF ExCo member Shena Foo drove the point of collaboration even further, when she shared how SOS and Seacare Co-operative joined forces to make the lives of their members, and community better. She elaborated on the progress that SOS and Seacare have made throughout the years, the challenges they face and their contributions towards improving the lives of the less privileged.









In all, the conference speakers shared collaborative efforts and opportunities to build an even more robust and sustainable co-op movement in Singapore. The speakers included Mr Tng Ah Yiam, Deputy CEO and Head of Products, NTUC FairPrice Co-operative, Mr Aaron Lee, Co-Founder of Jaga-Me, Mr Anan Chatrupracheewin, who has retired from the Federation of Savings and Credit Co-operatives of Thailand, Ms Clara Lee, Head of Corporate Communication and Branding, NTUC Health, Ms Guo Meiqi, an SNCF Scholar currently working at NTUC First Campus, and Mr Kenneth Kwan from Deep Impact.

The conference ended with a farewell gala dinner where participants enjoyed cultural dance performances, cabaret show, lucky draw and games!















## **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 You may also contact us at:

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

# SHUTTLE **ALL SEAFARERS**

SOS Shuttle At Your Service Shore Time Is Precious!

# +65 8414 0085

Call, SMS, WhatsApp or WeChat



@ PSA Pasir Panjang Terminal Service starts 25 June 2018

Operating/Booking Hours: 14:00 - 22:00

- Subject to advance booking & availability
  - Weekdays excluding Public Holidays
    - Last booking @ 21:30

In support of seafarers

Pick-up & Drop-off Point; Bus stop @ ship's berth to/from Seacare Drop-In Centre For International Seafarers



