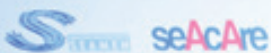


Issue 5
18/19

SAMUDRA

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

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 **seAcAre**

Hong Bao Presentation & Lunar New Year Celebration

Guest-of-Honour: Mr Ong Ye Kung
Minister for Education
12 February 2019



*Toss to
Tripartism*



Issue 5
18/19

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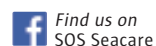
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Welcome the People Person



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MARITIME COMMUNITY CELEBRATES FAMILY TOGETHERNESS

Lunar New Year is a good time for the maritime community to celebrate “family”.

SOS and Seacare gathered more than 1100 guests from the maritime community, government agencies, SOS members, SOS & Seacare business associates, and welfare homes, for the Hong Bao Presentation and Lunar New Year Celebration. The

joyous event was held at Fairmont Ballroom, Raffles City Convention Centre on 12 February 2019.

Standing up to address guests for the first time as General Secretary of SOS, Mr Daniel Tan highlighted watershed moments in 2018. On the global maritime industry front, the future of work is redefining the way people work, causing uncertainty

about technology and automation. He encouraged seafarers to look at technology as a friend and not a foe. “The future of work is here to stay and with the right attitude to learn and upgrade, our seafarers, with the Unions’ help, can have better wages, better welfare and a better life.”

Guest-of-Honour Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education attested to the work of the union. Amidst the global shipping downturn, SOS had disbursed more than S\$3 million to protect members’ employment and provide training opportunities for them. He went on to affirm the good work of the union and looked forward to strong tripartism.

SOS and Seacare continued its legacy of care and chose to remember the important things in life – fostering good relationship, taking care of its members and the needy. 80 residents from four charities - AWWA Community Home for Senior Citizens, Jamiyah Home for the Aged (Darul Takrim), Sree Narayana Mission Home for the Aged Sick, and Ling



Kwang Home for Senior Citizens, were among the guests. The beneficiaries were humbled by the generosity of the hosts who not only welcomed them every year but also presented each with a \$50 hongbao.

Highlights of the event included the presentation of Appreciation Awards to Brother Sim Hor Pheng and late Brother Chen Soh Har for their invaluable contributions to the union and Labour Movement. Four awardees for the 30 years Long Membership Awards, also went on stage to represent 16 other recipients in this category. More than \$30,000 worth of hongbaos were also presented to retired seamen during the luncheon.



SOS Long Membership Award (30 years) Recipients 2019

Leong Poh Hoong	Jamaluddin B Abu Bakar	Shafie B Sham
Harun B Salleh	Mahmod B Mohalas	Chan Chung Long
Imran B Mohamad Yusoff	Mohd Razali B Saat	Liew Kwee Soon
Abdul Kahar B Othman	Hazman B Madon	Tan Jock Kwang
Abdul Hamid B Ma'arof	Onn B Hashim	Abdul Samad B Haron
Muhsin B Abdullah	Azahar B Asard	Lee Tiaw Gee
Mohamed B Keling	Izzat B Hamzah	

Appreciation Awards

Honoured for their contributions to SOS and the Labour Movement



Brother David Sim (centre) accepting his Appreciation Award.



SOS is such a big part of my life and whatever I do flows naturally from my desire to serve the members well as they are family to me. I am very grateful for the Union for letting me contribute to this noble cause.

– **Brother David Sim**



SOS is like a family to my brother. His whole life centred around his family where he was the eldest of the 10 children; and the Union. My mum cut and pasted all the Samudra articles that featured my brother on the wall. We also found many course certificates. We are very proud of my brother and SOS for remembering him.

– **Ms Cheng Kum Kee, sister of late Brother Chen Soh Har, who received the award on behalf of her brother. Brother Soh Har passed away on 29 September 2018.**

I stayed with the union because they have been doing a good job taking care of its members. For me, I have benefited through the study grant offered to my children, the seafarers' accommodation scheme, and the trips organised for members.

– **Mohamed B Keling (2nd from left)**

After joining the union, I realised that it really lives up to its name of caring for the welfare of its members and their family. SOS has done well. I wish SOS greater prosperity. When the union does well, it will in turn be able to share its blessings with its members.

– **Shafie B Sham (3rd from left)**

The union has been good to me all these years, ensuring that the welfare needs of myself and my family are taken care of. I have personally enjoyed the benefits and care of the union. Thank you, SOS.

– **Chan Chung Long (3rd from right)**

I am really happy to receive this award. Besides the members' night where I can meet my old friends and win lucky draw prizes, my other favourite SOS event is this Lunar New Year celebration. I also enjoyed the overseas trips and have travelled to Cambodia, Bali and more.

– **Mr Lee Tiaw Gee (2nd from right)**





AN INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEY TO SHENZHEN

NTUC IR SECTOR SEMINAR

NTUC affiliates kickstarted 2019 with an eye-opening Industrial Relations Sector Seminar in Shenzhen, China's hi-tech hub, from 3 to 6 January.

SOS Emeritus General Secretary (EGS) Kam Soon Huat, General Secretary (GS) Daniel Tan and Executive Secretary (ES) Sharon Li were among the 145 unionists from 51 affiliate unions who participated in the seminar that fostered a new thinking on "A Future Ready Workforce".

The delegation was split into three different groups for the learning journey. Brother Kam visited BYD Auto; Brother Daniel toured Tencent and Sister Sharon went over to Foxconn Agritech to have a better insight on the culture, operations, people development practices and technological innovations of these globally successful companies.

The participants also gained a better insight of how these companies worked with unions to help the workforce adapt to changes and how they motivate the employees, for example, by making them compete in teams against each other to come out with innovative ideas for the company's development.

The Singapore unionists found themselves engaged in deep discussions on ways to inspire members to excel in new working environments after visiting three internationally renowned high-tech companies.

What a great way to start the new year – inspired through the learning journeys and discussions to prepare for a future ready workforce.

BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DFC RENEWED

SOS / SMOU welcomed the visit by Brother Karsten Kristensen, National Secretary, Transport Section of the United Federation of Danish Workers (3F), who also represented the Danish ITF FOC Coordination Committee (DFC).

SOS enjoyed close bilateral ties and cooperation with ITF Danish

affiliates through regular exchange of views on shipping trends and acknowledging the benefits of close cooperation for the betterment of seafarers.

SOS, SMOU and DFC agreed to strengthen ties through a bilateral arrangement for a term of 3 years. Present at the bilateral

arrangement with DFC, represented by Brother Karsten Kristensen, were SOS representatives – Emeritus General Secretary (EGS) Kam Soon Huat, General Secretary (GS) Daniel Tan, Assistant Secretary (AS) Chen Chuanyi and SMOU representatives – Executive Secretary Alvin Cheong and Secretary Terence Tan.



LIGHTING UP THE LIVES OF ALL SEAMEN



SOS Industrial Relations team was on a mission to “light-up” the lives of seafarers.

Between the months of December 2018 and January 2019, SOS IR officers boarded some 27 CBA vessels, and presented LED table lamps to more than 300 seafarers. The act of distributing this practical gift was the union’s way of showing appreciation to seafarers working on board ships.

Each rating onboard the vessels received a Universal Serial Bus (USB) chargeable LED table lamp that could be charged and used without the need of a power source. This function allows the portability of the lamp and the brightness can be changed to fit different environment – good for use at home and onboard.

More than just the giving of lamps, SOS IR officers bore news from the union through Samudra magazines, and a book entitled Dreaming of a Better Life by Stefan Lindberg and Lennart Johnsson. SOS IR officers also spent time engaging seafarers on their health and well-being, to show that the union cares and is there for its members.





BIGGER BRIGHTER SOS NEW YEAR RECEPTION IN MANILA



This year's SOS New Year Reception in Manila was bigger and grander at SMX Convention Centre. That's because more than 850 SOS Filipino members, their families, manning agencies' representatives, SOS & Seacare associates and partners, SOS committee members and staff gathered to build familial bonds on 11 January 2019.

With the theme of Masiskara Festival – one of Philippine's most colourful festival, SOS promised a night of colourful celebration, packed with exciting pre-event activities, international buffet spread, lineup of entertainment and performances, gifts and lucky draw prizes.

In his welcome note, SOS Treasurer David Shoo commended on the quality of Filipino seafarers and contributions of Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP) – **"In SOS, we have a large number of Filipino members. We're glad to see that the quality of Filipino seafarers have risen over the years. This is also because of the immense and long-term effort of the AMOSUP. Under its training arm, the MAAP, quality seafarers are being produced and supplied to the shipping industry every year."** David further added that SOS will continue to work closely with AMOSUP and explore possible collaborations for the betterment of Filipino seafarers.



Guest-of-Honour Dr Conrado F Oca, President of AMOSUP congratulated SOS for organising the event for Filipino members. He said – "The life of a seafarer is tough. Filipinos value family relationship. The event is helpful in bringing together families, unions, employers and manning agents." Dr Conrado also congratulated SOS Emeritus General Secretary (EGS) Kam Soon Huat on being elected as an Executive Board member of the ITF, and Mr Daniel Tan on being the new General Secretary of SOS.

Happy that SOS takes care of Filipino members well, AMOSUP hopes to establish closer collaborations with SOS and other unions to further improve the lives of Filipino members. As a gesture of the good relations SOS has with AMOSUP, a memento gift in the form of a Prosperous Rice Bowl was presented by SOS President Mohamad Abu Bakar, to Dr Conrado F Oca.



The night of celebration was not only in colourful Masiskara style, it was heartwarming with the performance of the children's choir from the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul. To support the good work, EGS Kam Soon Huat, represented the Union to present a cheque to the children's orphanage.

The SOS New Year Reception was well remembered and appreciated for the feast of delicious international fare, songs of Andrew E – well-known Filipino rapper,



record producer and actor, the antics of entertainer Lovely Abella, and the chance of winning great lucky draw prizes.

But the night was most well remembered for the deeper connections made with the maritime community in the Philippines. SOS has been organising celebration parties for its Filipino members since 2006. It's a party every member wants to go to.

First time attending the members' party, shipowner representative Erle Miranda from Epic Ship Management said, **"The SOS New Year Reception in Manila is a much-anticipated event and everyone wants to be invited! The union gets to meet its members and spend an evening celebrating together with their families. This event helps bring the industry closer."**

Attending for the first time, Marlou Belandres from Magasaysay travelled 2 hours to get to the event. **"I look forward to meeting up with new friends and the entertaining performances. Will definitely share all the best moments with my friends who missed it, and encourage them to join."**



Eric Caranis, who works with Epic Gas, came with his wife and two kids. **"This is a good time to network with seafarers and allow families to spend time together. For my family, this event has been an enjoyable experience, as there were activities for all ages."**





SQRT 58 – RAISING QUALITY MARITIME RATINGS



Since 2008, SOS has added value to its Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) companies, through the Seacare Quality Ratings Training (SQRT), under the Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS).

Into its 58th run, another new batch of 25 maritime ratings, successfully completed their course offered by Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute (SNIMI). Held at JiangSu Vocational & Technical Shipping College (formerly known as Nantong Shipping College), the course which ran from 12 November to 7 December 2018, trained and upgraded ratings so that they can work productively, efficiently and safely onboard CBA vessels.

For four weeks, SNIMI engaged trainees through discussions, games, activities, workshops. During the course of the training, they learnt fire fighting, safety onboard, behaviour, work attitude, personal protective equipment, basic understanding of personal hygiene, introduction to international regulations and more.

Capt John Liew, SNIMI Training Manager, commended the cohort for hardwork and good learning attitude. He highlighted that they are ready to sail after learning basic maritime English communication, cross cultural integration and safety procedures.

Ms Cora, SNIMI Training Executive, observed that the trainees' language proficiency was lacking when they started the course, but by the time the course ended, they had caught up significantly in their vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar and writing abilities.

SQRT trainee Chen Hong Hui found the course most helpful especially in the area of personal safety and health on board ship. Lim Mei Gao agreed with his fellow trainee that the greatest takeaway was the lesson on safety awareness at work. Chen Jin Chou confessed learning difficulties at the start of the course, particularly in English communication, but as with many trainees, benefitted greatly through practising the use of English during discussions and workshops.

It's encouraging to know that the SQRT programme is raising quality ratings to serve the maritime industry.

LEARNING VISIT TO SPWU DEEPENS TIES

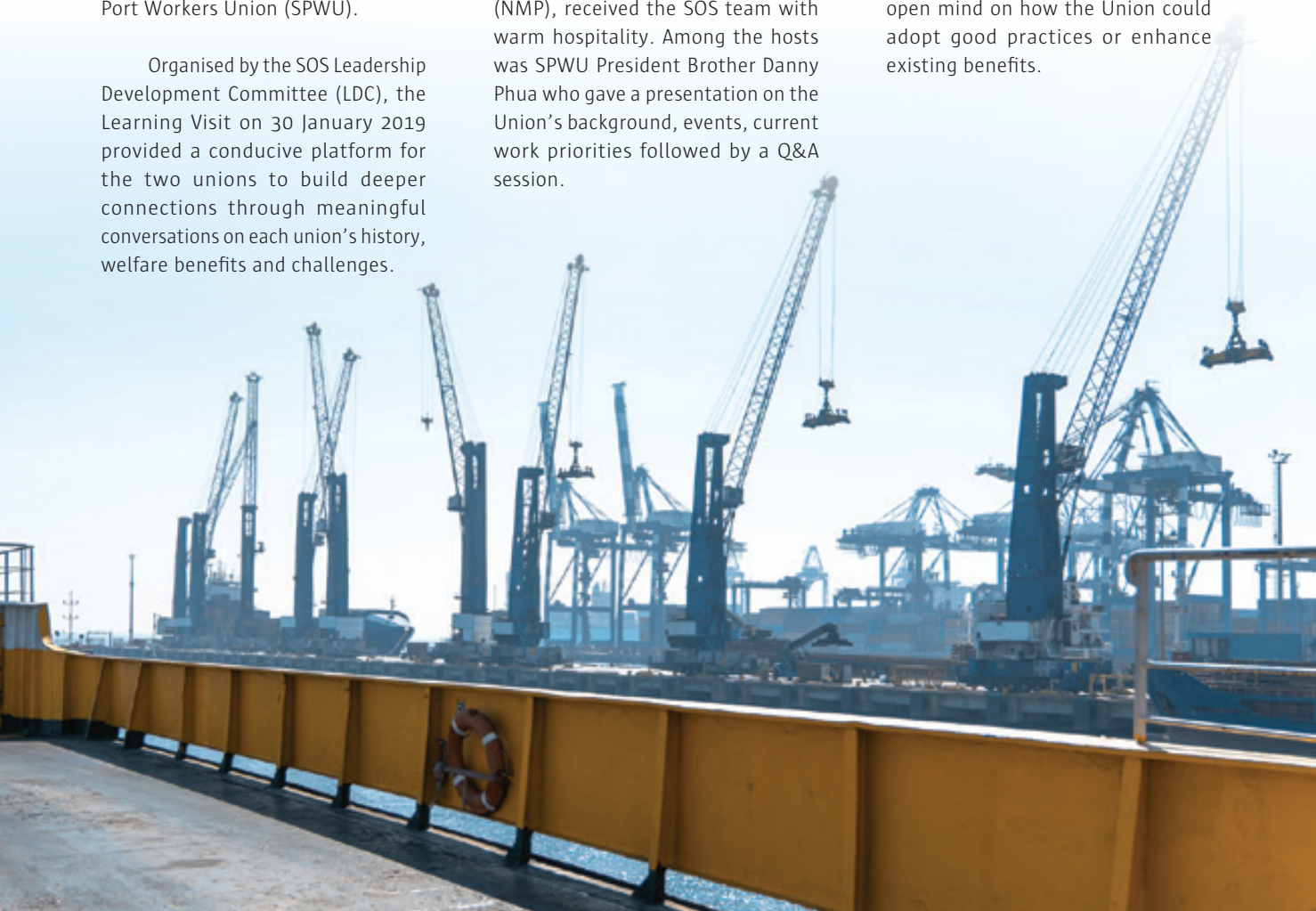


A delegation of SOS officials led by General Secretary Daniel Tan, visited Singapore's first registered trade union, the Singapore Port Workers Union (SPWU).

Organised by the SOS Leadership Development Committee (LDC), the Learning Visit on 30 January 2019 provided a conducive platform for the two unions to build deeper connections through meaningful conversations on each union's history, welfare benefits and challenges.

SPWU General Secretary Brother Arasu Duraisamy, who also represents the interest of workers as Labour Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP), received the SOS team with warm hospitality. Among the hosts was SPWU President Brother Danny Phua who gave a presentation on the Union's background, events, current work priorities followed by a Q&A session.

The learning and networking visit enabled the SOS officials, who were standing committee members and admin secretaries, to keep an open mind on how the Union could adopt good practices or enhance existing benefits.





SOS TEAM PLAY, WORK AND EAT TOGETHER

Getting to know everyone on the same team isn't always easy especially in a larger organisation. It's been said – the teams that learn to play together, work well together.

So, on 1 December 2018, SOS Leadership Development Committee (LDC) organised a bonding session among its leaders and staff. 53 SOS ExCo, standing committee members and SOS staff, took an afternoon off, rolled up their sleeves and “played” side by side, through a Teambuilding cum Bonding session, held at Club@52.

Participants broke into eight teams – four teams on each opposing side, and proceeded to build race tracks using cardboards. To up the ante, each track must bear landmarks of Singapore.

For two hours, team members collaborated and worked together to build segments of their team creations, to be eventually “bridged” to form a complete race track.

The team activity was a great exercise on working together and ended with a “race” between the two competing sides using a remote controlled car.

After the friendly competition, everyone had a meal together. By the end of the session, camaraderie amongst participants was at an all time high!



BENEFICIARIES SHOP AT U HEART PASAR FIESTA

There was something brewing at the Yio Chu Kang constituency on 1 December 2018.

SOS youth representatives – Eugene Guo, Manager, External & Industrial Relations and Evelyn Yeo, Asst Manager, Membership and Welfare were among the 250 strong volunteers, that participated in the U Heart Pasar Fiesta community engagement project, organised by Young NTUC in collaboration with NTUC Income OrangeAid.

For the first time, a novel idea of distributing groceries through pop-up markets or ‘pasars’ was introduced. Instead of receiving their supplies at their doorstep, beneficiaries went to the U Heart Pasar Fiesta to shop from a range of daily necessities, and brought home their preferred products in an exclusive U Heart trolley bag.

The ingenious way of outreach gave the volunteers the opportunity to engage and interact with some 1,700 low-income households and seniors living in Yio Chu Kang rental units. Volunteers were seen advising the beneficiaries on choosing healthier food options. There were various booths at the event to also raise awareness on life-long learning and employment opportunities.

It was heartwarming to see Young NTUC volunteers rallying together to do good for the community.



With the support of 20 unions and NTUC Income OrangeAid, volunteers raised nearly \$80,000 worth of funding and food supplies for the U Heart Pasar Fiesta community engagement project.



"I found this exercise of engaging with the beneficiaries most meaningful. In this way, not only do I get to know the resident, I am assured that we are giving them something that they need." said Eugene Guo (pictured left).



SPOTLIGHT

ON PERSONAL HYGIENE AND FOOD SAFETY

Food poisoning was in the spotlight in Singapore at the end of 2018, reporting a toll of more than 400 people suffering from food poisoning in three separate incidents, and one fatality. After the spate of high-profile food poisoning incidents, people have been speculating about the possible causes and wondering how one can mitigate the risks. Keeping food safe is a big concern.

Here, we offer to all our members, an advisory on the importance of personal hygiene and proper food handling practices.

The Importance of Personal Hygiene

Your personal hygiene benefits your own health and impacts the lives of those around you, too. Good personal hygiene habits are directly related to less illnesses and better health.

Poor personal hygiene habits, however, can lead to some minor side effects, like body odor and greasy skin. They can also lead to more troublesome or even serious issues.

Good personal hygiene entails keeping your hands, head and body clean so as to stop the spread of germs and illness.

Having Clean Hands is Crucial

While other hygiene practices are important, the key step you can take to prevent food borne illness is to wash your hands. Germs on your hands can easily enter your body through your mouth, nose, eyes, or ears.

Wash your hands

- when you handle food
- before you eat
- after you sneeze
- after engaging in any activity that has your hands soiled
- when cleaning a cut or wound.





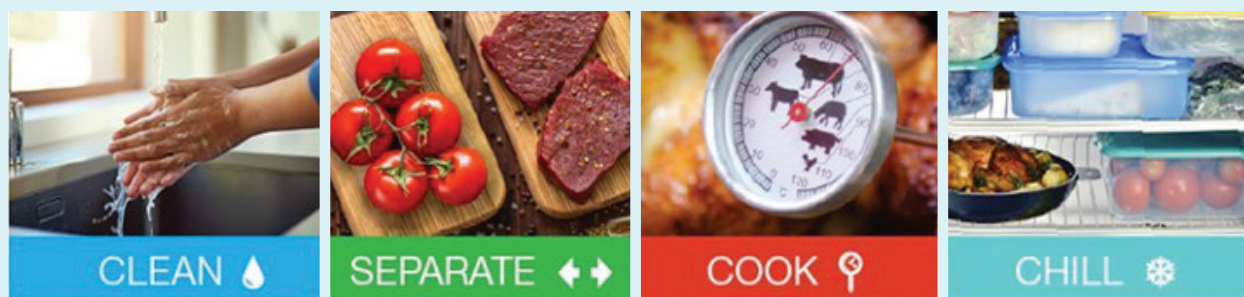
The Importance of Food Safety and Hygiene

Good food hygiene is essential to ensure that the food prepared is safe.
 Poor hygiene procedures will put preparation at risk.
 Harmful germs that cause food poisoning can spread very easily, so you need to make sure that you do everything you can to prevent this.

Why and the how

Food safety and sanitation is an essential part of the food industry. While it is important to be able to deliver food quickly, the importance of food safety and sanitation cannot be underestimated. Cooks need working environments that provide a safe and sanitary area to work.

It is important for people to understand how their behaviour and activities contribute to the safety of food and how they can decrease the risk of foodborne illness. From processes on the farm to practices in the kitchen, human activities play an important role in food safety.



The four basic food safety principles – Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill – the cornerstone in the fight against bacteria, work together to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

Benefits of food safety

The main benefits of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) procedures.

- Saves your business money in the long run
- Ensures compliance with the law
- Avoids the risk of food poisoning
- Increases food quality standards
- Increases food safety standards
- Organises your process to produce safe food

SERVING WITH DEDICATION – LONG SERVICE AWARDS

SOS and Seacare acknowledged five staff members, for their long service on 8 February 2019. Each individual brought their own unique skills and exhibited commitment to grow with the Union and the Co-operative. A big thank you for the 10 years and 20 years of service, with many more years to come.

Congratulations to 10 years Long Service Awardees



Ms Teo Yong Hui
Manager for Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd
Soft-spoken lady who enjoys the simple pleasures in life.



Ms Elsie Tan
Finance Manager for Seacare Holdings Pte Ltd
Well-organised person and in her work, she has demonstrated a high level of integrity, professionalism and commitment.



Ms Miko Neo
Manager for SOS Finance & Investment Division
Responsible, diligent and dependable individual, she is also a good team player.

Ms Serene Lee
Senior Manager, Tenders & Contracts for Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd
Known for her personable nature, she is always pleasant and finds ways to help others.

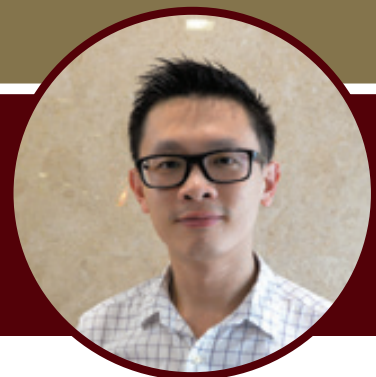


20 years Long Service Awardee



Ms Eugenia Peck
Senior Business Development Manager for Seacare Maritime Medical Centre Pte Ltd
Possesses great drive and enthusiasm in her work. Above all, her upbeat personality and engaging personal style enables her to interact effectively with both her clients and colleagues.

WELCOME THE PEOPLE PERSON



A new face in the SOS Membership & Welfare department, Mr Brandon Leow has the approachability factor that can be a useful skill, especially when dealing with membership matters.

Brandon who majors in Psychology and Human Resource Management, enables him to approach people or problems more objectively and professionally. Brandon is passionate about helping

people. He enjoys talking to members, listening to their stories and learning from experienced members. Safe to say, if this is his forte and it's his second nature, then, SOS members are in good hands.



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ALLAN HUI – CHAIRMAN, ADVISOR AND MENTOR

There's a famous quote that says "when the student is ready, the teacher will appear."

For Seacare UK Hotel management team, the "teacher" who appeared is no stranger to them and they are more than ready to leverage of his knowledge and expertise, especially when he is the man who has Seacare's best interests at heart.

Known for his experience in the industry, foresight and affable personality, Seacare Hospitality Pte Ltd's Chairman Mr Allan Hui now takes on another new role – that of an advisor to the Seacare UK Hotel management team.

"It is my pleasure to assist the team to fulfil the role of an asset manager of the portfolio of hotel properties in

UK. I see myself guiding and offering advice to the management team in the aspect of budget and performance of the respective hotels, risk management and controls, as well as appraising the performance of the hotel management company and more," said Mr Hui.

Mr Hui's links with Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) dates back to his days as a port officer, headhunted to manage a shipping terminal in the Singapore Port for Hai Sun Hup and Mitsui O.S.K lines. He added shipmanagement to his expanded scope of work, specialising in marine insurance.

"I remember having to sign collective agreements with SOS. The Union team was professional, reasonable and there was respect from both sides," Mr Hui recalled fondly. Little did he know that his ties with

the Union, which birthed Seacare Co-operative, would one day reach a whole new level.

When Hai Sun Hup Group Ltd got listed and went into hotel and property businesses, Mr Hui was recruited to act as the owner representative and so began his voyage in the hospitality industry. The former Chief Operating Officer of Stamford Land Corporation Ltd and Stamford Hotels & Resort Pty Ltd has spent at least 10 good years in Australia overseeing a chain of five star and boutique hotels.

He likened the hotel to a ship, only bigger. Both have an ops room (engine room, for ships), kitchen (or galley), and personnel to manage. He added that Seacare Hospitality's core business of caring for guests resonates with the Co-operative's focus on CARE. The correlation is impeccable.

On Seacare Mr Hui has nothing but praise. He noted:

"Seacare is the only co-operative in Singapore that dares to venture into hotels and they did it with their eyes open. After building The Seacare Hotel, Seacare started seizing opportunities in Malaysia and the UK. These hotels are situated at good locations, in 3 and 4 star categories, with respectable yields. They are not big but they are in good niche."

Elaborating on the role of an asset manager, Mr Hui pointed out that "we don't just look at the yield but the future of the hotel". "We are not running the show. We employ hotel managers to do that. But we watch how they perform: are they giving the right service and the right attention to the hotels? Are the assets in good shape and managed in the way that align with the owner's interest?"





Columba Hotel
Inverness, Scotland



The Victoria Hotel
Manchester, England



Crown Spa Hotel
Scarborough, England



Best Western Queens Hotel
Dundee, Scotland



Citrus Hotel
Cheltenham, England



Best Western Plus Milford Hotel
Leeds, England



Best Western Station Hotel
Dumfries, Scotland



Ivy Bush Royal Hotel
Carmarthen, Wales



Citrus Hotel
Cardiff, Wales



Citrus Hotel
Eastbourne, England

If there's one advice he would give to the team, it would be this – “adopt a care's role and stay inquisitive always. Know the real picture on the ground.”

Mr Hui asserted that one must be on the pulse of the hotels performance and its forecast, and always seek for improvements.

On his leadership style, Mr Hui believes in “team work and giving a longer leash” so that the staff who are entrusted with the work will excel. “I don't interfere and I don't believe in top down approach. I will throw in questions for the team to think about.”

When asked what should Seacare be looking out for when investing in a hotel, Mr Hui offered four tips:

- Look out for general economic condition of the country/region, ownership laws, tax regime and country risk (including stability of its currency, interest rate and political /social system etc.)
- Its physical location in relation to the flow of patrons as well as other hotels (its proximity, star rating, occupancy etc.) and near future supply of hotels.
- Existing and past performances/yield of the hotel in relation to its asking price. Assessing whether there are avenues to improve its performance/yield under Seacare ownership.
- Its physical characteristics, conditions and the tenureship of the hotel, relating to competition, refurbishment expenditure, depreciation and potential of redevelopment/expansion etc.

“The above is not exhaustive and often there are other considerations specific to the timing and prevailing circumstances,” said Mr Hui.



OKIKI SHANGHAI LEARNS FROM MY FIRST SKOOL

Educators from Shanghai were keen to understand more about childhood education in Singapore. It was with this mission, that Seacare OKiKi organised a study trip to My First Skool, for a group of educators from oKiKi Shanghai.

On 28 January 2019, 18 educators from oKiKi Shanghai entered the campus of My First Skool at Segar Road. The learning visit started with introduction and sharing between Singapore educators and Shanghai educators led by Professor Huang, Deputy Director of East China Normal University and Ms Frances Chen, Senior Marketing Director of OneSmart Education Group.

Following the sharing session, Shanghai delegates were given a tour around My First Skool campus grounds. The tour was led by My First Skool General Manager Thian Ai Ling, assisted by Assistant Director Catherine Fang.



The visitors were fascinated over the 3,000 sqm pre-school centre, located within Zhenghua Nature Park. Designed for a capacity of 400 children, the centre's unique feature lies in bringing nature into the classroom. Through collaboration with the Nature Society of Singapore, the centre was integrated with the nature park. Outdoor learning is incorporated into the childrens' curriculum, where they get to learn and appreciate nature by using the park as their classroom. Visitors were told that part of the learning initiative involves children monitoring 35 species of birds in the park and its surrounding nature reserve. Experts have said that outdoor experiences help children develop independence, resilience and problem-solving skills.

The study trip was an eye opener for the delegates.





LUNAR NEW YEAR AT ITS BEST WITH JALAN KUKOH COMMUNITY

What started out 18 years ago, as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of SOS and Seacare to bless the community at Jalan Kukoh, has grown from strength to strength.

“So as you can see, the Red Star Restaurant is now packed to its maximum capacity”, highlighted Ms Kathryn Ang, Organising Chairperson, during her welcome address.

With over 600 guests, including 400 senior residents of Jalan Kukoh, Guest-of-Honour Mrs Celine Tang, Chairman of Chip Eng Seng Group, Mediacorp artists Ms Chen Liping and Mr Rayson Tan, directors/ staff from SOS, Chip Eng Seng and Seacare,





the Lunar New Year celebration was full house on 13 February 2019.

This year, thanks to the generosity of Chip Eng Seng Group, the value of hongbao increased from \$60 to \$80. The mood was festive and everyone was happy to be there. Besides the sumptuous meal and louhei, there was live entertainment. The Caishens dropped in to add prosperity. 400 goodie bags, each containing bak kwa, pork floss, pineapple tarts and honey, and \$80 hongbaos were prepared for the senior residents. There were also 10 lucky draw hampers to be won.

“A CSR initiative like this one has to be at its best, as it is launched for the people who need it most. We are glad to note that as our organisations set the tone for our senior residents, and involve our management and staff, I believe, this inspires passion, and promotes a strong corporate culture of giving back,” Ms Ang pointed out.





BRINGING CHEER INTO JALAN KUKOH HOUSEHOLDS

Some residents from Jalan Kukoh, who had mobility issues or too frail, thought they would miss out on the Lunar New Year Celebration, held at the Red Star on 13 February 2019. Well, it was not the case.

After the lunch celebration, on the same day, a group of sprightly SOS/ Seacare officials led by Ms Sharon Li, SOS Executive Secretary and Mr Koh Boon Wee, Nursing Manager (Operations) of Seacare Maritime Medical Centre Pte Ltd, and Jalan Kukoh Residents' Committee (JKRC) volunteers visited 30 households, armed with goodie bags, hongbaos and a pocket full of Lunar New Year cheer. For added joy, even Caishen, the god of prosperity, got into the "act"!

The thoughtful acts of kindness brought smiles and thankfulness to the beneficiaries. Each household received a goodie bag containing bak kwa, pork floss, honey and pineapple tarts, and a hongbao containing \$80. With all the joy spread around, they didn't really miss the Lunar New Year celebrations after all.



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