

SAMUDRA

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

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**OUR DREAM
BECOMES
REALITY**

SAMUDRA



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Growing Stronger
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Correction

Our previous issue of Samudra should be Issue 4 2012
instead of Issue 4 2013 as reflected on the cover.

GOING STRONG, GROWING STRONGER

SOS/Seacare Hong Bao Presentation & Lunar New Year Celebration



Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lui Tuck Yew (centre) with SOS and Seacare officials and tripartite members of the maritime industry

Every year, SOS/Seacare takes the opportunity during the festive season to celebrate with its members, staff, associates, shipping communities, and residents of welfare homes. At the heart of the festivities is about giving back to its members and to the community.

Regarded as one of the most anticipated events of the year, the SOS/Seacare Hong Bao Presentation & Lunar New Year Celebration, held on 15 February 2013, kickstarted with a lion dance troupe leading the Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport, into the Fairmont Ballroom, Raffles City Convention Centre.

Together with Mr Lui, members from NTUC Central Committee and SNCF Executive Council; representatives from the maritime community; and SOS members and guests ushered the Year of the Water Snake with a sense of optimism.

During their respective public address, Mr Lui and SOS President, Mr Mohamed Idris bin Mohamed Ibrahim highlighted their reasons for celebrating the season.



Celebrate Resilience

In his public address, Mr Lui spoke of how the maritime industry has stayed resilient. Despite a challenging year for the maritime industry, with depressed freight rates, high operating costs, high fuel prices and overcapacity of ships, maritime in Singapore continued to do well. The Port of Singapore maintained its global lead in vessel arrival tonnage and continues to be the world's top bunkering port. Singapore managed to keep its position as the world's second busiest container port. Mr Lui went on to share the Government's commitment to strengthen the hub port leadership and will continue to invest in infrastructure to meet future demand. Expansions such as the Pasir Panjang Terminal is on track and the first berths at Phase 3 to be operational next year. In the longer term, container port activities at Tuas would be consolidated.



Celebrate Tripartism

The strong tripartite partnership between the Government, shipping companies and unions is the unique Singapore brand that will remain important in looking after the needs and wellbeing of seafarers. Mr Lui called upon all tripartite partners to continue building on mutual co-operation to tide over the current challenges faced by the shipping industry.



Celebrate Membership Growth

Over the years, SOS/Seacare has played key roles in supporting the needs of its members. On the other hand, members who recognised the role of the union have been a pillar of support for SOS and Seacare. For their stalwart support, SOS honoured 31 members who had supported SOS for more than 15 years, up till 30 years. Despite the challenging economy of the past few years, SOS membership strength continued to grow steadily, standing at 22,420, in December 2012.





Celebrate New Ventures

SOS/Seacare took yet another bold step forward in setting up new ventures. The Seacare Hotel which officially opened to the public on 30 January 2013, was one such venture that was grown out of a vibrant and growing organisation. The new hotel will ultimately help SOS/Seacare give more benefits back to its members and the community at large.

For all the good reasons to celebrate, the more than 1,000 guests arose with heads held high, and chopsticks on hand, to toss and toast to a brighter future.

Celebrate Giving

There is no greater joy than giving. SOS/ Seacare took the occasion to spread cheer to some 80 residents from the Asian Women's Welfare Home, Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens, Sree Narayana Home for the Aged Sick and Jamiyah Home for the Aged. Besides inviting them as guests to the event, each resident was presented with a hongbao worth \$50 and a festive gift. Retired seamen were not forgotten as well – 270 of them received \$100 worth of hongbao each.

HOW CAN WE SAY THANKS

Without the support of members, the work of SOS would not have been as significant all these years. Hence, the Union honoured its members at the SOS/Seacare Hong Bao Presentation & Lunar New Year Celebration, held on 15 February 2013 at Fairmont Ballroom, Raffles City Convention Centre.

This year, a total of 31 recipients – six from the 15-years category and 25 recipients from the 30-years category received the SOS Long Membership Awards (LMA) in appreciation of their long support to the union.

LMA recipients Mr Rosli Bin Ahmad and Mr Kiang Jin Koo (pictured below), who represented their respective 15 and 30-year categories, received the awards on behalf of their fellow recipients from Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport.

We congratulate and thank our LMA recipients for journeying with us.



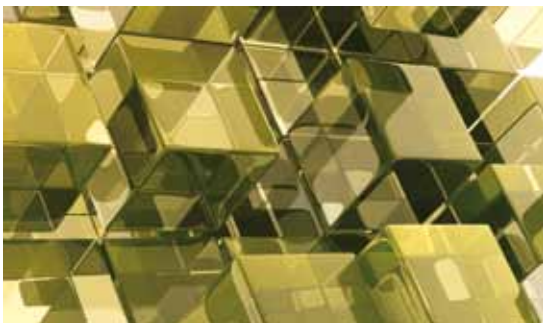
30-YEARS LONG MEMBERSHIP AWARD

S/NO.	M/S NO.	NAME
1	05178	OSMAN B SUYUT
2	07178	LIM KIM HUAT
3	07307	ABDULLAH BARI B MAKLI
4	07335	WANG LI WANN
5	07338	TAN JIT ANN
6	07353	CHUA MING CHAI
7	07368	PHOA KHIA SENG
8	07383	ABDULLAH B SUNYAR
9	07395	ABD SAMAD B ABD @ ABD SAMAD B ISMAIL
10	07397	TENGKU ABD HALIM B TENGKU ABD RAHMAN
11	07401	KOH THIAN CHAI
12	07432	MOHD NOOR ASWANDI B MOHD SALIM
13	07441	MASELAN B SALIHAN
14	07508	ABD RAHMAN B HJ AHMAD
15	07518	BUHARI B YATENI

S/NO.	M/S NO.	NAME
16	07525	SUDIRMAN B MOHAMAD
17	07540	MOKTAR B SAMSEE
18	AL183	DING CHIANG WEE
19	AL207	FOO SJUI @ FOO JUI
20	AL241	SEET KOK HUA
21	AL345	TAN HING CHEE
22	CD20	CHOO WOON FAH
23	CD23	KIANG JIN KOO
24	CD32	HONG SIAN BENG
25	CD67	ONG SOON LEE

15-YEARS LONG MEMBERSHIP AWARD

S/NO.	M/S NO.	NAME
1	08028	ROSLI B AHMAD
2	08220	ROHAN B ABDUL MAJID
3	08327	HARIS B OMAR
4	08363	MUHAMMAD TAHIR B SADBEE
5	08364	KAMARUDIN B ISMAIL
6	08365	MOHAMED SANI B MAWI



HKSU's Two-IN-ONE VISIT

A visit by Hong Kong Seamen's Union (HKSU) couldn't have been more timely. The delegates led by Vice Chairman, Mr Kwok Shu, dropped by Seacare Building on 30 January 2013. There to welcome HKSU were SOS President Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim, Executive Secretary Mr Daniel Tan, Assistant Director of Welfare and Membership Division Mr David Shoo and Executive Committee members.

During their visit, SOS representatives shared about the union's structure, its role and the tripartite partnership system amongst the maritime community in Singapore. Both unions also exchanged views on their respective membership

and welfare schemes, as well as their day-to-day operations and duties. All these were done with the view of learning best practices of each union's modus operandi.

Not only did the visit afford opportunity to further reinforce the bonds between the two unions, but the visit to SOS coincided with the official opening of The Seacare Hotel.

On that very day, HKSU was among many honourable guests, who officially witnessed the opening of the 16-storey Seacare Hotel at 52 Chin Swee Road.



Delegates from the Hong Kong Seamen's Union (HKSU) viewing the presentation given by SOS officers

BUILDING BILATERAL TIES IN TAIPEI

SOS General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat and Executive Secretary Mr Daniel Tan were in Taipei on 17-19 January 2013 to build bilateral ties with National Chinese Seamen's Union (NCSU). The Singapore officials were warmly received by NCSU officials Mr Yang Shy-jye (Jack Yang), Mr Chen Te-tsun and Ms Daphne Su.

This round of bilateral meeting was aimed at reinforcing ties between the two unions on issues pertaining to the benefit and welfare of seafarers. During their visit, officials

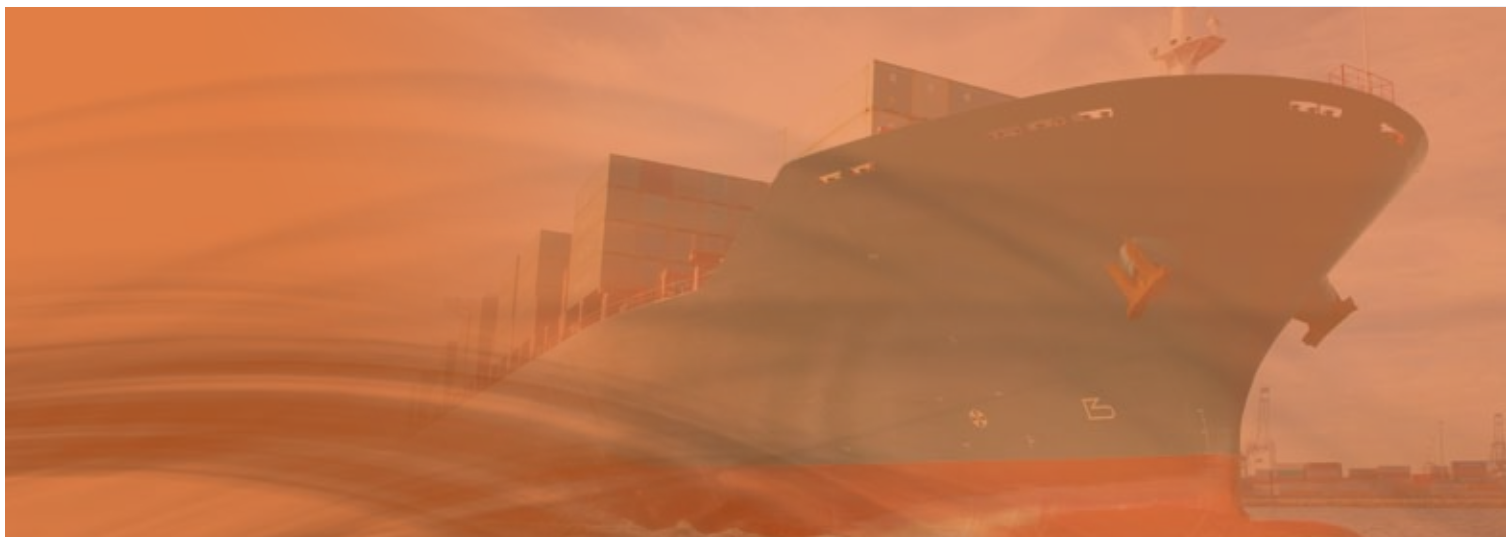
from both unions exchanged views on the current shipping market situation and the upcoming implementation ILO's Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006.

The fruitful meeting led to the prospect of forming a Taiwan / Singapore Bilateral Agreement, the details of which would be further discussed. Surely, the start of more bilateral discussions would amount to a strong foundation on which to build deeper relations.





ITF FOC WEEK OF ACTION (WOA) SEES RESULTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA





SOS Vice-President Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar (left) and IR Executive Mr Chen Chuanyi verifying the employment records of seafarers onboard vessels

The week-long ITF South East Asia Week of Action held from 21-25 January 2013 was carried out by ITF unions against 'Flags of Convenience' (FOC) ships at designated ports in Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. During the campaign, a total of 67 inspections were conducted to check if they were covered by ITF approved agreements that stipulate decent and negotiated wages and ship board conditions for crew members.

In Singapore, ITF seafarers union activists comprising Vice-President Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar and SOS IR Executive Mr Chen Chuanyi, together with SMOU officers were in the thick of the action, inspecting some 14 FOC vessels. Among the activities engaged by them during their ship visits were the verification of crew employment records; inspection of employment documents; interaction with crew members; sharing of knowledge on seafarers' rights; distribution of information booklets on Flag of Convenience, Maritime Labour

Convention (MLC), 2006; giving out of contact details and the presentation of ITF souvenirs. During inspections, seafarers union activists found a reluctant Master who refused to divulge crew wage details. Onboard some vessels, union activists discovered low wage payouts, expired contracts and the unavailability of individual employment contracts for inspection. The owner companies were issued notices of warning and unions in the next port of call were alerted for further follow up action.

The ITF South East Asia Week of Action, to check on and protect conditions for seafarers working on FOC vessels, have yielded amazing results in the region over the years – these resulted in FOC ships being subjected to strict inspections; more signed agreements; back pay wages retrieved for hundreds of seafarers and claims won for crews cheated or abandoned by ship owners.

"The week-long action has been a good experience for the South East Asia maritime Unions. More than anything else these inspections have sent a clear warning to shipping companies that they will not get away with ignoring the application of internationally accepted pay and conditions standards on board their ships." – Mr Sangam Tripathy, ITF Asia Pacific Assistant Regional Secretary



(From left) Mr Maximillian Francis, Mr Loh Suan Hin and Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar at the labour education programme in Batam

SOS ATTENDS BATAM SEMINAR

The Indonesian Seafarer Union Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia (KPI) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) cordially invited SOS to attend a Labour Education Programme in Batam, Indonesia.

Held on 6 December 2012, three SOS representatives, Vice-President Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar, ExCo member Mr Loh Suan Hin, and Industrial Relations Assistant Manager Mr Maximillian Francis, attended the educational seminar held at Novotel Batam. The seminar was also attended by representatives from the Head Office of the Port of Batam and Head of the National Agency for Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers (BNP2TKI).

The seminar was aimed at educating and providing a clear guide to affiliated members of the KPI in areas such as Industrial Relations, the implementation of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention 188 and the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006.

In view of the enforcement of MLC, 2006 in August, the programme provided seafarers with a better grasp on

the requirements and standards set in the ILO MLC; their basic rights, protections and obligations; the functions of trade unions and the implementation of industrial relations.

While they were in Batam, SOS representatives were invited to witness the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between KPI and the Batam Safety Training Centre (BSTC), to provide seafarers with practical and theoretical trainings under BSTC and its affiliated partners. BSTC was set up to provide survival, fire, safety and skills training for Marine, Petrochemical and Oil & Gas Industry, with the aim of achieving zero accident and fatality rate in the work place. The MoU was signed by President and Director of KPI Mr Hanafi Rustandi and BSTC Head Mr Jefri Sudianto.

The following day, SOS officials were joined by General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, where they visited BSTC to observe their training classes; toured around its facilities; and viewed the construction site of the centre's next phase of expansion.



US\$155,000 WAGES RECOVERED



For more than two months, they did not receive wages for work done. The 23 crew members of oil tanker E Elephant brought their plight up to SOS and SMOU, who swiftly moved into action to help the affected seafarers.

On 13 December 2012, SOS Vice-President Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar boarded the vessel along with SMOU

representatives to address the issue of unpaid salaries. With the help of the union, the company was ordered to pay all outstanding wages owed, amounting to more than US\$155,000 and to discharge the crew members comprising seafarers from Bangladesh and India.

STRANDED CREW RECEIVE OUTSTANDING WAGES AND EXTRA HELP



Stranded seafarers onboard Onsys Leo and Onsys Aquarius, sat and waited patiently for their fate to unfold. Ever since news broke that their employer, Onsys Energy was winding up, the seafarers were unsure about their fate. For the past two months, the distressed crew had not had wages paid to them.

On 11 January 2013, the two Titan Quanzhou-built tankers were arrested, coinciding with the Singapore Supreme Court's order that Onsys Energy be liquidated. SOS Industrial Relations Assistant Manager Mr Maximillian Francis boarded the two vessels along with representatives from the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU).

While onboard, IR personnel provided advice to the aggrieved crew and liaised with the law firm to ensure that the outstanding wages be accounted properly and paid out to the crew. With the help of the union, outstanding wages were recovered in full.

An immediate and practical help provided was the issuance of cell phone top-up cards, so that the seafarers

could reinstate communication with their loved ones. Pastor Wilson Wong from the International Lutheran Seafarers' Mission (ILSM) handed out some 50 cell phone top-up cards worth \$18 each, to the seafarers who came from Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Myanmar, and Pakistan. Pastor Wilson highlighted how practical this token would be to these stranded seafarers who have been trapped on the vessels for months without any money to send or even call home. The crew was more than delighted to receive the top-up cards.



A WARM CHRISTMAS AT THE SEACARE DROP-IN CENTRE

A home away from home – that's what the Seacare Drop-in Centre should be for seafarers who have restricted access within port areas or short transit time. Especially so, when separated from family during the festive season.

In keeping with tradition, SOS organised a Christmas party for seafarers at the Seacare Drop-in Centre, Pasir Panjang Terminal. Seafarers hailing from India, the Philippines, Indonesia and China, arrived on 24 December 2012, to celebrate Christmas with SOS President Mr Mohamed Idris bin Mohamed Ibrahim, Vice-President Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar, and Assistant Director of Welfare and Membership Division Mr David Shoo.



Revving up the mood for the festive season, a special assortment of yuletide fare such as Christmas log cakes, finger food and cookies were prepared; goodie bags and lucky draw gifts were presented to guests.

The seafarers had a jolly good time with one another, mingling and enjoying the facilities. Most of them stayed on longer than usual to soak in the festive atmosphere.

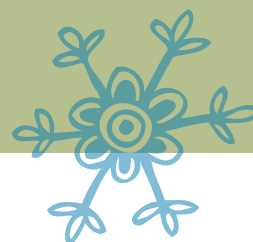




CHRISTMAS SURPRISE FOR CBA VESSELS

Docked in Singapore during the festive December month, 19 vessels under Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) with SOS received a surprise visit that was accompanied with festive goodies. Vice-President Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar and Industrial Relations Assistant Manager Mr Maximillian Francis boarded the vessels and hand-delivered goodie bags and log cakes to the seafarers to bring Christmas cheer and greetings.

SOS representatives also gave out 2013 year planners, aromatherapy diffusers, and Seacare travel bags during their visit.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!



Between them, they have clocked 485 years of service with SOS / Seacare! We're referring to the 29 recipients who were recognised for their long service.

In recognition of the individuals who have contributed and demonstrated strong values, commitment and willingness to grow with changes, SOS / Seacare honoured them in its inaugural Long Service Award presentation, held at Club@52 on 4 January 2013.

At the award presentation, the 29 long service staff received their gifts, in the presence of SOS Officer Bearers, Executive and Standing Committee, Seacare Directors, and SOS and Seacare staff. Held for the first time, the long service award is a meaningful gesture by SOS / Seacare to show that every staff member is a valuable asset.

30-YEARS LONG SERVICE AWARD

SOS

1. William Tan Keok Kiang
2. Alan Toh Cheng Hoe
3. David Sim Hor Pheng
4. Julie Koh

20-YEARS LONG SERVICE AWARD

SOS

1. Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim

10-YEARS LONG SERVICE AWARD

SOS	Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd	Seacare Properties Pte Ltd
1. Shena Foo Jee Hwee	12. Sulena Supaat	20. Lim Jit Kwang
2. Koh Soo Lee	13. Phua Sze Lu	21. Amad Hj Repahi
3. Mariana Ahmad	14. Evelyn Siow Chin Chin	22. Khoo Eng Wah
4. Sia Ai Ngoh	15. Fatimah Mahmod	Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd
5. Tan Siew Hui	Seacare Maritime Medical Centre Pte Ltd	23. Ng Loi Tin
6. Eugenia Peck Mui Hoon	16. Mazlan Othman	Magnum Marine Services Pte Ltd
7. Lee You Lock	17. Koh Boon Wee	24. Salim s/o Haja Mohideen
8. Sanisa Ayob	18. Zainulabidin Omar	
9. Jacquelyn Lam Sze Lin	19. Cai Wen Ping	
10. David Shoo Weng Leong		
Seacare Holdings Pte Ltd		
11. Amanda Yew Kam Teng		



Mr William Tan Keok Kiang

William joined the Singapore Organisation of Seamen in January 1977.

Throughout his past 35-year tenure, he has been attached to various divisions such as Finance, Membership & Welfare Services as well as Office Administration. He is always willing to embrace change and contribute in whatever ways he can.

Though he may be behind the scenes most of the time, William is a great help to his fellow colleagues which makes him a staff member who is valued beyond measure.



Mr David Sim Hor Pheng

David's journey in SOS began 30 years ago in March 1982 when he was first appointed Assistant Welfare Officer.

He was subsequently attached to different divisions and is now holding a secondary appointment as General Manager of Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd.

His variety of experience affords David extensive knowledge, as well as an established network of relationships all across the labour movement, two of the many qualities that make him so valuable to the Union.

David is a pleasure to work with and his dedication to the organisation does not go unnoticed. He personifies the can-do, good-natured spirit that makes SOS work. A reliable and dependable staff, he is well-liked by colleagues, who look forward to his bright, cheery disposition every day.



Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim

Prior to joining Singapore Organisation of Seamen in September 1991, Mohamed Idris had a seafaring career spanning 22 years.



Mr Alan Toh Cheng Hoe

Alan joined the Singapore Organisation of Seamen in February 1980 as Industrial Relations Officer and was seconded to Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd in 2003 as Operations Manager.

To prepare himself for the new role, he attended upgrading courses and was awarded BICS Cleaning Operators Proficiency Certificate and Trade Certificate in Landscaping Practices. Alan rose through the ranks and is now the General Manager of Seacare Environmental overseeing cleaning contracts for cookhouses, childcare centres, education institutions and commercial buildings.

Alan has devoted 32 years to SOS and Seacare Environmental.



Ms Julie Koh

Julie began her career with SOS in March 1982.

Having served SOS for the past 30 years, she is a witness and part of an engine to the changes in SOS since it was registered 42 years ago. Her adaptability has been instrumental to where SOS stands today.

Julie is one of those valuable behind-the-scenes staff who has been a resource our colleagues have turned to in times of need. As a member of the human resources team, she is always available to lend an ear or offer an encouraging word to her colleagues.

He brings to the table a vast amount of experience and knowledge of life onboard as a seafarer. As part of the External & Industrial Relations team, Mohamed Idris maintains strong relationships with fraternal unions both locally and overseas and is a champion of the livelihood of seafarers who is committed to obtaining justice for those who are in distress. He is also a respected mentor who is always willing to share what he knows.

NTUC Women Leaders started this year on a good note. They went on a Learning Journey to Jurong Island. On 18 January 2013, NTUC President and NTUC Women's Committee Advisor Ms Diana Chia was joined by 39 staff from the Women's Development Secretariat (WDS) and NTUC Women's Committee members, as they visited The Polyolefin Company (Singapore) Pte Ltd.

Held in conjunction with the NTUC Women's Committee meeting, the Learning Journey was aimed at providing better insight on the various jobs for women that are available in other sectors. Besides equipping women leaders with knowledge, this also served as a bonding platform for them.

SOS' representative, Deputy COO & EXCO Member, Ms Shena Foo, thought that the two-in-one learning journey to Jurong Island cum NTUC Women's Committee meeting was a refreshing idea – "We are killing two birds at one go. Firstly, by meeting up with all the union personnel from the host organisation, we are learning from their practices and we can actually exchange certain aspects of their practice that can be relevant to the union of another industry. Secondly, the



A REFRESHING JOURNEY WITH NTUC WOMEN LEADERS

NTUC Women's Committee members have more interaction time, and that allows us to mingle and exchange ideas arising from the Learning Journey in addition to the normal meeting environment."

Hosted by United Workers of Petroleum Industry (UWPI) and The Polyolefin Company (Singapore) Pte Ltd, participants visited the ChemGallery which exhibited the wonders and marvels of the chemical industry; learnt about the origins of oil and gas and their transformation into valuable petrochemical, specialty chemical products and applications.

SOS' INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WELCOMES A NEW FACE!

People say first impression counts. Well, the first impression when one meets Mr Chen Chuanyi is that he has an outgoing and pleasant personality. Coupled with his skills in communication, conflict-resolution and negotiation, all of which he has gained from his previous experience, Mr Chen has what it takes to fill the role as Industrial Relations (IR) Executive with SOS. Meet Mr Chen, the new kid on the "ship".

What was your previous job?

I was working with a taxi company as a retention and communications executive. My role was to build good relations between taxi drivers and the company. To have a better sense of the ground, I organised activities and dialogue sessions; ran surveys; and conducted exit interviews. From there, recommendations were made to the management. Other areas that I was involved in included the crafting of messages and information for monthly newsletters; handling enquiries and feedback etc.

Mr Chen on a ship visit with SOS Vice-President Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar



How different is it from working for a union?

Although the basic scope is about looking after members' welfare and benefits, there is a stronger sense to render assistance as compared to before. The members may not know their rights and they will be relying on the union for assistance. It is the union's responsibility to ensure that their rights are protected and assistance rendered to resolve their concerns. I'm proud to be part of it.

What do you think you can contribute towards the union and seafarers?

As a member of the IR team, it is essential to build good relations with our local and foreign stakeholders. I strive to continue the spirit of the team and maintain the strong bonds that have been built for the past decades. With my past experience in handling grievances, I hope to assist and seek justice for seafarers who have been unjustly treated.



SEACAREFOCUS

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**A CHERISHED DREAM BECOMES
A REALITY**

The dream to make affordable hotel accommodation more readily available to seamen stirred the hearts of the SOS and Seacare leaders. They brainstormed, thought out of the box, and left no stone unturned to relentlessly pursue the dream.

In pooling their resources together, the SOS and Seacare have “clearly and unreservedly intended the project to be a contribution towards the international maritime labour movement”, said Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim, President of SOS.

On 30 January 2013, the first hotel in Singapore owned by a labour co-operative, the 16-storey, 103-room The Seacare Hotel, was officially opened.

Joining in the celebration were Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister, Prime Minister’s Office, Secretary-General, National Trades Union Congress (NTUC); Special Guest, Mr Stephen Cotton, Acting General Secretary, International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) and foreign guests representing fraternal affiliates and seafarers unions who specially travelled to Singapore for the occasion.

Guests from home ground included Ms Diana Chia, President of NTUC, Ms Dolly Goh, Chief Executive Officer of Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) and those representing NTUC and its affiliates, SNCF and its affiliates, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the Singapore Maritime Employers’ Federation (SMEF), the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF), shipping companies, business associates and more.

Speaking straight from the heart, Mr Stephen Cotton shared he was ‘amazed and impressed’ by the development of SOS and



Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lim Swee Say, delivering a speech at the opening of The Seacare Hotel

Seacare. Since the Union was incorporated in 1971, SOS has continued to look after the best interests of Singaporeans and seafarers of the world.

“Throughout the period, the Union continued to diversify and change themselves to be a success model for today and future,” he underscored.

Sending his congratulations, Mr Cotton described Seacare Chairman Mr Leow Ching Chuan and SOS General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat as “special people because they have the vision and ability to change an organisation to reflect the changing times.”

The Seacare Hotel, said Guest-of-Honour Mr Lim, is a very good and noble initiative. “Seacare did not set up the hotel to lose money. Thus it will be well-managed to do well. Seacare also did not set up the hotel to make money but to provide a benefit to the members.”

“I hope Seacare will continue to do well and do good and with the relevant authorities and different partners will go on to do more good together,” said Mr Lim to the applause from the guests who took the opportunity to tour the hotel and give the SOS and Seacare leaders a pat on the back for a job well done.



On stage, Mr Lim Swee Say (centre) and invited guests celebrating the official opening of The Seacare Hotel on 30 January 2013.



At the celebration, the lion dance's rousing performance symbolised the ushering in of a new beginning and good fortune for The Seacare Hotel.



SOS President, Mr Mohamed Idris bin Mohamed Ibrahim giving his opening speech in front of the invited guests

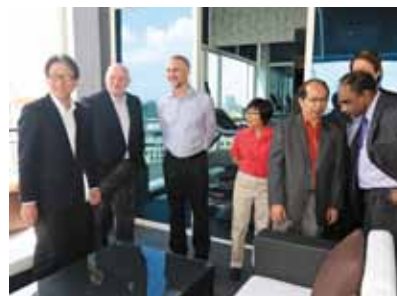


ITF Acting General Secretary, Mr Stephen Cotton, presenting the key to a new 10-seater passenger van to SOS General Secretary, Mr Kam Soon Huat

A big "thank you" to the ITF for generously donating a 10-seater passenger van to the SOS and Seacare for the provision of transport for seafarers as well as other guests to and from The Seacare Hotel.



Delegates from the Hong Kong Seamen's Union



"It is visionary for SOS and Seacare to build a hotel to meet local and international union members' needs. I am very impressed. It is a cosy hotel and we are proud of them." - NTUC President Ms Diana Chia



"The Seacare Hotel is a wonderful building. I think seafarers would be very happy to have this building catered to them. I expect this building to be useful for all seafarers in Singapore and for the rest of the world."
- Mr Yasumi Morita, Vice President, Japan Seamen's Union



(From left) Seacare Chairman, Mr Leow Ching Chuan, NTUC Secretary-General Mr Lim Swee Say, SOS General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, and ITF Acting General Secretary Mr Stephen Cotton



Mr Jack Yang, President of National Chinese Seamen's Union (Taiwan)

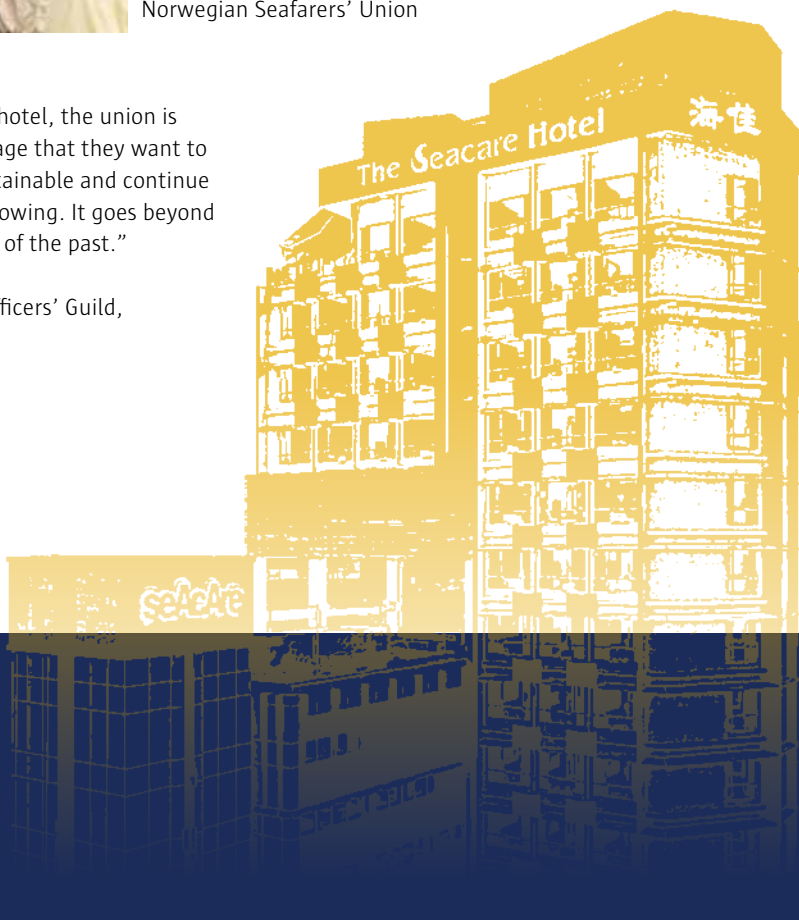


"I think The Seacare Hotel is fantastic and a very nice hotel. It will be an important place for seafarers who are signing on and off to stay. I would encourage my own members to stay here as the facilities are very good. I am staying here myself."
- Ms Jacqueline Smith, President, Norwegian Seafarers' Union



Mr Chick Poon Lun, representative of Amalgamated Union of Seafarers' Hong Kong, Hong Kong ITF (FOC) Campaign office; and Merchant Navy Officers' Guild, HK (MNOG)

"By building this hotel, the union is sending the message that they want to stay relevant, sustainable and continue developing and growing. It goes beyond its traditional role of the past."
- Capt TT Chung, Merchant Navy Officers' Guild, Hong Kong



HKSU Committee Vice-Chairman Mr Kwok Shu and Captain Li Kin Wah



Mr Giles Keimann, IMEC General Secretary

(photo in the middle)
Mr Hanafi Rustandi, KPI President



Dr Solomon E Ching, Micah Medical Clinic (Philippines), Medical Director

Ms Mary Liew, SMOU Executive Secretary



Mr Terence Zhao, Managing Director, Singhai Marine Services and representative of Nantong Shipping College (China)

SPECIAL GIFTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS SEACARE HOTEL OPENING



Mr Marianito Z Aguisanda,
President of Lotus Ship
Management Inc
(Philippines)

ABOUT THE SEACARE HOTEL

The 16-storey, 103-rooms hotel is located in Chin Swee Road, which is walking distance to the bustling Chinatown, the vibrant Clarke Quay along the Singapore River and downtown MRT lines - Clarke Quay, Chinatown and Outram Park.

Marrying elegance with functionality, The Seacare Hotel (Singapore) establishes itself as Superior Class with classy elegant amenities designed to offer exuberant yet warm ambiance for vacationers seeking a mesmerizing experience.

Among the highlights include a spacious Sky Garden and Wine Bar terrace for guests to view the panoramic sights of the city skyline while chilling at the bar counter and an urban-themed Japanese restaurant headed by Japanese celebrity ex-Sumo wrestler and Master Chef.

The white tiled floors and black-red accent at the main lobby provide a lounge-like atmosphere; and a wellness centre comprising gym enhance guests' comfort.

Benefits for SOS Members; Discounts for NTUC Union Members

The Seacare Sailors Home Scheme (SSS), has now been expanded to provide fully subsidised hotel accommodation at The Seacare Hotel, to companies who have Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) with the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) and participating in the SSS. Under this, eligible seafarers can enjoy free stay at The Seacare Hotel inclusive of breakfast.

NTUC members will also be offered a 10% discount on room rates when they check into the Seacare Hotel.

Contact information:

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SEACARE CHAIRMAN LEOW CHING CHUAN RECEIVES SNCF CO-OP CHAMPION AWARD

Seacare Chairman Mr Leow Ching Chuan was among the seven esteemed individuals who received the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) Co-operative Champion Awards 2013.

The award, specially created by SNCF to recognise respected individuals who championed the co-operative mission were presented to the co-op movement's movers and shakers. They included former Singapore President Mr S R Nathan, the late Singapore President Mr C V Devan Nair (award received by his son, Mr Janadas Devan), NTUC FairPrice Chief Executive Officer Mr Seah Kian Peng, immediate past NTUC Secretary-General Mr Lim Boon Heng, former Minister of State for the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports Ms Yu-Foo Yee Shoon and Central Co-operative Fund Chariman Mr S Chandra Das.

"They revolutionised the co-operative movement, the communities in Singapore and made a difference," said SNCF CEO Ms Dolly Goh.

The first to be on stage to receive the award from Mr Lawrence Wong, Acting Minister for Culture, Community, Youth and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information, was Mr Leow. His citation reads:

"While he would prefer to remain low profile, Mr Leow Ching Chuan's growing status behind the success of Seacare Co-operative Ltd demands otherwise.

Grounded in a pragmatic work ethic and propelled by a dream to give a better life for seafarers, Mr Leow doggedly put his hand on the plough to create a sustainable co-operative business. When The Seacare Hotel, the first union and co-operative owned and managed hotel in Singapore had its soft opening in September 2012, the cynics were silenced.

Mr Leow started his career as an industrial relationship officer with the Singapore Organisation of Seamen. As General Secretary subsequently, he could not turn a blind eye to the need to help





Singapore seamen displaced from their sea jobs. In 1994, Mr Leow and SOS Executive Committee decided to set up the Seacare Co-operative Ltd with the mission to help and benefit Singapore seamen and families through more work opportunities and appropriate investment projects. The Seacare Co-operative now has 21 subsidiary companies and 6 associated companies with an annual turnover of over S\$20 million.

While busily presiding over the growth of the Seacare Co-operative, Mr Leow found time to offer unwavering support to SNCF and participate in the activities of the Singapore co-operative movement. Appointed to the SNCF Executive Council in 1999, he continued to serve in the Council since then. As the Chairman of the SNCF Service Sector, a post he has been holding up from 2001 to now, Mr Leow provided leadership and mentorship diligently winning him respect from the co-operatives in the service sector. His fellow co-operators saw in him a keen sense of business acumen and his soft spot for those who need a helping hand. In all these

three important posts in the co-operative movement, Mr Leow freely shared his time, expertise and experience with his fellow co-operators. He has also served as a member of the Central Co-operative Fund Committee since March 2006. Mr Leow also served on three NTUC Social Enterprises, namely, NTUC Choice Homes Co-operative Ltd, NTUC First Campus Co-operative Ltd and NTUC Foodfare Co-operative Ltd.

Mr Leow's wholehearted involvement in co-operative activities at all levels shows he is as dedicated a co-operator as he is a trade unionist. He has shown that the co-operative movement offers a constructive and meaningful way of life."

The event on 19 January 2013, attended by more than 500 co-operative leaders and members, also saw 22 co-operatives and co-operators receiving the SNCF Honour Awards. It also marked the closing of the United Nations' International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) in 2012.

"Imagine how much better the world can be if we have many more enterprises out there that are not only competent but competitive enough to remain profitable for long term growth and survival; not only focused on the interests of management and stakeholders but care enough for the consumers and employees. The good news is that we can be glad that such enterprises do exist today. They exist in the form of cooperatives and social enterprises."

- NTUC Secretary-General
Mr Lim Swee Say,
Guest-of-honour, IYC Closing
Ceremony & SNCF Honour
Awards

"These seven esteemed figures have championed the Singapore Co-op Movement through the decades. Without their support and leadership, the Co-op Movement would not have thrived and achieved a reach as wide today. They are our Cooperative Champions."

- SNCF Chairman
Mr Chan Tee Seng

"One quality that stood out above all is their generosity of spirit, time and effort. Between the seven of these champions, they clocked in more than 200 years of selflessly serving the co-operative movement. We celebrate their conviction, tenacity, perseverance, leadership and compassion."

- SNCF CEO
Ms Dolly Goh



NEW YEAR FILLED WITH NOSTALGIA

SOS/Seacare Lunar New Year Lunch
with Senior Citizens of Jalan Kukoh

Every year, during the Lunar New Year season, the senior residents at Jalan Kukoh look forward to a special treat from SOS and Seacare. For the 12th year running, SOS and Seacare has kept the flame of tradition alive, as it reaches out to its neighbours during the festive season.

On 22 February 2013, 230 elderly residents from the Jalan Kukoh Resident's Committee and Kreta Ayer Seniors Activity Centre turned up for the New Year Lunch Gathering, held at the Red Star Restaurant.

Chairperson of the Organising Committee and Assistant Secretary of SOS Mr David Shoo offered well wishes and thanks to the staff and volunteers who have helped arrange transport for the senior citizens, while Special Guest Mr Teh Kong Leong, Chairman of Magnum Marine Services Pte Ltd, added a personal touch to make the residents feel special. Fitting to the occasion, all the elderly residents were presented with hong bao.

During the serving of food, guests were entertained through song and dance items; sang along to old tunes; and



"It is my second time attending this Lunar New Year celebration with SOS, and I think it's very thoughtful of the Union to celebrate the festive season for the residents who live near their buildings."

- Ms Neo Kim Huep, 77 years old, a resident of Jalan Kukoh for more than 50 years



"I'm having a very good time enjoying the food, air-con, and music."

- Mr Aw Mah Hai, 63 years old, a resident of Jalan Kukoh for four years



were humoured by famous entertainers such as Mr Wang Lei and Mr Chen Jian Bing. Some 20 lucky ones even walked away with lucky draw prizes.

It was quite a sight for nostalgia, with the venue's distinct decor reminiscent of the 1980's; the sound of familiar old tunes; the comfort of being among familiar friends.





SMMC Is Now OIL & GAS UK ACCREDITED

Seamare Maritime Medical Centre (SMMC) is proud to have received accreditation from the Oil & Gas UK, the leading representative body for the whole sector, following the certification of its Chief Resident Doctor after a training workshop.

The Oil and Gas UK are at the forefront of policy development and the provision of advice. This includes providing an accredited list of medical facilities that meet the standards required to provide medical services for offshore personnel.

The oil and gas industry provides employment for approximately 440,000 people across the United Kingdom.

By gaining accreditation, seafarers working offshore can look forward to receiving SMMC professional medical services when they call at Singapore.

"The accreditation by Oil and Gas UK demonstrates our competency and professionalism in providing top notch medical services to our patients. We are most pleased to have SMMC serving the medical needs of the oil and gas industry personnel."

– Dr Chia Yih Woei, Chief Executive Officer & Chief Resident Doctor, SMMC





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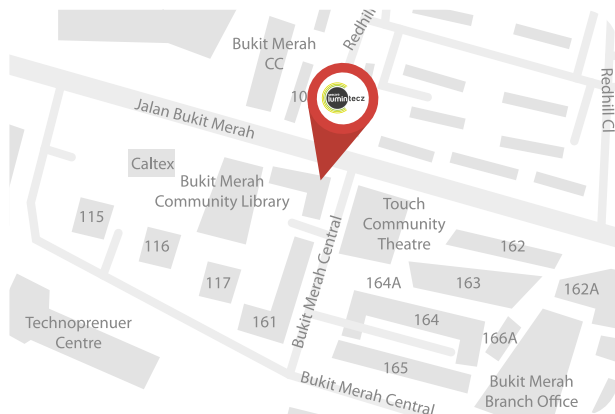
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SEACARE LUMINTECZ PTE LTD

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