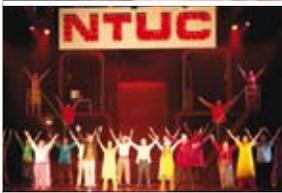


Apr + May 2007

# samudra

Celebrating our

# May Day



apr + may 2007

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**seAcAre**

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# The Unionists Are Smiling

In his May Day speech, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong noted that the unionists were smiling. "That means everything is alright. So there is a growing confidence and buzz in Singapore," he commented.

Singapore is indeed on a winning track. Some 48,000 jobs were added to the economy between January and March this year and unemployment stood at 2.9 percent in March. The Singapore economy is set to grow at a healthy rate of 4.5 to 6.5 percent this year.

PM Lee urged Singaporeans not to think that they have arrived. "So we have done ok. But don't be conservative; take risks, don't stagnate, work hard. Don't be complacent, always worry what is going to come."

Competitors are working harder and smarter because they are determined to catch up. The task ahead for Singapore is to look forward to a common future. Singaporeans, PM Lee said, must strengthen the trust and confidence in one another and continue to work together as a team.

In his speech, PM Lee emphasised that one of the Government's top priorities will continue to be equipping all workers for new jobs emerging in the country's economy.

The focus on workers' training has borne fruits, leading to Singapore's present state of economic growth and development. Lifelong learning will continue to be the highlight of the Government's plans. The challenge is to build a first-class continuing education system for adult workers.

The Prime Minister encouraged all the workers to take full advantage of the government's efforts to help them upgrade, and prepare themselves for new job opportunities.

Looking ahead, Mr Lee noted that another major long-term challenge is the rapid ageing of Singapore's population. The key goal, said PM Lee, is to enable workers to work longer and retire later.

To tackle the ageing population and other challenges, Mr Lee stressed the need for an outstanding team of tripartite leaders who are not just as capable and competent but also committed and dedicated to Singapore.

*"So we have done ok. But don't be conservative; take risks, don't stagnate, work hard. Don't be complacent, always worry what is going to come."*

*Said PM Lee*



May Day Celebration Photos: Courtesy of the National Trades Union Congress

# NTUC CHIEF WARNS AGAINST SINGAPORE BECOMING 'another average nation'

Singapore is a country with its own unique blend of tripartism where partners think far, talk real and act fast in unity. And according to NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say,

this is how he wants to ensure that this country never becomes a "same nation in the world of same challenges".

Addressing the May Day Rally on 1 May 2007, the NTUC Chief warned that if that happened, Singapore could end up as "just another average nation". With efforts in place to encourage more people to work longer, Singapore can become one of the nations with the longest employment.

SGLim has pledged that the NTUC will help maintain Singapore's high employment rate and work to keep unemployment low.

"Let us commit ourselves to always do the right things. Let us strive for unlimited Singapore so that there will be higher, better and longer employment for all. Let us strive for an even more united Singapore so that all collars of workers, all ages and nationalities will work, live and play together."

The current strong job numbers would not continue forever. The pace of change will only get faster with globalisation; Singapore will face even bigger, stronger and cheaper competitors from around the world. That is why it is important for trade unionists to have the right mindset

when it comes to attracting and retaining foreign talent in Singapore.

Said Mr Lim, "The one who can survive the best, is not the one with the best skill, is not the one with the highest level of qualifications, but rather, the person who is the most adaptable."

And the key targets to achieve this include promoting job re-creation and helping professionals who may be laid off to convert their skills. He urged the labour movement to join the government and employers in creating more platforms, more opportunities, for workers to adapt to a new environment.

*"That's why it is so important for low-wage workers to go through the process of job re-creation. For our matured workers, we go through a process of re-employment. And for the professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs), we go through the process of skill conversion. And if we can achieve all three, we believe that the future can be a brighter one for everyone."*

*Said SGLim*



This year's May Day brought about a series of sun-drenched events that not only mean serious business, but help spread fun and laughter to many individuals. It was also a collective effort bringing together workers, families, the underprivileged and the elderly. It was solidarity at its best showing with different ages, collars and nationalities all coming together to have some fun!

**A May Day of Tribute...**for the Distinguished Comrade of Labour, Mr Lim Boon Heng, Minister in Prime Minister's Office. Truly deserving of this highest May Day accolade, Mr Lim's shining example has most certainly shone bright and far, bringing light and enriching the labour movement.

On 29 April 2007, the annual May Day Awards, which recognise persons and companies that have made significant contributions to the trade union movement, were also presented to 48 individuals and 9 companies.

**A May Day of Togetherness...**when families of young and old, workers of all

collars descended on the carnival-styled Downtown East on 12 May. With jugglers tossing up fun, drummers drumming up adrenaline and clowns on stilts heightening the entertainment, more than 20,000 union members and their families experienced an action-packed adventure that's truly one of a kind!

**A May Day of United League...**because the Labour Movement is one big family; no borders, all global. This year, NTUC made efforts to invite workers of all collars, including professionals and even members from embassies and high commissions. By that count, about 10,000 visited the Singapore Zoological Gardens on 13 May 2007, with snacks of their local flavour and familiar scenes from home re-created for our global workers!

**A May Day Song...**A Labour of Love, performed to standing ovations and heaps of praise coming from non other than our leaders like Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Playing to capacity crowds from 30 April to 2 May, including Ministers, Members of Parliament, business leaders

and unionists, the musical was put up by the labour movement's performing arts group, p.La.Y!.

Also, read more about the spirit of care and share this May Day, when SOS, together with other unions, brought some elderly and underprivileged children on a much-anticipated outing (page 6 and 7); and how two of Seacare's staff received the May Day Model Workers' Award on 12 May 2007 (Page 26 and 27).

## An Inclusive Labour Movement Shares...





*Guest-of-Honour  
RADM (NS) Lui Tuck  
Yew, Minister of State,  
Ministry of Education,  
took time to chat  
with the elderly. He  
distributed tokens of  
red packets to each  
elderly, who were  
visibly delighted at the  
kind gesture.*

It was a much-anticipated affair, and a “big” project at that. A total of 700 elderly folk and 500 underprivileged children were treated to a day-long tour around Singapore on 19 May 2007, thanks to the good people of the labour movement.

Organised by NTUC, many unions did not hesitate to lend some top-notch support to ensure that these elderly and children had nothing short of a great time. An occasion to celebrate the young and old, the May Day Outing for Elderly and Children was arranged in line with Labour Movement 2011’s “Care and Share” Dragonboat.

SOS pitched in and made arrangements for 38 senior citizens from the Asian Women’s Welfare Association (AWWA) Welfare Home to join the colourful city tour. A local tour guide accompanied each group to explain the variety of sights and sounds as they went around Singapore.



Nostalgic sights of Chinatown, the old flavour of Kampong Glam, the spicy Little India and the modern skyscrapers within the business district had certainly left mixed feelings.

Leading the pack was SOS President Mr Tan Jing Bock and SOS Welfare Committee Admin. Secretary Mr Anthony Chan, who by now are familiar faces to these elderly from AWWA Welfare Home, SOS' adopted home for more than 10 years now. And part of the itinerary were stopovers at well-known landmarks such as the Singapore Museum, where the participants were given a quick flashback on the fun and works of their times.

While the children headed to Downtown East's Wild Wild Wet Theme Park, the highlight for these elderly was a delectable spread of six-course Chinese cuisine at Bliss Garden Restaurant at Singapore EXPO. Guest-of-Honour RADM

(NS) Lui Tuck Yew, Minister of State, Ministry of Education, took time to chat with the elderly. He distributed tokens of red packets to each elderly, who were visibly delighted at the kind gesture. They were given goodie bags as well.

The dash of happiness and cheer was evidently etched on their faces, as they bade farewell to the new memories and new friends they had made.

# SOS CARES & SHARES



A Pledge of Solidarity: **MAY DAY**  
**RESOLUTION 2007**

**ON THIS MAY DAY 2007, WE, IN THE LABOUR MOVEMENT HEREBY:**

**PLEDGE** to be an inclusive Labour Movement for ALL, for workers of all collars, all nationalities and all age groups.

**STRENGTHEN** our close tripartite partnership with the Government and employers so that Singapore continues to be a competitive economy, an inclusive society and a vibrant, global city with opportunities for all.

**STRONGLY SUPPORT** initiatives that improve the lives of low-wage workers, to help them enhance their wages and employability as well as strengthen their social safety net.

**CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY** with the Government and employers to:

- Expand employment opportunities through job re-design, re-training and skills-upgrading;
- Enhance cost competitiveness through performance-based rewards system;
- Maximise re-employment opportunities for mature workers;
- Promote healthy lifestyle among workers to enhance their employability;
- Secure better employment conditions for contract workers; and
- Uphold the highest standards of health and safety to prevent any loss of workers' lives and limbs.

**WE FURTHER RESOLVE TO:**

**HELP** workers stretch their dollar and lead better lives by working with our cooperatives and affiliated agencies;

**ATTRACT** and engage more young members and activists so that we continue to grow and remain relevant to our workers;

**RENEW** our strong symbiotic relationship with the People's Action Party and our solidarity with the international labour movements.

**On this May Day, we pledge to work together for a brighter future for ALL!**





*It is simple gestures such as these which assure them that SOS cares and shares.*

# MAKING TIME FOR MEMBERS



SOS officials' visits to vessels that make their port of call in Singapore have always been a delight and welcome respite for crew members.

And one such highlight took place on 22 May 2007, when SOS IR Officer Mr Mohamed Idris Mohamed Ibrahim called on the crew members of Maersk Kuantan, an A.P. Moller vessel, and the APL Coral.

Maersk Kuantan, a container ship, berthed at the Pasir Panjang Container Terminal while APL Coral berthed at Brani Terminal. Crew members from both vessels were pleasantly surprised and

extended a warm welcome to Mr Mohamed Idris.

During these visits, he never fails to bring along goodie bags of paraphernalia to give away – gifts such as caps, towels, calendars and magazines. Mr Mohamed Idris was pleased to learn that everything was going well.

It is simple gestures such as these which assure them that SOS cares and shares. Home to some 26 and 30 crew members respectively, both vessels set forth for their next destination immediately the next day after spending a day in port.





# THREATS & TERRORISM NO ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION

The message was strong and clear – we condemn such acts of threats and terrorism!

In a firm show of solidarity, Dockers' Unions from around the globe called for strong action to be taken for a fallen comrade, Pedro Zamora, General Secretary of the Guatemalan Sindicato de Trabajadores Empresa Portuaria – Quetzal (STEPQ).

Mr Pedro's assassination on 15 January 2007 was attributed to the union's opposition to port privatisation. At the time of his murder, he was fighting for the cause of his members, attempting to negotiate on their behalf over the future of the port.

Said Mr David Cockroft, ITF General

Secretary, "The government and police are under the spotlight on this one. We and the international community will not allow them to let this case slip conveniently away the way they have too many times in the past. The people who carried out this brutal attack must be found, along with the people who ordered it... I strongly condemn this cowardly attack and call upon the government of Guatemala to bring those responsible to justice immediately."

Enraged unionists took up arms at the ITF Seafarers' Section Meeting / Fair Practices Committee held in Sorrento, Italy, and pledged to support ITF's

campaign to seek justice for Mr Pedro. They signed a solidarity declaration on 19 March 2007; approved two resolutions geared to build political lobbying of the Guatemalan regime and extended the campaign to all ITF transport sections. SOS was represented by Executive Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat.

The four-day convention also brought up other discussions on IBF Agreements, IMO review of STCW Convention and principles of safe manning, recommendations on ITF Benchmark and FOC Campaign Review.

## UNIONS RE-AFFIRM COMMITMENT TO PROTECT SEAFARERS' WELL-BEING



Asian solidarity was a prevalent mood at the series of ITF Asia/Pacific Seafarers' Regional Committee (APSRC) Meeting and ITF Asia/Pacific Regional Committee (APRC) Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan.

The former was held from 14-15 May 2007 while the latter was conducted from 16 to 17 May 2007. Attended by a total of some 100 representatives from more than 20 countries, participants at both APSRC and APRC Meetings shared wide-ranging issues committed to promoting the well-being of seafarers. The review of FOC Campaign, promotion of rectification of ILO Maritime Instruments and globalisation impacts on the maritime industry were considered at length.

SOS was represented by a team of four, comprising of Vice President Mr Mohamed Idris Mohamed Ibrahim, Executive Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, IR Officer Mr Daniel Tan and IR Executive Ms Ong Kai Jing, who attended the ITF-FNV Women's Meeting held over the same period. Issues of women's rights and HIV-AIDS were examined.

## NEW CA SIGNED!



SOS has concluded a new Collective Agreement (CA) with Columbia Shipmanagement Ltd, covering five vessels of General Cargo, Multi-Purpose and Petroleum / Chemical Tanker. The CA takes effect from 1 January 2007 and will run till 31 December 2009.





# SOME STERLING SPORTSMANSHIP!

The weather was wet, the mud tried to deter them, but in the end, they flexed their muscles and gritted their teeth. And boy, did they give their all!

Truly an East-Meets-West event, more than 1,600 competitors from around the globe pitted their skills and stamina against each other during the annual International Sportsweek for Seafarers. Beginning on 7 May 2007 at the Yio Chu Kang Stadium, the six-day event saw some defending their titles, while others were attempting a shot at the championship. Competition was stiff, but the sportsmanship and camaraderie were unmistakable.

Competing in 15 categories, representatives from the various organisations and ships sprinted, threw, tugged, kicked and jumped their way into the top three spots, receiving their prized trophies from Guest-of-Honour Fr. Romeo Yu Chang, the Port Chaplain of Apostleship of the Sea (Church of St. Teresa).

This time round, many Singapore teams dominated the various categories, barely edging out other visiting teams formed by foreign nationality ship flags such as China, Marshall Island, Norway, Panama and Liberian.

The organiser of the Sportsweek, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore also extended its appreciation to prize donors and participants for their support towards the event, and for making the event a resounding success.



**Here's a look at the events that SOS Members excelled in:**

**4x100m Relay (All Classes)**

	Name of Ship/Organisation
First	Singapore Poly (SMA)
Second	Joides Resolution
Third	Singapore Organisation of Seamen

**Local Team**

	Name of Ship/Organisation
Champion	Police Coast Guard
1st Runners-Up	Singapore Organisation of Seamen

**60m Dash (Class III & IV)**

	Name of Ship/Organisation
Champion	Singapore Organisation of Seamen
1st Runners-Up	Joides Resolution
2nd Runners-Up	Police Coast Guard



**60m Dash (Class III & IV)**

	Name	Nationality	Name of Ship/Organisation
First	Callie Calitz	South Africa	Joides Resolution
Second	M. Mesbah Vddin	Bangladesh	Ocean Power
Third	Abd Rahim Mohamed	Singapore	Singapore Organisation of Seamen

**100m Dash (Class II)**

	Name	Nationality	Name of Ship/Organisation
First	Yazid Salleh	Singapore	Police Coast Guard
Second	Allen Cortez	Philippines	Joides Resolution
Third	Syed Faissal Abu Bakar	Singapore	Singapore Organisation of Seamen



# TO TRAIN IS TO GAIN

In just three days, SOS member Mr Hong Sian Beng transformed from being clueless when it came to Powerpoint presentation to someone who's adept at creating impacting visuals. All thanks to the SOS Training Grant, Mr Hong is now confident, capable of handling any presentations.

Over three days, Mr Hong underwent classes from 9am to 5pm where he gained skills and knowledge related to Microsoft Powerpoint. Creating and editing presentations entail more than just inserting text into slides. One has to be able to work with visual elements and delivering workgroup collaboration.



And Mr Hong concedes that being able to create a presentation from scratch and seeing it through was a worthy accomplishment for someone who didn't know the difference between a 'header' and 'footer' initially.



"It was good to have professional instructions because we learnt all that there is to be learnt, rather than by way of trial-and-error. That would have wasted precious time. Knowing the software's potential is important; it allows us to concentrate on learning important functions that would enhance our presentations."

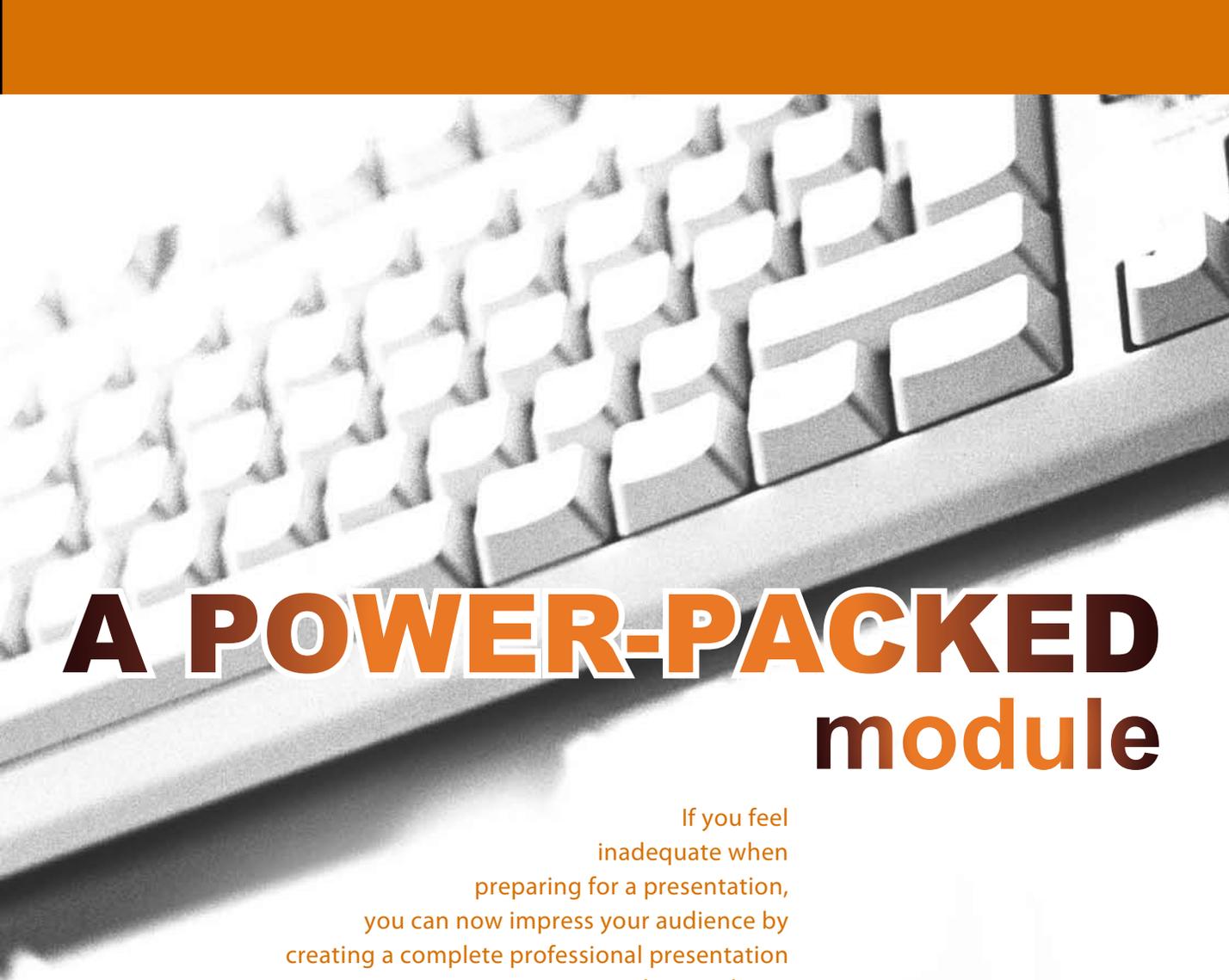
Mr Hong counts the NTUC LearningHub facilitator, Ms Maureen Tan, as being a source of great help. He described the lessons as clear and concise, yet informal; certainly nowhere intimidating as he had initially been worried about. "Ms Tan gives one-to-one attention and makes sure that all of us follow the lessons."

A facilitator for some 19 years, Ms Tan is a big advocate of upgrading one's skills, but she describes many as being hampered by their fear of technology. "Age is an excuse; many are actually worried about having to handle the computer. But in our society today, only skills upgrading can help us keep up with the pace."

Of Mr Hong, Ms Tan only has words of praise, "He's motivated to learn and copes very well, simply because of his keen and positive attitude. He returns early from breaks just to practise, and I must say that he has become very good. I can count on him to guide his classmates when they missed out something!"

She continued, "From Mr Hong, we see an example we want to encourage everyone to emulate – Have a keen attitude and be willing to help yourself, because only then can we help you."

**"Age is an excuse; many are actually worried about having to handle the computer. But in our society today, only skills upgrading can help us keep up with the pace."**



# A POWER-PACKED module

If you feel inadequate when preparing for a presentation, you can now impress your audience by creating a complete professional presentation graphics package.

Sign up for the Microsoft Specialist Certificate (Powerpoint XP), where you will be introduced to powerpoint skills such as basic file management techniques like contents formatting; methods on setting up and delivering a presentation.

Be spoilt for choice when it comes to training courses. What's more, paid-up members are eligible for the SOS Training Grant Benefit. Call the Training Division at 6379 5671 today to find out more information about the procedures for application and claim.

## What:

Duration – 21 hours / 3 days

Pre-requisite – NCETF ESS Basic ICT Skills, NCETF ESS Workplace ICT Applications, National PCDT-ICDL Certificate in Using the Computer & Managing Files

## Who:

For individuals who wants to be equipped with the essential skills to setup a presentation through the software.

## Where:

NTUC Learning Hub

# UNION PROVIDES A COMFORTING HAND TO MEMBER



There's nothing tougher than having to face uncertainties and fears alone in a foreign land. And SOS is glad to be able to do its part and provide some form of comfort to our foreign member.

Mr James Almasa, a Filipino, was warded in Singapore's Gleneagles Hospital in mid-May for a minor operation. The foreign member was scheduled for a second operation to remove a stone in his kidney in early June. He has since been discharged and transferred to the Maritime House.

When SOS Welfare Department received news on the member's plight and concerned, SOS President Mr Tan Jing Bock and Welfare Executive Ms Adila Juman called on Mr Almasa.

Mr Tan wanted to find out how the Union can lend assistance to him, especially since he does not have his family around. Visibly touched, Mr Almasa conveyed his appreciation to the Union for being there for him.



# Time to Throw A Birthday Bash !

As the special one celebrating your birthday, we have just the deals for you!

The NTUC Membership Department has launched a series of Birthday Treats to celebrate your special day.

From now to 1 March 2008, you can further reap the rewards of being an NTUC member.

\* Simply download your E-Vouchers and present them for use during your birthday or birthday month. Terms and Conditions apply.

Log on to [www.ntuc.org.sg/members/member\\_benefits\\_Birthday\\_Treats.asp](http://www.ntuc.org.sg/members/member_benefits_Birthday_Treats.asp) for more details.

## The Spa @ Aranda: Irresistible Pampering Spa Treats!

90min Synergy Infusion Package (Fruity Body Scrub & Aromatherapy Body-Massage) at \$68 (U.P. \$110)

## Amigo Café

Take advantage of the One for One Set Dinner worth \$42+++ , two weeks before and after your birthday

## Balinese House of Relaxation:

Rejuvenate and pamper yourself with massage services away from the hustle and bustle of city life!

Enjoy a 30% discount off ala carte services on your birthday month

## Orchid Bowl: Friendly competition awaits you!

Be entitled to two free bowling games and shoe rental worth \$8.20 on your birthday

## K Box Karaoke: Crooners welcome!

Enjoy special packages from \$38+++ onwards during your birthday week

## Rain Music Box Karaoke: Chill out in this welcome respite!

Enjoy a birthday drink on the house, with the purchase of any bottle.

## Escape Theme Park/Wild Wild Wet: Splash off right-away!

Enjoy Free Admission to either Escape Theme Park or Wild Wild Wet

## Angie the Choice:

Purchase a Durian Cake (20cm) & 6 pieces of Durian Roll at 15% off and Chocolate Lover's Cake (20cm) & 1 Chocolate Swiss Roll at 15% off

## Crystal Jade My Bread:

15% off 8" whole cakes or 10% off 6" whole cakes

## Cavana:

One Free Oyster Veggie worth \$1.50 with every purchase of one meal

## Indulge At Park:

Indulge your senses in the dining experiences of local and continental cuisine! 25% off buffet with minimum 4 paying adults on your birthday!

## Reds Hairdressing: Look your best!

Enjoy 25% off hairdressing services two weeks before and after your birthday

## Siam Kitchen: Spice up your meal!

Enjoy 25% off your bill for ala carte food items during your birthday month.

# THE MEN DON'T GET IT!

The men were visibly missing, but that's okay with these housewives, because the Housewives' Gathering on 21 April 2007 was all about them, and just for them!



*Talking shop, making friends, not to mention the heaps of fun 53 housewives had when they gathered in the same room at Club@52. It was borderless, with no language or age barriers.*

There was the full works – appetising Hi-Tea buffet featuring a fusion of East Meets West such as Maki Rice Roll, Chilli Country Egg Mayo Canape, Aglio Olio Spaghetti, and desserts such as the American Walnut Chocolate Brownies and Apple Crumble...Who cares if the food was fattening!

Talking shop, making friends, not to mention the heaps of fun 53 housewives had when they gathered in the same room at Club@52. It was borderless, with no language or age barriers. A Karaoke session of English, Mandarin and Dangdut songs with "dance" items put up by the sporting ladies certainly more than jazzed up the event at Club@52.



Even as 34 children darted about, the interaction was unmistakable. They had fun with their own little games; a magician performing tricks with full audience participation...and it came complete with a lucky draw! Twenty winners received NTUC FairPrice vouchers and the top two lucky ones walked away with additional Buffet Dinner Vouchers for two at the Orchard Café. Talk about fun...the whole event simply wowed everyone away!



# CONDOLENCES

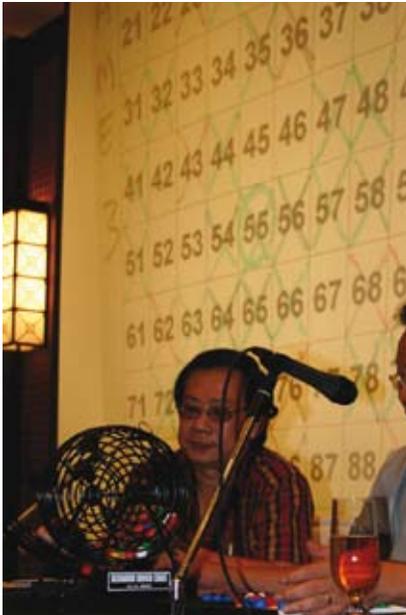
SOS extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Mr Wong Hui Sang, SOS member since 1978. Mr Wong passed away on 17 March 2007. His wife, Mrs Wong, received the NTUC Gift Plus Claim of \$5,500.

Mr Loh Bak Nguang, SOS member since 1982, passed away on 27 March 2007. Mr Loh's family received \$650 from SOS. SOS shares the grief of Mr Loh's family.

*Mrs Wong, spouse of the late Mr Wong Hui Sang, receiving a cheque from Mr Tan Jing Bock, President of SOS.*



## Coming Events (Aug-Sept)



TOMBOLA  
NIGHT

17 AUGUST 2007



SOS / SEACARE  
MEMBERS'  
NIGHT

25 AUGUST 2007



SOS STUDY  
GRANT  
PRESENTATION

1 SEPTEMBER 2007



# Seacare Focus





# SMMC MAKES FIRST

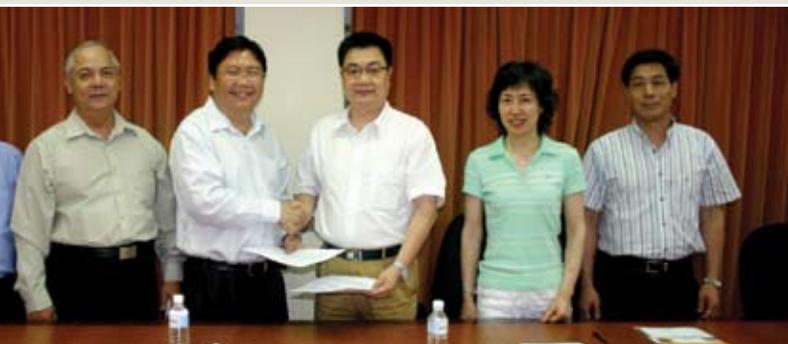
In their latest tie-up, Seacare Maritime Medical Centre Pte Ltd (SMMC) and Jing An District Central Hospital sealed an agreement to provide medical services to international seafarers who require medical attention in Shanghai.

Said Dr Chia Yih Woei, SMMC CEO, "SMMC is always looking out for new opportunities to improve our performance and even spread global influence. Whether in business or providing a service, progress must always remain a priority."

And this being SMMC's first foray into China, Dr Chia is optimistic about SMMC's prospects in the country. "It is a fact that Shanghai is fast joining the ranks of some of the world's busiest ports. Recognising its potential and opportunities abound, we have already begun exploring possibilities of gaining a foothold in Shanghai."

"This collaboration with the Jing An District Central Hospital will most certainly fulfil our objectives well. We are already excited and definitely looking forward to positive outcomes, and more days of closer partnership ahead," Dr Chia offers.

Kicking into operation, this alliance is indicative of bigger and better tidings for SMMC. Dr Chia was succinct about SMMC's upcoming plans – expanding in-land into other Chinese cities. "Once operations take off, we will be ready, and that's when we want to extend a wider reach, letting our services benefit more. We look forward to the day when we can extend our very own Seacare Medical Scheme to the maritime community in China."



# MOVE INTO SHANGHAI

## About Jing An District Central Hospital

Jing An District Central Hospital is the general hospital of Jing An District, serving the people of the area. It is the teaching hospital of Shanghai Second Medical University, Shanghai Traditional Medical University and Pharmacy University and Shanghai Tie Dao Medical College.

Offering high quality medical service and techniques, several of its departments and units enjoy excellent reputation. The Clinical Immunology Research Centre has been honoured as the Specialised Discipline of the Leading Medical Science in Shanghai. The hospital was also honoured as the Model Unit of Shanghai Municipal Government and Shanghai Municipal Health Bureau respectively.



*"This collaboration with the Jing An District Central Hospital will most certainly fulfil our objectives well. We are already excited and definitely looking forward to positive outcomes, and more days of closer partnership ahead," Dr Chia offers.*

# SEACARE MANPOWER SERVICES & EVOLUTION GET NEW CHAIRMAN

Seacare extends a warm welcome to the two new Chairman of Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd and Seacare Evolution Pte Ltd. Mr Chan Tee Seng joins Seacare Manpower Services as its Chairman from 1 April 2007; while Mr Peter Boo joins Seacare Evolution as its Chairman with effect from 1 March 2007.



## Chairman of Seacare Manpower Services

Mr Chan, General Manager of NTUC Income has previously served in the Administrative Service of the Ministry of National Development, assisting the Secretary-General of NTUC to oversee businesses within the NTUC Group. He has also held various other directorship and managerial positions with NTUC Membership Department, NTUC Healthcare and NTUC Skills Development Department.

Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd was incorporated in October 1995. Its nature of business covers human resource agency services for marine and non-marine personnel.



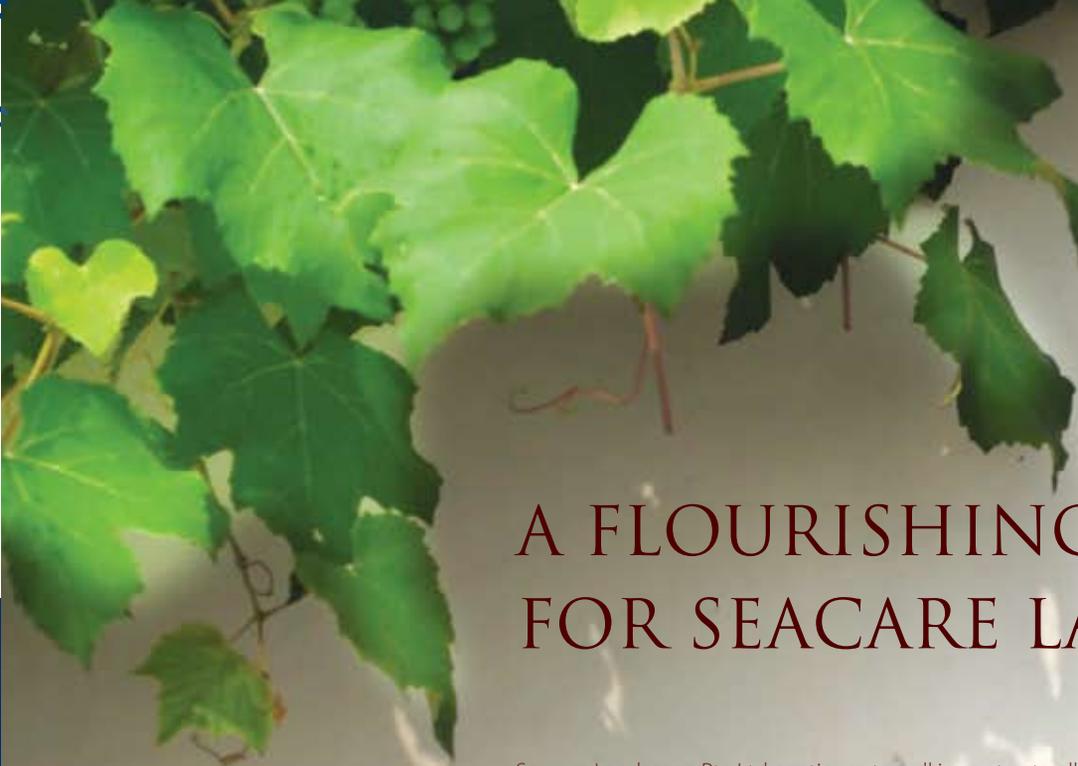
## Chairman of Seacare Evolution

Mr Boo boasts an impressive list of credentials, holding directorships with other organisations in both Singapore and Malaysia such as NTUC Healthcare. He also has a wealth of experience holding past directorships in various other local and overseas companies. A recipient of the First Entrepreneurship Excellence Award 1990, Mr Boo has also been actively involved in community service, serving in various designations and positions.

Seacare Evolution Pte Ltd was established in October 2003 and its nature of business includes Consultancy and Feasibility Studies, Solutions Integration, Business Development and more.

With the vast array of skills and experiences of both chairpersons, the companies are set to make further waves in the business world.

**Welcome on board!**



## A FLOURISHING TRADE FOR SEACARE LANDSCAPE

Seacare Landscape Pte Ltd continues to pull in contracts, all thanks to their emphasis on providing quality customer-service and value-added services.

Two of the latest contracts that the company recently sealed – with real estate bigwigs CB Richard Ellis for Duchess Crest Condominium and Newman & Goh for The Pearl Condominium, were secured due to the good track records of Seacare Landscape.

Management Committee for Duchess Crest Condominium renewed its landscape maintenance contract with Seacare Landscape even before it was due to expire. Pleased with the services rendered by the Landscape Division even as it made its transition to become a full-fledge company, they were assured of the quality standard of its capabilities.

Similarly, the contract for The Pearl Condominium was nailed down without a hitch. Having been recommended by other clients, the negotiation process was wrapped up and concluded within the month.

In the meantime, Seacare Landscape continues to be dutiful in completing their existing projects in tip-top fashion, while wooing new projects, be it commercial or residential ventures. Discussions for various projects are underway and Mr Firos Angullia, General Manager of Seacare Landscape, is positive about the opportunities abound and the direction that the company is heading.

“We have our very own nursery located at Bah Soon Pah Road. We have increased our manpower strength, our equipment, our fleet of vehicles and such. Overall, these will most certainly allow us to be more efficient and perform an even better job. Seacare Landscape is definitely well poised to fulfil the high level of standard expected by clients. Maintaining and improving the landscape is our forte; I am confident we are efficient and capable of completing any jobs beyond our client’s expectations.”

*“We have our very own nursery located at Bah Soon Pah Road. We have increased our manpower strength, our equipment, our fleet of vehicles and such. Overall, these will most certainly allow us to be more efficient and perform an even better job.”*

# MODEL MILESTONE

The May Day Model Workers' Award celebrates an inclusive workforce, with 194 unique personalities of 194 stories, each of a battle fought and won. And they were rewarded with a prestigious honour on 12 May 2007, where they proudly marched on stage to receive their award from Guest-of-Honour Mr Lim Boon Heng, Minister in Prime Minister's Office.

Selected for their resilience to overcome obstacles to return to the workforce, belief in constantly upgrading and retraining to make themselves employable and exemplary work performance and attitude, these 194 individuals were sent on an all-expenses paid 5 day trip to Vietnam.

This year's Model Workers' Award featured a bumper crop of award recipients, more than doubled from 80 last year, who were grouped into four main categories – the Back-to-Work Achievers, the Silver Collar Heavyweights, Best-in-Class in Contract Work and the Upgraders for Life. And for the first time, awards were given to foreign workers too. More significantly, 23 organisations were also given recognition for going the extra mile in enhancing workers' employability.

**Mr Lim Kuang Beng, Chairman of  
May Day Model Workers' Award  
2007 Organising Committee:**

*"These companies are pro-workers. They create good jobs, take care of their employees so that they can take better care of their customers and ensure that the workplace is a delight to go to."*

*"After poring through 600 quality nominations, we found that all our Model Workers possess excellent performances...it was hard to select the winners as every one of the nominees had high accolades from their employers, supervisors, peers and customers...The award is a worthwhile honour to the inspiring stories of all the 194 workers."*

## **Toh Chong Meng Comes Strongly Recommended**

Mr Toh Chong Meng is one individual anyone can easily look up to. At 72 years of age, he is not enjoying his retirement, but tirelessly working. A silver collar heavyweight, he works at Compassvale Primary School since January 2003 as a school librarian. In fact, his affinity with schools dates back to May 1996, when he first joined Naval Base Primary School, also referred by Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd.

Then again, he is one we can hardly relate to. The humble elderly spots a quiet smile of triumph, one of having to grit his teeth and trudged on in a bid to overcome adversities.

Mr Toh has been battling cancer for the past few years. But he shows no sign of throwing in the towel. He does not allow his regular chemotherapy treatment to become an excuse or sympathy for himself. In fact, it has given him more reasons to reject such hindrances in his work at the school.

And that has given his School Administrative Manager every reason to nominate him for the May Day Model Workers Award:

*"He is always punctual for work and he works reliably without close supervision from the Library Co-ordinator. The Library Co-ordinator is full of praise for his work attitude and capability. He works very well with the team of teachers in charge of the library and the Library Co-ordinator."*

*"He is enthusiastic and has a lot of initiative. He willingly returns calls to parents who have any enquiries regarding library matters, and he takes his own initiative to call parents when their child fails to return library books on time. In addition, he calls parents to explain the procedures involved when the child loses any library books."*

*"He is responsible and committed in his job. He will come to school during school holidays to do paper work in the library, even though he is not paid, to make sure that the library is ready when school re-opens. He needs to go for*

*chemotherapy due to his medical condition. Usually after the treatments, he needs to be away for more than one week of medical leave. I have seen him back in school even though he is on medical leave, to tidy up the library. There is no doubt about his loyalty to the school and dedication at work."*

*"A new library system SPYDUS was implemented in April 2006. He attended the training session to handle the new system so that he is upgraded to carry out his job as the librarian. He is willing and keen to attend courses to upgrade himself. On 20 and 21 May 2006, he attended and completed the Personal Effectiveness and Achievement Course."*

- Excerpts from Mr Toh Chong Meng's nomination

\* Mr Toh Chong Meng passed away on 12 July 2007 due to stroke. Seacare extends its condolences to the family of Mr Toh.

### Never Too Old for an Award

As you walk about the Seacare Building, you would certainly have met that jovial cleaning 'auntie', Madam Ng Loi Tin.

Always cheery, her face will invariably light up whenever you ask her if she is enjoying her work. Nothing impressive about her job, you may say. But to Madam Ng, her pride lies in her work, and it shows in the spick and span conditions at Seacare.

And on 12 May, her pride was evident, this time because she was honoured for her 'spotless' efforts at work. The model worker could barely hide her smile as she accepted her award from Minister Lim Boon Heng.

The cleaner with Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd isn't afraid to put her hands to good use when it comes to her job. Describing herself as a simple person, Madam Ng counts on completing her tasks as priority. She does not have to be told to do her job and never hesitates to go the extra mile. However, Madam Ng thinks little of her achievements. She brushes off her efforts as negligible.

In fact, she was one of the three Seacare Environmental personnel

among the pioneer batch of Restroom Specialists to participate in a three-day pilot course on Restroom Cleaning and Maintenance, conducted under the Job Re-creation Programme (JRP).

At 69 years old, the healthy and hearty lady revealed that the incentive trip to Vietnam was her first time on the aeroplane. "I found it hard to believe when I first heard that I am a Model Worker. I am very grateful to Seacare Environmental for nominating me, to NTUC for giving me this opportunity to see a world different from Singapore. It is an opportunity hard to come by, and I cherished all the memories and lessons I've gained from this enriching trip."



# PLOUGH BACK \$64.5 MILLION TO SOCIETY

Last year, \$64.5 million in direct financial contributions was given by NTUC and related groups to fulfill social objectives. The contributions came in the form of rebates, discounts and the absorption of the goods and services tax, as well as for the funding of social programmes for workers.

At the press conference to highlight the social impact of the 12 NTUC Co-operatives, Mr Lim Swee Say, NTUC Secretary-General, highlighted three priorities: boost talent, improve corporate governance and widen market share.

"Every co-operative within the NTUC family, each and every one of them, must

aspire to be best-of-class, best-in-class – in terms of their ability to innovate, compete, function efficiently, effectively, ability to attract best people, brightest talent."

"Being second may not be good enough. We have to keep pursuing to be a market leader."

The NTUC Co-operatives are formed by the labour movement with the primary purpose to serve workers and their families. In calling on the enterprises to be market leaders, Mr Lim emphasized the important social role they play, particularly in keeping prices low. The co-ops have to be strong and competitive, so these enterprises make money, which is ploughed back to

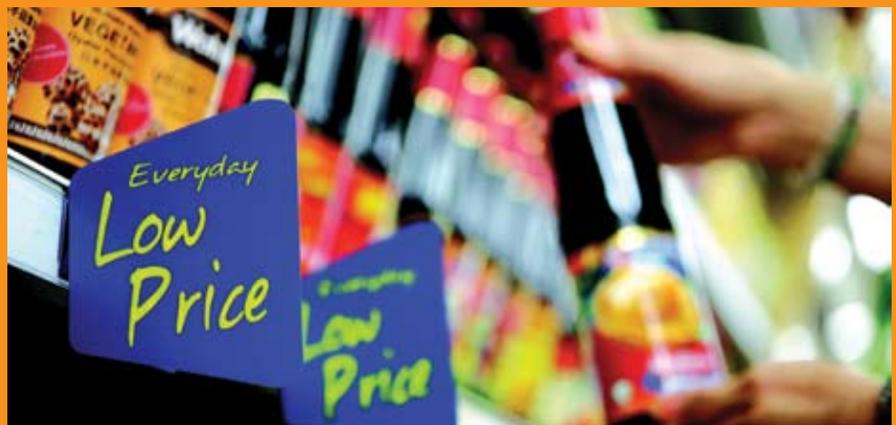
workers in the form of rebates, discounts or subsidies for other programmes.

In January 2007, the Social Enterprise Development Council, chaired by Minister Lim Boon Heng, was formed to steer the NTUC co-operatives growth as competitive social enterprises that have both social impact and financial viability.

Below are some highlights of the good work some of the NTUC Co-operatives have done.

*"Every co-operative within the NTUC family, each and every one of them, must aspire to be best-of-class, best-in-class – in terms of their ability to innovate, compete, function efficiently, effectively, ability to attract best people, brightest talent."*

*Said SG Lim*



## Helping to stretch workers' dollars

- NTUC FairPrice maintains a basket of 400 essential items at low prices to deliver great value and set benchmark prices. About 90% of the entire basket of its Everyday Low Price items are priced either lowest or the same as major competitors.
- Unity keeps its basket of 100 commonly-purchased items at the lowest overall pricing and stocks affordable generic products as alternatives to the costlier branded ones.



### Enhancing the quality of life for the elderly

- NTUC Eldercare increased rebates to union members from \$5 per month to \$15 per month for its day-care services.
- 40,000 senior citizens enjoy 2% discount at NTUC FairPrice supermarkets every Tuesday, with total savings of \$900,000 per year.

*“Being second may not be good enough. We have to keep pursuing to be a market leader.”*

### Providing children with a head start

- NTUC Children’s “Read-to-Reach” programme detects reading problems faced by children and provides timely intervention for children to improve their reading skills.



### Helping the less privileged

- NTUC Childcare raised \$1.15 million to help 400 children under the Bright Horizon Assistance scheme and 300 children under the Read-to-Reach programme.
- NTUC FairPrice presented more than half a million dollars worth of study grants to its employees’ and members’ children. More than \$6 million study grants have been given out since 1985.
- Since 1983, NTUC FairPrice’s “Used Textbooks Project” has helped more than 100,000 needy students save more than \$6 million in textbook expenses.
- NTUC Income’s “Love to Work” programme provides job opportunities for the less privileged youths. 600 students has benefited from this programme since it started in March 2006.

### Enhancing the Employability of Workers

- NTUC LearningHub partnered unions and other organizations to provide the Career Enhancement Training Programmes for retrenched workers to better prepare them for job search and interviews. More than 3,500 retrenched workers have benefited from the programme since its launch in mid-2005.



### Collaborating with partners

- NTUC Foodfare supports the Singapore Prison Service’s Yellow Ribbon project by providing training for prison inmates in culinary and food preparation skills to qualify for the ITE Certificate in Food Preparation.
- NTUC Thrift introduced the Retrenched Worker Fixed Deposit Scheme to provide union members with higher savings rates for their retrenchment payout.

*(Photos: Courtesy of the National Trades Union Congress)*

# LET'S AGREE TO DISAGREE



Conflict and consensus – two seemingly opposite poles of contention that either makes or breaks any situation. On the contrary!

And a class of 26 contract staff underwent a two-day work camp organised by Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd on 24 and 25 May 2007 to learn the key to unbolt such deadlocks

of conflict. Participants were introduced to new perspectives such as embracing conflicts as complementary and not mutually exclusive to progress.

"Not many realise that actually," said Mr Ernest Chen, trainer of the course 'Managing Conflict Resolution and Difficult People'. "Conflict can be beneficial if a resolution can be reached. Without resolution, conflict merely becomes an opportunity to recycle old arguments and disagreements. Through this course, participants will learn that conflicts can be rewarding and exciting and certainly, not an obstacle to progression."

The modus operandis of conflict management were imparted to the class. Participants sat through lectures, hold discussions, role-played and simulated case studies that allowed them to appreciate the importance of minimising conflict or maximising conflict transformation.

## Hi, My Name is Hawa Samat...



"...and I joined Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd in January 2007 as an Administrative Executive. Clients come to me when they require staff to fill the vacant positions.

My responsibilities include interviewing applicants, helping to match these applicants to suitable jobs. Everyday is hectic, with numerous calls made to clients and applicants to co-ordinate interviews, follow up on placement, check on documents, etc. The phone would often ring with enquiries from clients and applicants.

There isn't anything that I can't handle. My experience working with a Statutory Board previously has equipped me with skills to cope with stress. My previous job entails collecting money from people, but now, I "give" money to people by helping them land the right jobs. The interesting mix of characters and personalities I come into contact with has continued to broaden my perspective and understanding to accommodate people.

Now, my personal motto is "The customer is always right"; and finding solutions to please or appease the customer is important to me. Though it can become stressful at times, I think I am cut out for the service industry.

I feel that I am continuing my learning journey while working at Seacare. And working and learning here is like being with a large, happy family, where everyone is helpful and watches out for one another.

It gives me immense satisfaction and a great sense of accomplishment whenever our applicants land the job they apply for. In fact, when some of them come by the office just to say thank you, it is their show of appreciation that makes me feel grateful that I can make a difference to their lives."

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