

Aug + Sept 2006

samudra

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the Singapore Organisation of Seamen and Seacare Co-operative Limited

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contents



Features

- 3 PM Lee Hsien Loong – An Inclusive Society For All;
NTUC SG Lim Boon Heng – Well Done, Union Leaders
- 6 Welcome Reception for SOS New Advisor, Ms Grace Fu & World Maritime Day Celebration
- 8 SOS GS Delivers Good News at OGM
- 10 World Maritime Day – We Appreciate You



Industrial Relations

- 13 SOS Renews CBA with Eagle



Welfare and Social Activities

- 18 SOS Study Grant Presentation
- 20 Tombola Nite; Children's Day Outing
- 21 SOS Welcomes New Welfare & IR Officers
- 22 Members' Nite; Members' Corner

Training

- 16 MPA Education Grant Application Open Now; Revised Training Schedule

International Affairs

- 12 ITF World Congress; NSU Congress in Norway

Membership

- 14 NTUC Membership & IR Meeting; SOS Clinches Membership Award
- 15 SOS Receives AWWA Recognition Award



Seacare Focus

- 24 Seacare Reveals Steady Performance at AGM
- 26 Mr Raymond Chia Joins Seacare Holdings as Director
- 27 ICA Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 28 Seacare Properties Welcomes New GM; Welcoming SMS New Manager and Seacare Manpower New Staff
- 30 Seacare Environmental Revamps Club@52 Terrace
- 31 Club@52 – Beer Garden Under the Starry Night



AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY FOR ALL SINGAPOREANS



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who delivered his National Day Rally speech on 20 August 2006, touched on many topics close to the heart of Singaporeans.

PM Lee pointed out that the key issues that affect Singapore's future in a rapidly changing world are difficult to predict and "we are bound to encounter problems along the way".

"Singapore is an improbable nation in an uncertain world, and we must never take our future for granted because many have put their heart and soul into building this country. We have ambitious goals, but we can achieve them. The outlook is bright. Singapore is aplenty with opportunities for our people to pursue our dreams, to improve our lives by making the effort ourselves, our families, our fellow Singaporeans and others in need," he said.

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On the economy, PM Lee is optimistic that Singapore has what it takes to succeed. The country has had two very good years. "With a good economic team and viable strategies, our estimate of sustainable long term growth for Singapore is 3-5%, but over the next few years, we can do better."

Commenting on the Singapore heartware, PM Lee pointed out that ingredients of a strong heartware are not centrally-directed or government campaigns and programmes, but activities started by people who care for the country. It is about building a strong and cohesive Singapore family together and about the emotional ties that anchor people here.

"We are an open and inclusive society, where we all have a place. As Mr Rajaratnam put it, 'Being Singaporean is not a matter of ancestry; it is a matter of conviction and choice,'" PM Lee said.

Demands will be great and difficult. But we can meet these challenges and succeed if we have courage and spirit, are prepared to adapt and change, and help one another progress together.



In his speech, PM made a special mention of the digital age we are living in. New technologies such as the internet, interactive and digital media have begun impacting the country's future, and Singapore will do well in this digital age. "Whatever the risks in this new world, we

must continue to open up. We cannot expect everyone to be on the same note all the time, so let us improvise in harmony and work together to take Singapore forward," PM Lee pointed out.

"Digital age will open up many new opportunities and create many new jobs that Singaporeans can excel in. We are a more participative society and we have come a long way exploiting IT and making it a pervasive part of our lives."



"Demands will be great and difficult. But we can meet these challenges and succeed if we have courage and spirit, are prepared to adapt and change, and help one another progress together. Let's make this our land of opportunity and give our children a bright future in this changing world."

– PM Lee Hsien Loong



“WELL DONE, UNION LEADERS”

NTUC Secretary-General Lim Boon Heng praises workers for their show of resilience during tough times in his National Day message.

With the economy doing well and companies performing better, last year's job growth was strongest in a decade. And the Minister, Prime Minister's Office, attributes this to the firm spirit of tripartism in Singapore.

Union Leaders: A job well done!

“Union leaders were intimately aware of the pain that workers were going through. They steeled themselves to do what was necessary, and did not flinch when they were facing the brunt of workers' frustrations. Union leaders themselves were not protected from retrenchment, yet they worked selflessly, putting members and workers first. Union leaders deserve credit for having led the way through those tough times.”

Workers: Keep up the spirit!

“Workers have also demonstrated their resilience in accepting the difficult medicine, adapting to the many changes that came their way. It was particularly commendable how the spirit of trust between union leaders, members and workers enabled us to pull through those difficult times. And it is important to adopt a positive attitude to change, to take up new skills, take on new jobs, and thus enhancing their employability.”

NTUC: Doing more for all!

“At NTUC, we are pushing hard for decent work by re-creating existing jobs for better pay. This will complement the new higher value-added jobs that we are bringing in. This enlarges the job pool for workers. We are also pushing hard to support skills upgrading for workers to help them take on these jobs.”

Employers: You can play your part too!

“NTUC cannot do this by ourselves. Employers should also play their part. Beyond looking at immediate profitability, they also need to focus on the long-term viability of their businesses. In doing so, they need to focus on upgrading the skills of their workforce, to enhance productivity and take on new work that comes along.”

“We have demonstrated how unions, workers and employers can work effectively to overcome adversity over the past ten years. Now that we are doing better, it is even more important to leverage on our strong labour-management relationships to better position companies and workers for better profitability and better employability. It is a win-win partnership for employers and workers. Together, we can indeed achieve a brighter future for all!”

- Mr Lim Boon Heng, Secretary-General, NTUC



HOME COMING FOR GRACE FU, SOS NEW ADVISOR

"It's wonderful to be back!" said Ms Grace Fu, Minister of State for Ministry of National Development, at the welcome party the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) threw for her on 22 September at Club@52.

The former Chief Executive Officer of PSA International Ltd for South East Asia and Japan expressed that she missed the maritime sector 'a lot'. So when SOS invited her to be the Union's advisor, she said yes. Mr Lim Boon Heng, NTUC Secretary-General, Mr Zulkifli Mohammed, SNCF Chief Executive, and Mr Arthur Fong, MP for West Coast GRC, are SOS current advisors.



"Coming to SOS is like homecoming, yet it is a new beginning. Being part of SOS will allow me to continue to have a tie, an unbroken umbilical cord to the maritime community," she said in her first visit to the Seacare Building.

"Though I am new to politics, I want to be an effective bridge between politics and the SOS members. So, you can come to me if you have any problems. I will do my best."



SOS General Secretary Mr Leow Ching Chuan remarked to the guests at the Club, who were mainly made up of industry players, Seacare clients and friends and SOS members, that both SOS and Seacare will stand to benefit from Ms Fu's vast experience from port operations.

Besides welcoming Ms Fu, the event had another agenda and that was to celebrate the World Maritime Day. This year's theme is "Technical Co-operation: IMO's Response to the 2005 World Summit."



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GS Delivers

GOOD NEWS AT OGM

“The good news resulting from the greater number of SOS collective agreement ships is the continued upwards progression of SOS membership strength. It also meant that more sea-going members have been brought within the ambit of our funding schemes such as for medical services and retirement benefits which are standard features of service in SOS collective agreement ships,” the GS reported.



The number of ships under SOS collective agreement from March 2004 to March 2006 grew by about a quarter to almost 500 ships. This is good news, said SOS General Secretary Mr Leow Ching Chuan, at the Union’s Ordinary General Meeting held on 18 August 2006 at Seacare Multi-Purpose Hall.

He attributed the growth to the corresponding increase in the size of Singapore’s merchant fleet.

“The good news resulting from the greater number of SOS collective agreement ships is the continued upwards progression of SOS membership strength. It also meant that more sea-going members have been brought within the ambit of our funding schemes such as for medical services and retirement benefits which are standard features of service in SOS collective agreement ships,” the GS reported.

For members who are not in sea service and therefore unable to benefit from these funding schemes, the Union has remained resolute in helping and enabling Singapore

seamen to find work at sea despite the overwhelming odds against them doing so.

SOS, reported Mr Leow, has spent more than half a million dollars each year during the period under review on membership benefits and social activities.

“Our main priority has always been to help our members be more employable through skills upgrading and training courses. But

catering to the well-being and welfare of our members and their dependents has also been important to us. We make it a point to care for and share whatever we could have afforded with retired seamen and charity home inmates.”

At the Ordinary General Meeting, Mr Leow also pointed out that SOS’s investment arm, Seacare Co-operative Limited and its group of companies, achieved growth in turnover by about \$7million to

slightly less than \$30 million though the Group’s profit before tax dipped by about \$0.1 million to about \$0.9 million because of new investments and a change in accounting policies.

“Despite the slight hiccup in the Singapore’s economy, SOS and Seacare have managed to weather through the period under review without any setback. We are confident we can similarly overcome whatever challenges the future may pose us,” Mr Leow said.

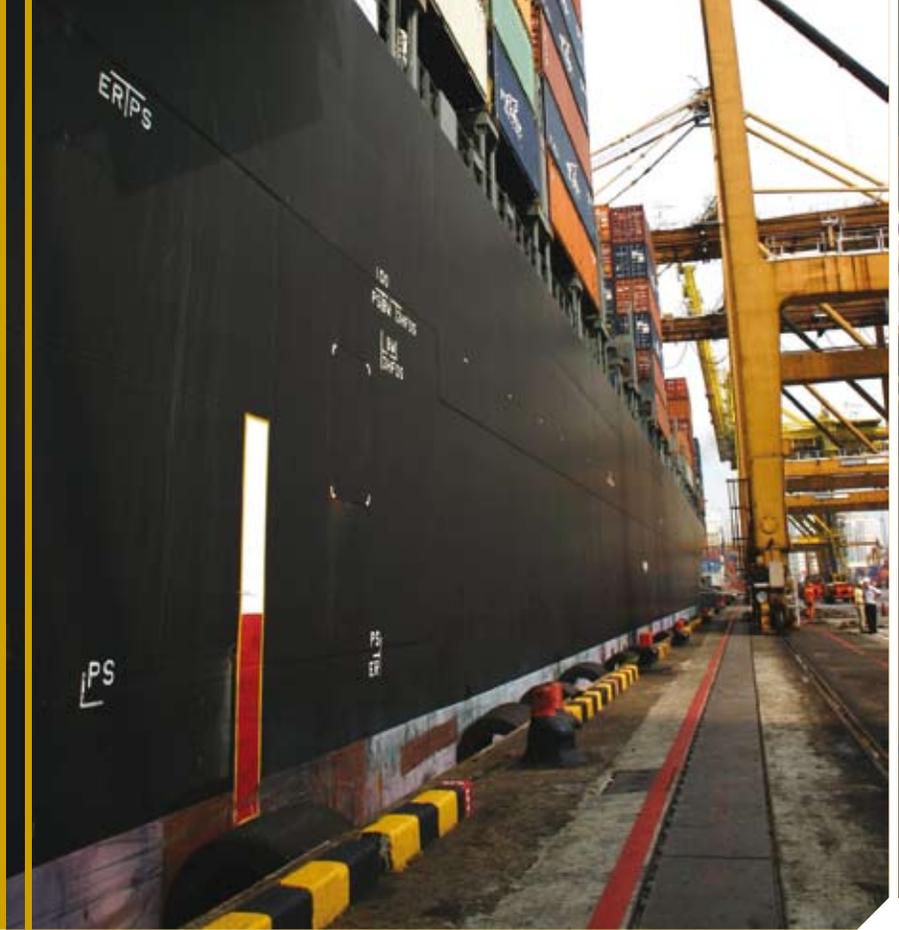


PRO-MEMBERSHIP CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS GET FULL SUPPORT

The SOS delegates who attended the Union Ordinary General Meeting unanimously voted to amend the Constitution to now enable foreign participating members to remain members while on standby or on leave.

Another amendment made to the Constitution was also aimed at encouraging union membership. Persons who are employed ashore in the maritime industry and are presently not eligible to be represented vis-à-vis their employers by any trade union can join SOS as participating (general) members. Staff of Seacare and other associated bodies can now become general branch members.

The delegates also said yes to increasing the number of Founder and Cadre members from 100 to a maximum of 200 persons.



MPA AND SOS EXPRESS APPRECIATION ON WORLD MARITIME DAY

World Maritime Day – a day of celebration that spells the appreciation for and cheer of the seafaring community!

To the shipping community, World Maritime Day is a significant day that is welcomed and celebrated on 26 September 2006 by all ships and crew members alike. To commemorate this special day, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and SOS jointly presented hampers to seafarers whose ships called at the Singapore port during the last week of September, a practice since 2003.

This year, the gesture of appreciation was shown when a total of 600 hampers were sent out to ships over the World Maritime Day week, one of which was a Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) cargo vessel, NYK Lyra.





BG Tay Lim Heng, MPA Chief Executive, Mr Johan Franson, International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council Chairman, and Mr Leow Ching Chuan, SOS General Secretary presented a hamper to the Captain of NYK Lyra, who appreciatively accepted it on behalf of his crew members. This initiative, together with other

welfare schemes introduced by MPA, maritime unions and seafarers' missions, demonstrates Singapore's strong commitment in being an international maritime hub while reaching out to a larger proportion of seafarers and furthering the interests and welfare of the seafarers.



This year's hamper distribution project took on an added significance as it was incorporated as one of the activities under MPA's inaugural Maritime Week, which spanned from 25 to 29 September, during which IMO Officials arrived in Singapore to participate in its events for the week.

The hampers, sponsored by MPA and SOS, are a small token of appreciation for the contributions of seafarers who make international shipping one of the most efficient and important means of cargo transportation. With the enthusiastic response from the shipping agencies and recipient ships every year, the project has been well-received by the shipping community.

This year's hamper comprised a mixture of food and entertainment items such as cookies, titbits, health magazine and VCD.

SOS wishes all a Happy World Maritime Day!

ITF 41st Congress

RANDALL HOWARD & DAVID COCKROFT ARE ITF PRESIDENT & GS

Some 1,400 delegates, advisors and observers from about 400 organisations spread over 96 countries attended the International Transport Federation (ITF) 41st Congress.

Vice President Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim and Executive Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat represented SOS in the Congress which witnessed the election of new ITF President Mr Randall Howard, who is the South African Transport and Allied Workers' Union General Secretary, and the re-election of Mr David Cockroft as ITF General Secretary.

The Congress, which took place in Durban, South Africa, from 31 July to 11 August 2006, focused on the theme "Organising Globally: Fighting for our Rights" and deliberated ways to strategically develop and exploit the strengths of international solidarity to meet our objectives.



"SOS, as an affiliate of ITF, will continue to do our part to support ITF's initiatives and to uphold seafarers' rights and welfare in all that we do. We congratulate the election of the new ITF President and GS and at the same time thank the outgoing ITF President Umraomal Purohit for his eight year contribution to the global labour movement," Mr Kam said.

"SOS, as an affiliate of ITF, will continue to do our part to support ITF's initiatives and to uphold seafarers' rights and welfare in all that we do."

SOS ATTENDS NSU CONGRESS IN NORWAY

SOS Vice President, Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim represented SOS at the Norwegian Seafarers' Unions' (NSU) 25th Ordinary Congress held in Sandefjord, Norway, from 25 to 28 September 2006.

"SOS and NSU have always enjoyed harmonious relations and supported one another in the NASCO meetings and in other international forums, especially on matters concerning the welfare and interest of seafarers, regardless of their nationalities or ranks. We certainly look forward to this continued good relationship between the two unions," the SOS leader commented.

The 11,500 strong NSU is a member of the Norwegian Asia Seafarers' Committee (NASCO) and is affiliated to the Norwegian Trade Union Federation, Nordic Transport Workers' Federation, International Transport Workers Federation, amongst many other international unions.

Attended by regional delegates, representatives from the federations and unionists hailing from Croatia, Germany, United Kingdom, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, etc., the congress saw the election of Ms Jacqueline Smith as President, Mr Johnny Hansen as Vice-President and Ms

Anita Furuvik as the National Secretary replacing Ms Smith. Mr Erik Bratvold and Mr Rigmun Storoy are the outgoing President and Vice-President respectively.

"SOS and NSU have always enjoyed harmonious relations and supported one another in the NASCO meetings..."



RENEWED CBA WITH EAGLE

PROMISES MEMBERS SOARING BENEFITS

The spirit of tripartism is best illustrated when employees do their best for the company, and the employer gives due recognition to their efforts when the company performs well.

Eagle Shipmanagement Pte Ltd (ESPL) is one such employer. Last year, they acknowledged the contributions of their workforce to excellent business

performance with a special bonus package. Once again this year, they have reaffirmed their commitment to the well-being of their staff by renewing the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with SOS.

The renewed CBA, comprising of two components, SSA CBA and SFA CBA, was signed between ESPL and SOS on

22 August 2006 at the Seacare Building. It will cover 28 vessels over a period of three years.

Focusing on meeting the well-being and needs of sea-going staff, the global shipping company has agreed to increase the contribution towards the Seafarers Provident Fund per seaman per month with effect from 1 July 2006, as well as continue the contribution to the Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS).

The CBA also made room for basic wage increase of about 15% across all ranks (SFA CBA) and seafarers will be entitled to an annual increment of 2-10% of the commencing basic salary upon completion of one year's service (SSA CBA).

Representing ESPL at the signing ceremony were Capt Rajalingam Subramaniam, General Manager and Capt Anthony Khoo, Senior Manager of Marine Personnel Dept; while SOS was represented by Mr Leow Ching Chuan, General Secretary, Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim, Vice President and Mr Kam Soon Huat, Executive Secretary.

MORE GOOD NEWS!

AET has reported relatively good performance for the financial year ending 31 March 2006, despite the challenging shipping market, especially in the tanker sector. And in recognition of the contributions of seafarers, the AET Board has approved a special bonus payment which has been paid in October to all eligible staff.

All ESPL sea staff received the special bonus ranging from 0.6 to 2.1 months. This is the second year running that seafarers enjoy this quantum bonus, and this year, the

number of staff eligible for this payout has increased from the previous year.

Said Mr Amir H Azizan, President and CEO of AET, "It is always important to recognise all efforts of our staff who have worked tirelessly in making our success possible. We appreciate the efforts of our staff who have not only work harder but also smarter, co-operate with colleagues more effectively and again rise to the challenges at work while continuing to ensure that our family commitments are not neglected."

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LABOUR MOVEMENT SEMINAR 2006



LM2011 GETS HEADSTART IN BANGKOK

A successful labour movement to serve all workers, regardless of their jobs or nationalities – that is the underlying foundation of the vision for Labour Movement 2011.

Some 600 participants from 64 unions, NTUC Co-operatives and NTUC Clubs were invited to take part in the NTUC Labour Movement Seminar held in Bangkok from 10 to 14 September 2006,

where NTUC President Mr John De Payva, Secretary-General Mr Lim Boon Heng and Deputy Secretary-General Mr Lim Swee Say addressed the congregation.

A six-man team from SOS comprising of President Mr Tan Jing Bock, Executive Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, Assistant Secretary Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar, Assistant Treasurer Mr David Sim, EXCO member Mr See Boon Kwang and IR

Executive Mr Daniel Tan were present at the seminar.

The participants broke into small groups of eight to brainstorm, contribute and discuss ideas for LM2011, such as undertaking different means to attract new members and staying grounded to

SOS RECRUITS & WINS

“SOS will continue to do our best and play our part in meeting this target!” Mr Tan quipped.

SOS was awarded a Merit Award for its efforts in achieving significant membership growth for the year 2005. The award, worth \$1,500, was presented during the Leadership Dialogue Series “Towards One Million Membership”, held on 4 August at Downtown East.

Unveiled as one of NTUC’s six core priorities, the NTUC Membership Department (MED) aims to hit the one

million membership mark by 2015. This works out to be approximately 55,000 members every year. The MED is sparing no effort to make this reality. With its strategic plans, innovations and co-operation of the affiliated unions, union membership has hit 469,000 in 2005.

SOS President Mr Tan Jing Bock accepted the award on behalf of SOS from Guest-

of-Honour, NTUC Assistant Secretary-General, Mr Seng Han Thong, during the ceremony.

“SOS will continue to do our best and play our part in meeting this target!” Mr Tan quipped.



SOS AWARDED FOR GOOD WORKS BY AWWA

Sixteen years – that’s how long SOS has adopted the Asian Women’s Welfare Association (AWWA) Community Home for Senior Citizens.

And by ‘adoption’, it is not just a namesake, but one of concrete action. Since 1990, SOS has made an average trip of at least twice a year every year to the Community Home, and delivers gifts and provision items to the elderly. On top of that, they also bring the residents for outings during festive seasons.

AWWA showed their appreciation for SOS, including other corporate organisations that have contributed similarly, by according them an award under the ‘Volunteer Group Award’ during its Volunteer Appreciation Tea. An annual affair, this year’s award presentation was held on 26 August 2006 at York Hotel. Mr Tan Jing Bock, President of SOS, had accepted the award on behalf of SOS.

Commented Ms Yang Geok Foong, Director of AWWA Elderly Services, “SOS’ efforts are by no means quantifiable. All these years, they have never held back, always ready to lend a helping hand, giving and contributing without expecting anything in return. They are a real friend indeed, and conferring this award is a simple but sincere appreciation in recognition of all that they have done for us.”

Each trip to the Community Home will see the Seacare van loaded with groceries and food items such as milk powder and biscuits to necessities like cleaning detergents and air fresheners. SOS also tries to accommodate any special requests that the Home may have, such as sending



them pillows, bolsters and bed sheets. All these are possible because SOS has a budget set aside to provide such assistance, whether in cash or kind.

Mr Tan explained: “It is not just about bringing armloads of goodies for them. Simple gestures of sitting down for a meal with them, engaging them in conversations or simply spending time with them never fail to brighten their day. People talk about ‘fulfilling social obligation and responsibility’, but to SOS, it is never an obligation. It comes from the heart, the want to make the old folks’ lives a little easier.”

AWWA had penned a short citation for SOS:



AWWA ELDERLY SERVICES

Name of Nominee

Singapore Organisation of Seamen

Category of Award

Volunteer Group Award

Corporate Volunteer since 1990

Singapore Organisation of Seamen has been very supportive and generous towards our Community Home. They brought the elderly for outings during festive seasons such as Chinese New Year, Labour Day and Christmas Day. They also bought provisions and gifts for the elderly. Their volunteering spirit is highly commendable.

Seafarers Can Apply For

MPA EDUCATIONAL GRANT NOW!

What is the MPA Educational Grant?

The MPA Educational Grant, one of the crew welfare schemes of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, provides financial assistance to MPA-registered seamen to attend relevant maritime courses to upgrade themselves and to improve their qualifications.

How does the grant work?

The grant will cover the actual course fee, plus a subsistence allowance of \$300 per month on a pro-rated basis for full-time courses. Applicant is required to chalk up at least 80% attendance and allowed up to three attempts to pass the relevant examinations. For candidates who receive other grants on the same course, only the difference will be payable.

What are the procedures for application of the Grant and claim?

There will be no changes to the application and claim procedure and members will need to adhere to the existing training grant benefit procedure. Members should apply for the training grant benefit with the Union's Training Division before the commencement of the course. The grant will be made as reimbursement upon the production of original receipt(s), certificate of attendance, course certificate, etc, after the completion of the course.

How does the MPA Educational Grant benefit the Union?

With more funding schemes available, the Union's training fund will be better offset and in turn, enable the Union to optimise its training budget to benefit more of our members.

What are some courses that are eligible for the Grant?

The following courses conducted by Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA), Singapore Polytechnic, SHATEC and other recognised institutions are open to all seamen registered with MPA:

Deck Department

Port Limit Steersman Course
Port Limit Helmsman Course
Class 6 Preparatory Course
Class 5 Preparatory Course
Class 4 Preparatory Course
Class 3 Preparatory Course

Engine Department

Port Limit 3rd Class Engine Driver Course
Port Limit 2nd Class Engine Driver Course
Class 5 Prep Course
Class 4 Prep Course (Pt A)
Class 4 Prep Course (Pt B)
Class 3 Prep Course (Pt B)

Catering Department

2nd Cook Course
Chief Cook cum Chief Steward Course

General Upgrading Courses

Short courses such as the four (4) basic safety training courses (i.e. Elementary First Aid, Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting Course, Personal Safety & Social Responsibilities, Personal Survival Techniques), shipboard personnel management course and general useful training programme conducted by other recognised organisations/institutions.

The table below reflects the list of Seafaring-related Courses under SOS Training Grant Benefit for Members who are eligible for MPA Educational Grant.

COURSE PROVIDER	COURSE TITLE	MPA Educational Grant
SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY SMA Dover Road Campus Tel:67721817 www.sma.sp.edu.sg	CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY: <u>MARINE ENGINEER OFFICERS</u> 1. Class 1 & 2 Combined Engineer Officer 2. Class 1 & 2 Combined Part A Engineer Officer 3. Class 5 (MEO) 4. Preparatory Course for Graduate Engineers	Yes
	<u>DECK OFFICERS</u> 1. Class 1 & 2 Combined Deck Officer 2. Class 3 Deck Officer 3. Class 2/1 Deck Officer Re-validation 4. Class 3 Deck Officer Re-validation 5. Class 2/1 Marine Engineer Officer Re-validation	Yes



SOS SCORES IN STAYING RELEVANT

"SOS has done a lot to help its members stay employable, because it understands the importance of staying relevant. It is particularly meaningful when unions like SOS plays a part in investing in the next generation. SOS is an example of a learning union, and one that not only truly cares for its members, but the well-being of their families too."

"SOS has done a lot to help its members stay employable, because it understands the importance of staying relevant. It is particularly meaningful when unions like SOS plays a part in investing in the next generation. SOS is an example of a learning union, and one that not only truly cares for its members, but the well-being of their families too," said Mr Heng Chee How, NTUC Deputy Secretary-General and Minister of State, Ministry of Health.

Mr Heng, who was the guest-of-honour at the SOS Study Grant Presentation held on 2 September 2006 at the NTUC Centre, emphasised that education is the best way to narrow the income gap in the long term, and that he was heartened to see that SOS recognises the importance of progress through education.

Indeed, almost \$1.1 million worth of grants has been disbursed in this 29-year tradition. This year, 167 recipients from primary to university level benefited from \$46,600 set aside by SOS.

On top of the study grant, Best Awards were also presented to eleven recipients with outstanding academic achievements. They received book vouchers ranging from \$100 to \$200, sponsored by Seacare Co-operative Ltd.

Said Mr Tan Jing Bock, President of SOS, "It is my great pleasure to announce that the quantum of study grants is increased by \$50 across all levels with effect from this presentation ceremony. This is only one of the SOS membership benefits which we have improved to enhance the value of membership for our members."



And SOS' scope of help extends to not only the under-privileged and needy, but to special students too.

Fifteen-year-old Abdul Affif Omar is a secondary level student at the Singapore School for the Deaf. Handicapped since young, his mother had painstakingly taken up sign language in order to better communicate with her son.

"Affif is a hardworking boy who loves to study; he just needs the opportunity. His school fees and expenses such as books can be rather substantial. On top of that, he needs the use of hearing aids, which costs \$1,200. The money from the grant that SOS has awarded to Affif will certainly come in very handy. More importantly, this will go a long way in encouraging him to continue to give of his best no matter what. For that, we are very thankful to SOS."

Mr Heng, who himself had benefited from bursary awards and government scholarship, had golden words of advice for the students. He urged, "Success is when opportunity meets preparation. Give your best and take advantage of the available support that SOS extends to you to get a good education. That is preparation; and when opportunity comes along, you will be in the best position to seize it!"



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- Mr Heng Chee How

Grant Amount Disbursed For Each Category

Primary	\$150
Secondary	\$200
ITE	\$250
Polytechnic/Junior College/Pre-University	\$450
University	\$700





CHILD'S PLAY!

Welcome to the world of Physics, Chemistry and Biology! No, it wasn't yet another boring class that the children had to sit through in school. In fact, it is a world of science away from school, dedicated to the young ones where they can pick up nuggets of knowledge in their own exploration.

Some 147 members and their children visited the world-acclaimed Singapore Science Centre as part of the Children's Day Celebration on 10 September. Housing some of the country's largest collections of educational and interactive exhibits devoted to depict the wonder and beauty of Science, it is of little wonder why the young ones were utterly delighted.

Bright and early, the members and their families arrived in droves at the Science Centre. 'Waterworks' towel sets were given as door gifts for everyone, and the children were also accorded the honour of an exclusive 'Kids Only' lucky dip! There were special Science Centre umbrellas, foldable travel bags and NTUC FairPrice vouchers to be won.

world of Science. Apart from the main exhibition facilities, the children also dropped by the Omni-Theatre, one of the central attractions of the centre, where two Omnimax movies 'Deep Sea' and 'Roving MARS' were screened. With a hemispheric giant screen coupled with sophisticated sound systems, the audience were thoroughly entertained with a thrilling cinematic experience.

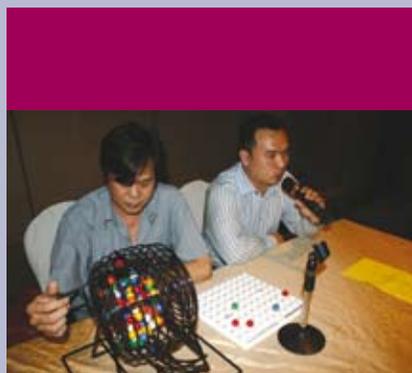


Blending the sciences with art, the Singapore Science Centre encompasses facilities and learning corners such as the Kinetic Garden, Asia's first outdoor interactive garden of science. Though the interactive sculptures and exhibits set within a pleasant garden environment, our little budding scientists were able to gain a better understanding of the mysterious

It was not just a 'Happy Children's Day', but a joyful outing indeed!



TIME TO GET THE BALL ROLLING!



It was no high-stake game, but 160 members and their spouses were game enough to "stake" their chance for some great fun and prizes.

Members and their spouses were invited to the Holiday Inn Atrium Hotel on 25 August

where they played an exhilarating game of Tombola. Employing whatever skills they have, strategising and beating the odds, some managed to emerge winners of the 'Line-Game' and the 'Full-House-Game'. Line-Game winners walked away with NTUC FairPrice vouchers while each Full-House Game winner brought a complete tea-set home.

Of course, the others were not to be disappointed too. There were attractive lucky draw prizes up for grabs and all participants were craning their necks fervently for their winning ticket to be called. After all, the top prize of \$150 NTUC

FairPrice voucher and \$80 F&B voucher at Xin Cuisine Chinese Restaurant, and the second prize of \$130 NTUC FairPrice voucher and Weekend High Tea at the Melting Pot Café were waiting to be won. The F&B prizes were kindly sponsored by the hotel.

The participants bade farewell to a night of prizes and smiles, eager for the next Tombola game to roll along!



A WARM WELCOME TO...

KAI JING, OUR NEW IR OFFICER



Twenty-two-year-old Ong Kai Jing may be fresh out of school, but she is not one to be covered by something different. In fact, she embraces challenges,

such as taking on a job that was not only different from what she had pursued her studies in, but also one that she had no prior knowledge about. Say terms like 'Collective Agreements' or 'Seafarers Provident Fund' and she was likely to return a blank look. Not anymore now.

Having recently graduated with a diploma in Civil Environment Engineering from a local polytechnic, Kai Jing certainly

surprised her family and friends when she landed a job with SOS as its new Industrial Relations Executive Officer four months ago. "I thought I would like to try something new and go into a field that was new to me. I'm glad I did!"

Indeed, there were some adjustments she has to make, new ropes to learn and new skills to acquire. Time is of essence in her line of work and it is necessary to always be on-the-go, such as responding to enquiries by shipping companies. Designated to assist with the Seafarers Provident Fund, she also has to ensure payments to the fund are sufficient and prompt. "There's so much to learn about Industrial Relations, but I pride myself in being adaptable, with a firm willingness to learn. With the guidance many at SOS are providing, I have learnt a lot since day one and I think I can learn the ropes soon."

A positive Kai Jing quipped, "Just as how vital it is that SOS works with shipping companies to provide welfare benefits to seafaring members, I would like to think that I am joining this big family and doing my part too to contribute and extend support to any members who may need assistance."

"Just as how vital it is that SOS works with shipping companies to provide welfare benefits to seafaring members, I would like to think that I am joining this big family and doing my part too to contribute and extend support to any members who may need assistance."

ADILA, OUR NEW WELFARE OFFICER

Indeed, this is a dream come true for 23-year-old Nur Adila Juman. A sociable person with an outgoing nature to boot, she has always been interested to learn the ropes about events management. And Nur Adila will now have the opportunity to do just that, because she is the new Welfare Executive Officer at SOS, with effect from 10 August. From organising to execution of social activities and events, she will also handle members' matters such as benefit schemes and claims.

Previously a staff with Seacare Manpower, Nur Adila is grateful for the skills and knowledge she had picked up. "At Manpower, the pace is fast and good camaraderie with the team is vital. From there, I've learnt to multi-task various duties as well as the importance of firm teamwork.

I believe these will stand me in good stead in coping with challenges I will face."

She is also appreciative of the support and guidance from those around her, whether it is her superiors like Mr Tan Jing Bock or Ms Shena Foo, or her 'mentor', Ms Mariana Angel; she is also thankful to all who lent a helping hand whenever she needed. "I realised that I have a lot to learn, and I have to learn quickly. But I also know that I can turn to anyone here for help."

Nur Adila is confident that she can soon get the hang of things. She has already had her first taste of doing what she love best – organising the Tombola Nite, Children's Day outing and Members' Nite so far.

And her verdict? "It's really exciting! I get a good kick arranging and running the events, and I feel really encouraged to know that members enjoy the activities. In fact, I'm already looking forward to the next event!"

"At Manpower, the pace is fast and good camaraderie with the team is vital. From there, I've learnt to multi-task various duties as well as the importance of firm teamwork. I believe these will stand me in good stead in coping with challenges I will face."



IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU!



What a sumptuous spread! With local delicacies ranging from Chinese dessert 'Tau Suan' and 'Muah Chee' to Malay foodfare like 'Lontong', SOS members were spoilt for choice! With exotic food like 'Ox Tail in Brown Sauce' and spicy 'Nigerian Chicken' to spice things up, it's hard to stay away from SOS' Members Night – the one of its kind indeed!

Truly for the members, everyone mingled and chatted heartily to a night of sound and buzz. The party on 30 September rolled to a great start at Club@52 after Muslim members broke fast at 7pm, tucking in appreciatively to the delectable variety.

There were also fun and games with Lucky Draw to wrap the day up. Winners walked away with \$30 and \$50 NTUC FairPrice vouchers while the special prize of a \$100 NTUC Club Voucher was won by a very fortunate member, Mr John Ngu.

HOT STUFF!

SOS is presenting all members with a Takada Hot Plate (Model No. GH-1) as your year end gift!



Gifts are ready for collection now at Seacare Building, Level 8, between 9am to 5pm (Mondays to Fridays), or 9am to 12pm (Saturdays). Collection is not available on Sunday and public holidays. All gifts must be collected by 31 March 2007, or whilst stocks last. Members can authorise a representative to collect on behalf by completing the pink authorisation form.

Now you are all ready for a piping hot festive season!

HEY BABE! HEY BABE!

Little baby Siti Nursyahirah Asyiqin Suwardi was welcomed to the world on 26 September 2006...Congratulations to proud parents Mr and Mrs Suwardi Karmame!



HEY BABE!
HEY BABE!

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



What: Hari Raya Celebration
When: 9 November 2006
Where: The Orchard Hotel

What: SOS 35th/Seacare 12th Anniversary Dinner
When: 24 November 2006
Where: Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore

What: Visit to Welfare Home
When: 22 December 2006



CONDOLENCES



Mr Muhammad Jantan, brother of late Mr Aziz Jantan accepting the NTUC Gift from Mr Tan Jing Bock, President of SOS.

SOS wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to the families of our fellow members:

Mr Aziz Jantan, who passed away on 23 August 2006; and
Mr Ng Lim Kim, who passed away on 14 September 2006.



SEACARE EXPANDS AND IS IN GOOD HEALTH



Seacare's move to expand and widen the scope of its business operation has resulted in the creation of more jobs and increased total revenue.

"We must always keep in mind that Seacare is not merely a commercial concern, pure and simple. Seacare's mission is not just to achieve economic success but also to translate whatever economic gains it makes into meaningful benefits for the seamen who founded it," Mr Leow Ching Chuan, Seacare Chairman, pointed out at the Seacare 12th Annual General Meeting held on 18 September 2006 at Seacare Building.

Thus it augurs well when Seacare staff strength hit an all time high of 1,122 in the financial year ended 31 March 2006. In fact, for the past few years, staff strength has consistently been above the 1,000 level and that is a reliable indicator of the healthy state of Seacare's economic position.

It was reported at the Seacare 12th Annual General Meeting that the Co-operative achieved a total revenue of \$29.3 million or an increase of 25.75% over the corresponding data for the previous financial year. However, Seacare's profit before tax of \$0.87 million shows a drop of 19.95% as compared to the previous financial year's, mainly due to a change in accounting practice.

In his report to the shareholders, Mr Leow outlined the four areas of growth.

"We must always keep in mind that Seacare is not merely a commercial concern, pure and simple. Seacare's mission is not just to achieve economic success but also to translate whatever economic gains it makes into meaningful benefits for the seamen who founded it," Mr Leow Ching Chuan, Seacare Chairman, pointed out at the Seacare 12th Annual General Meeting held on 18 September 2006 at Seacare Building.

Seacare Manpower Services Extends Scope of Operation

The first was Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd extending its scope of operation by supplying administrative staff to the law courts as well as other government statutory boards. The company also went into providing training for its full time and part time staff to enhance productivity.

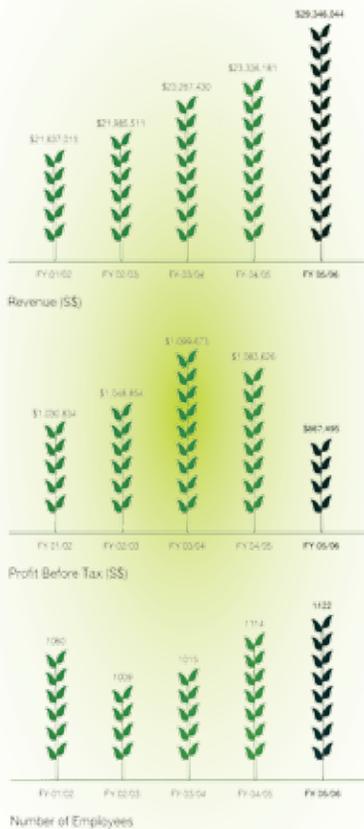
Seacare Maritime Medical Center Goes Beyond Our Shore

Seacare Maritime Medical Centre's (SMMC) participation in the world renowned NorShipping Exhibition in Oslo, Norway, in June 2005 brought the brand name of Seacare to the global level. And during the period under review, SMMC has also expanded its scope of business operation by appointing affiliated clinics in other ASEAN countries beside Singapore to service the Seacare Medical Scheme.

Seacare Education Join Hands with Sino-Sing Center

The third area of expansion was the joint venture between Seacare Education Pte Ltd and Sino-Sing Center Pte Ltd to set up Xinnet Education Centre Pte Ltd with the aim of offering Preschool English programmes in China, Training for Bilingual Teachers, Student Exchange and Immersion Programmes.

Seacare Education Pte Ltd also penetrated the Malaysian education market through Seacare International (M) Sdn Bhd's investment in P.O.D. Education Sdn Bhd. The last named firm is a member of a premier human resource consultancy and corporate training company with an extensive network in Malaysia.



Seacare Environmental Branches into Shipboard Cleaning and Landscaping

The fourth area of expansion was the planned programme of Seacare Environmental branched out into shipboard cleaning services and landscaping works in the period under review.

“The main reason for Seacare’s continued success is that we believe in effective forward planning of our business operation. Up to now, including the period under review, we have made it a point to lay down ahead business plans or strategies to set the direction of our future thrust as well as to try to anticipate likely areas of difficulties,” Mr Leow explained.

“With our continued emphasis on fine-tuned strategic management and good corporate governance, Seacare can confidently look forward towards the future.



SEACARE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED BOARD OF TRUSTEES (2006 – 2009)

Chairman:	Mr Leow Ching Chuan
Vice Chairman:	Mr Lee Van Chong
Secretary:	Mr Kam Soon Huat
Members:	Mr Nazarudin Nandok Mr Mohd Idris Bin Mohd Ibrahim

Seacare would like to thank the outgoing members of the Board of Trustees, Mr Tan Jing Bock, Mr Bon Sheun Ping and Mr Kamis Hussain.

SEACARE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2006 – 2009)

Chairman:	Mr Leow Ching Chuan
Deputy Chairman & Treasurer:	Mr Lee Van Chong
Secretary:	Mr Kam Soon Huat
Members:	Ms Jessie Yeo Mr David Sim Mr Mohd Bin Abu Bakar Capt Billy Lee Mr Raja Mohd Said Bin Raja Mohd Shafik

Seacare would like to thank to outgoing members of the Board of Directors, Mr Nazarudin Bin Nandok and Mr Mohd Idris Bin Mohd Ibrahim.

SEACARE HOLDINGS WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

"As member of the Board of Directors, I will be contributing on a higher level, so I am certainly very happy to be invited."

Mr Raymond Chia Lee Meng, 40, is a man wearing many hats. Already the Chairman of Seacare Properties Pte Ltd, he now takes on another role as a Director of Seacare Holdings Pte Ltd with effect from 16 September 2006.

Mr Chia is also the Executive Director of Chip Eng Seng Corporation and Managing Director of CEL Development Pte Ltd, and currently holds directorship to some 22 other companies.

But the man has no qualms taking on another challenge to his list of credentials. "As member of the Board of Directors, I will be contributing on a higher level, so I am certainly very happy to be invited."

Asked about his opinion of Seacare, Mr Chia's response was immediate. "Having been with Seacare for so long, I enjoy being part of the family. I value the companionship and the comrades are honest, frank and straightforward. I believe in and am impressed with Seacare's vision to branch out as a business to generate funds to meet the social objectives and to help the seafarers. Seacare is doing a good job looking after members' interests and welfare and I want to do my part in giving back to the society."

With his wealth of experience, Mr Chia's appointment will most certainly complement and strengthen the composition of the existing Board. Following Mr Chia's appointment, the Board of Seacare Holdings now comprises of nine members.



SEACARE HOLDINGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman

Mr Kong Mun Kwong

Deputy Chairman

Mr Leow Ching Chuan

Members

Mr Teh Kong Leong
Mr Lee Van Chong
Mr Kam Soon Huat
Mr Mohd Bin Abu Bakar
Mr Shankar Alan s/o Anant Kulkarni
Mr Chan Tee Seng
Mr Raymond Chia

SEACARE ATTENDS ICA-AP MEETING IN COLOMBO



Thirty-one participants from 10 co-operatives attended the major events of International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Asia Pacific (AP) in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 14 to 19 August 2006. The delegation, which was led by Mr Seah Kian Peng, Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), included Ms Jacquelyn Lam, Group Project Manager, Seacare Co-operative Ltd. Ms Lam is a member of the SNCF Youth Committee. The 3rd ICA Regional Youth Seminar, "Empowering the Youth Through Co-operatives", was held during the same period of time.

Jointly hosted by the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, National Institute of Co-operative Development, Consumer Co-operative Federation of Sri Lanka and Federation of Thrift and Credit Co-operative Societies, the week-long event also marked the 100th Anniversary of the Co-operative Movement in Sri Lanka.

On 16 August 2006, Hon. M.N. Abdul MAjeed, Minister for Co-operatives and Co-operative Development, inaugurated the joint opening of the 4th ICA Asia Pacific Co-operative Forum and 7th ICA Regional Assembly. In his address, he acknowledged: "it is a well-known fact that cooperative system was originated in order to help solve economic problems and to raise the people's standard of living which in turn will lead to a strong and stable community and society as a whole."

This theme this year was 'Capacity Building: The Priority for Co-operative Enterprises', and the forum saw a fruitful deliberation on various pragmatic steps that may be adopted to establish a strong capacity of Co-operatives in competitive markets. Mr Seah was also invited to speak at the Forum on "The Co-operative Way of Management".

The next Regional Assembly will be held in Vietnam in 2008.

The Singapore Delegation also took the opportunity to promote the ICA General Assembly 2007, which would be hosted by SNCF in Singapore from 13 to 19 October 2007, to the foreign delegates.

A special GA 2007 booth was set up on site during the Co-operative Forum where flyers, brochures and publicity materials on Singapore were given out. Mr Zulkifli Mohammed, SNCF Chief Executive, was present to personally promote the GA 2007 too. A video clip on Singapore was also played to showcase the 'Uniquely Singapore'.

The Forum and Assembly also saw the election/re-election of some SNCF officials to the following committees:

- Mr Seah Kian Peng – Member of the ICA AP Standing Committee
- Ms Goh Ming Huay – Vice Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee
- Mr Poh Leong Sim – Vice Chairman of the ICA Consumer Committee
- Mr Zulkifli Mohammed – Vice Chairman of the ICA AP HRD Committee
- Mr Teo Say Hong – Chairman of the ICA AP Youth Committee
- Associate Professor Poo Gee Swee – Member, ICA AP Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-ops

SEACARE PROPERTIES THANKS MS SHENA FOO & WELCOMES MS GILLAN TEO

Seacare would like to extend its appreciation to Ms Shena Foo, who has relinquished her position as General Manager of Seacare Properties with effect from 1 September 2006. Ms Foo will focus on her roles as SOS Senior Manager and Seacare Group Senior Manager, as well as being a member of various committees such as the Publication & Corporate Development Committee and the MCST 1901 Council.

Ms Gillan Teo has been appointed as the new General Manager. Also the Project Manager of Seacare Foundation, Ms Teo was previously from the real estate industry. A very warm welcome to Ms Teo!



SEACARE M -A JOY T



An environment where work is enjoyable, where firm friendships are established. From 21-year-old Joyce Yeo's perspective, this is almost too good to be true. She has just graduated from a local polytechnic, but her three months with Seacare Manpower so far has been more than just landing a rice bowl.

She has a diploma in IT, but taking on an administrative executive position has allowed her to gain a different



MS MARIANA AMAD SEACARE'S NEW SMS MANAGER

She is not a new face to the SOS members or anyone over at the Seacare Building. In fact, she has been a regular figure at SOS/Seacare since June 1997, where she has been the Welfare/Training Officer, primarily taking care of members' needs such as taking charge of events and training courses.

She is none other than Ms Mariana Amad, and she has been appointed the new SMS Manager of Seacare Foundation. Seacare Foundation manages the SOS-initiated Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) which came into effect since March 2005.

The SMS offers SOS qualified local members a free health screening once every four years at the Seacare Maritime Medical Centre (SMMC) and comprehensive optometric eye examination at the New Optometry & Ocular Care Centre. The SMS for SOS Filipino members was also in place to offer qualified members and their dependents free medical related services at SMMC's overseas affiliated

clinics. Ms Mariana was appointed to oversee the SMS on 1 August 2006.

Ms Mariana welcomes the challenge of this new role, even though her present responsibilities differ very much from that of a Welfare/Training Officer. "Amongst other duties such as correspondence, discussions and presentations, as the Manager for SMS, I will be involved in the development of benefits for SOS members. Development entails research, study, planning and conceptualising – which is what I'm looking forward to executing."

Her prior experience with SOS as its Welfare/Training Officer has stood her in good stead. From planning, organising and implementing proposals, procedure & activities, she has to interact and communicate with members frequently. Liaising directly with members has not only helped to foster firm relations with the members, but has also allowed her to see from the members' perspectives and better understand their needs. And that is what she is gearing towards – to look into new possible benefits that can further enhance and promote members' well-being.

MANPOWER TO BE AT!

type of experience, one which is not just dealing with IT jargon or gadgets, but of interpersonal relations and personal skills.

Joyce describes her learning curve as smooth sailing, and is eager to contribute effectively to the organisation she calls home. In fact, she wants to do more – improve the current system.



BEER-Y DIFFERENT!

Slowly, but surely, the change is unmistakable.

By now, you would have noticed the change that Seacare Club@52 is undergoing. Club@52 was first given a facelift last September, and an all new modern and sleek look was unveiled to thrill our clubbers.

The transformation did not stop there. Club@52 evolved and this time, the open terrace went under the doctor's knife and got an extreme makeover. The 'doctor' in question is none other than the professional team of the Landscape Division at Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd.

And no corner of the would-be Beer Garden was spared.

Once bare and empty, the parallel side running alongside the fence now features two types of floral and fauna – the Stone Bamboo of 3.5m and the Calathea Lutea trimmed to a precision of 2m. This creates a tiered look, which is further complemented by the contrasting styles of both plants – the Stone Bamboo is narrow and tall while the Calathea Lutea has broad leaves. The monotony of the grilled fence is thus broken.

The Piper Samentosa is planted on the slope to hold the ground and prevent soil erosion. Although it is a shaded area, the Piper Samentosa is a hardy plant that can survive even without having much access to sunlight.

To create a snug and cosy experience, par lights are installed at the foot of the plants to bring life to the club. Boasting a kaleidoscope of colours, the lights can set a relaxing mood with a warm, soft glow; or start the tempo with playful shades. Patrons can certainly feel right at home!

The bridge connecting the open terrace is now lined with the Euteppes Palm too, which has since extended into a nice moderate growth, rounding up a fine sense of greenery to the area.

But behind this 'work of art', the team, led by Seacare Environmental Manager, Mr Firos Angullia, had worked under rain and shine to complete this facelift.

Don't belittle the work, for there is much involved beneath the surface, literally. For starters, the groundwork had to be done. The team had to begin with trenching; digging and clearing soil and gravel. However, many would remember that there were tall trees tilting precariously over the roof of the terrace. And this would mean the Seacare team had to bring in cranes and booms to pollard the tress.



"This is a labour and equipment intensive project. Each stage requires careful planning, to satisfy both aesthetic as well as practical requirements – such as sourcing for suitable plants to create the right type of atmosphere and ambience. We also have to be mindful and ensure safety measures are in place. And of course, it was also necessary that we keep to our schedule too," Mr Firos pointed out.

The team also had to find a solution to irrigate the plants while being efficient.

Mr Firos explained, "Watering the plants is a consideration, because we wouldn't want to tax our manpower unnecessarily. Moreover, we cannot possibly not water the plants and hope for rain. So in fact, what would work best is a self-automated irrigation system."

There are various watering valves evenly spread out amongst the plants, and it is programmed to water the plants twice a day at 7am and 7pm for 25mins. There are no worries of over-flooding in the event of rain. With a rain sensor in place to monitor rainfall, the plants will not be watered for the next nine hours if it does rain.

The project also saw existing plants being carefully dug up and transplanted to a new area. "Their roots are the most important part, but are vulnerable. We have to be cautious and protect their roots, otherwise they will be susceptible to diseases and pests. Hence this stage of the project was a little more tedious."

More importantly, the synergy enjoyed within Seacare Environmental had allowed the project to proceed smoothly and efficiently. "Following the completion of the job, the cleaning team at Seacare Environmental took over and did the cleaning up of Club@52. Mud, dust and soil...you name it, they cleaned it. Now, the club is clean and good as new!"

Indeed, with a bold new look, the Beer Garden of Club@52 is now proud and ready to welcome its regulars into its familiar folds!



A BEERY NICE GARDEN UNDER THE SKY

Have you been to Club@52 lately? If you haven't, you would have missed out on some pleasant changes made to the roof terrace area.

Visitors to Club@52 can sip their favourite drink amongst friends in an all-new setting at the roof terrace. The roof terrace recently went through a 'makeover' to pave the way for an alfresco ambience.

Among some of the changes are the new landscaping, outdoor lighting and the latest addition - a bar counter.

The bar counter which used to be indoors has been relocated to the terrace and now sits against a backdrop of maroon-painted exterior wall. Roofed over with timber slatted ceiling boards and dried attap leaves, the general look of the bar area brings back memories of 'kampung' days. The pebblewash flooring and perimeter

bench seating further adds to the natural outdoors feel.

The landscape which was redesigned by Seacare Environment saw a host of new plants introduced to bring a fresh and relaxing feel to the place.

While the uplighters accentuate the beauty of the plants, the column-mounted lights bring indirect and ambient lighting to the surrounding and the rattan pendant light over the counter completes the entire setting of the roof terrace, giving it a warm and soft glow.

Here, drinking has taken on a whole new meaning at this garden under the sky.

Regulars who have seen these changes gave it the thumbs up. "We like the new design - it's a fresh change from the typical look people are expecting."



Let Us Wine You Up!

Club@52 is dangling a hard-to-beat offer for its patrons. For only \$210, you get to treat yourself and your friends to two bottles of Martell VSOP (usual price at \$138 per bottle). Promotion ends 30 November 2006. Cheers!



club@52

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