

Issue No. 5 (February 2010)

samudra

SOS REACHES IN TO REACH OUT



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Printed By: Photoplates Pte Ltd

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SOS MEMBERS' WELFARE WELL CARED

Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Minister in Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Finance and Transport, commended SOS and Seacare for their efforts in supporting and caring for seafarers.

She applauded the construction of the 16 storey 103-room Seacare Hotel which will provide affordable accommodation to seafarers under the Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme. When operational, the hotel will link up with Seacare Sailors' Home in Manila, Philippines.



"SOS is an important voice to ensure that the welfare of our seafarers is looked after."

– Mrs Lim Hwee Hua



Speaking at the SOS/Seacare Hong Bao Presentation cum Lunar New Year Celebration on 19 February 2010, Mrs Lim highlighted that, **“This is in no small part due to our important tripartite arrangement of which SOS remains an important partner. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to SOS and our seafarers for their hard work and contribution in helping Singapore maintain her hub port status.”** She noted that despite a challenging year, the whole maritime industry have weathered the storm together and managed a decent performance, maintaining Singapore as the world’s busiest port and top bunkering port.





It has always been a customary practice for SOS and Seacare to invite their retired seamen and other senior citizens for any celebrations. This Lunar New Year festivities was no exception, as hong baos and festive gifts worth a total of \$42,000 were presented to some 307 retired seamen and residents from four welfare homes namely Asian Women's Welfare Association, Ling Kwang Home for the Senior Citizens, Jamiyah Home for the Aged and Sri Narayana Mission Home for the Aged Sick.



By their acts of kindness and heart-felt generosity, it is very clear that members' welfare are well cared by the union.

– Mrs Lim Hwee Hua





Held on 19 February 2010 at the Suntec Convention Centre, the SOS/Seacare Hong Bao Presentation cum Lunar New Year Celebration saw Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Minister in Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Finance and Transport handing out awards to twelve 15-year long members and forty nine 30-year long members. This amounted to sixty one SOS members in total who were rewarded and recognised for their long standing support to the union.

LONG MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

There's much to shout about SOS' benefits. The praises of some long membership award recipients say it all.

Triple the Benefits

"The training opportunities given to members are good. I took the safety supervisor course and many more to increase my employability. The benefits I get out of my membership is more than triple of what I put in – this is really a privilege."

Mr Mohd Yusof B Suri

No Where Else

"I've had the opportunity to take various subsidised courses such as crane operation, taxi driving, computer and safety training which has helped expand my skills and competency. Where else can you get such benefits?"

Mr Jamari B Kariman



SOS wishes to thank the following members for their longstanding support all these years:

15-year membership awards

S/NO	M/S NO.	NAME
1	6659	JOHARI B MANSOR
2	7269	CHEW THIAM CHYE JEFFREY
3	7693	YONG SIAN MOO
4	7716	YONG SIAN TECK CALVIN
5	8214	RAIYAN B MOHD SALLEH
6	8322	AN LIT KWONG
7	8324	JAINAL B ATAN
8	8333	ABDUL AZIZ B MOHAMAD
9	8334	ZULGAFFAR B MOHD YUSOF
10	8337	AHMAD B ADAM
11	AL278	FOO MEN ANN
12	AL336	HO KUM HONG

30-year membership awards

S/NO	M/S NO.	NAME
1	4135	HASSAN B SUWARTI
2	5734	KOK KWAN SENG
3	5949	RUGIMAN B SUPAAT
4	6053	LIM GEK KEE
5	6060	QUEK TIONG BENG
6	6086	WONG JIANG JOY
7	6102	NARAYANASAMY PARAMESVARAN LETCHUMANAN
8	6111	AZMAN B MOHD ARIFFIN
9	6114	ANG BOON HUAT ROCKY
10	6116	MOHD YUSOF B SURI
11	6133	CHIA KOON KUA
12	6153	CHAN KIN MENG
13	6154	HOSNI B SOHOR
14	6157	ABDULLAH B MOHD SALLEH
15	6174	HOO WAH BOO
16	6182	HENG POK HAI

17	6198	THAM SIANG HOCK MICHAEL
18	6214	MOHAMED AMIR S/O MASHAR ISHAR AHMAD
19	6222	ABD SAMAD B ABDUL WAHID
20	6282	MOHD HANIF B OMAR
21	6283	RATNAM PHILIP MARCUS
22	6287	CHONG HO CHAI
23	6333	GOMES JOHN JOYCELINE
24	6347	ABD RAHIM B PAIDI
25	6349	NORSHAM B AMIN
26	6352	OTHMAN B JUSRA
27	6356	ABD RAHIM B HAMID
28	6359	NGU TAI HOCK, JOHN
29	6397	LIM MENG PANG
30	6407	BAHARI B ABU
31	6409	WOO KUM LEONG
32	6411	JAMARI B KARIMAN
33	6415	NGU THIEN HOCK
34	6430	MOHD FOWZY B ANWAR
35	6434	HAZALI B AHMAD
36	6467	CHAN KIA TUANG
37	6477	MOHD JUBRAY B HASAN
38	AL095	CHOO JEE KIW
39	AL121	S RAMAYA
40	AL152	NG LAI KIM
41	AL164	LIM SHOO TOON
42	AL205	LIM TOW WILLIAM
43	AL236	LEE BOON CHEONG @ LEE BON TIANG
44	AL247	OSMAN B A BAKAR
45	AL251	NGE KEE SIONG
46	AL258	KHOO ENG WAH
47	AL259	KOH KIM CHING
48	AL265	HO KOON JIU
49	AL352	CHAN KENG KOON



SOS STAFF WORKSHOP

Zeros In on Leadership Renewal

The topic on leadership renewal and the way ahead for SOS took centre stage at the Union Staff Workshop held on 22 January 2010 in ZhuHai, China.



The workshop, which was attended by Executive Committee members and staff, revealed details of the changes that are likely to take place in months to come.

Come 1 April 2010, there will be a change in the composition of the SOS Office Bearers and Exco Members. The Union as an organisation will be restructured including general administration. This is to sharpen the effectiveness and efficiency of the Union's operations and service.



For some time now, the Union has been intentional in their search, training and nurturing the next cadre of leaders who will bring the Union into the future.

In May 2009, at the SOS Leadership Renewal Workshop, the leaders agreed to have a mid-term renewal and Exco reshuffle. Immediate steps have been taken since then to appoint non-staff Exco/Standing Committee members as Chairperson of Standing Committees.



At the Staff Workshop, the leaders and staff also reviewed the four welfare schemes, namely Seafarers Provident Fund Scheme, Seacare Maritime Training Scheme, Seacare Medical Scheme and Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme to ensure that these schemes achieve the objective of being relevant to the SOS members.



"We have taken pro-active steps to mentor younger leaders and we are confident that these leaders are in a good position to serve a larger membership base and more vessels under SOS collective bargaining agreements. They are ready to make a big impact in the maritime industry and in the lives of seafarers," said Mr Leow Ching Chuan, SOS General Secretary.

"The bottomline is we want to enhance our service to our members, to stay relevant to their needs and to make an impact in their lives and those of their family members," commented Mr Leow.





SOS SPIRIT OF CHEER AT CHRISTMAS

The SOS spirit of Christmas and New Year cheer descended upon the shipping community during year-end festivities.





Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar, SOS Industrial Relations Officer visited nine vessels owned by A P Moller Singapore Pte Ltd, "K" Line (Singapore) Pte Ltd, Neptune Shipmanagement Service Pte Ltd, NYK Shipmanagement and Pacific International Lines during the month of December 2009, distributing SOS calendars, towels and cakes to some 77 ratings.

The Seacare Drop-In Centre for International Seafarers at Pasir Panjang Terminal Building was teeming with activities on 23 and 24 December 2009.

An invitation was previously sent out to Masters of vessels that have called into Singapore to 'drop in' for the Christmas party. And so, crew members from MSC Alpina, MSC Kenya and Tower Bridge dropped by the centre to share the Christmas cheer.

Hosted by SOS with the International Lutheran Seafarers' Mission and Nautilus International, the Christmas party's festive atmosphere was livened up by other guests from the MPA, foreign unions and seamen missions. Seafarers at the centre



enjoyed a time of friendly exchange, refreshments and lucky draw. Perhaps what was most meaningful for many was the opportunity to connect with family members via a webcam over the Internet. For a moment, time stood still as seafarers touched base and sent well wishes to family members.

After the New Year, Mr Mohamad continued with his ship visiting programme, spreading acts of good cheer to more than 30 seafarers onboard Envoyager, Maersk Semakau and Kota Kado.

ADDING VALUE – THE SOS WAY

Seacare Maritime Training Scheme Gets The Thumbs Up



The Singapore Organisation Seamen (SOS) found the answer in the Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS) – a scheme that aims to provide SOS CBA vessels with quality seafarers.

The SMTS brought forth the Seacare Quality Rating Training (SQRT) which recently had its third successful run in China, where 32 ratings – 26 of whom were newly employed by Neptune Shipmanagement Service Pte Ltd – learned to communicate effectively in English without having to leave their homeland.

The trainees graduated on 12 November 2009 in Dalian after five weeks of intensive inhouse training on Maritime Technical Skill and Elementary English Course which also included military training to instil discipline.

“The shipping companies are pleased to get quality ratings working onboard their ships; and the seafarers are happy to have their value enhanced with the training. We are very encouraged by the positive response,” said Mr Kam Soon Huat, SOS Executive Secretary.

“The first two SQRTs took place in Wuhan while the third in Dalian. We will bring the SMTS brand of training to other parts of Asia to wherever shipping companies and ratings see a need.





SOS and Seacare through SMTS will continue to identify, develop and implement educational programmes for SOS members and other seamen with the view to their serving and continued service on vessels covered by SOS CBA."

"We do this by collaborating with maritime authorities, employers, institutions and other interested parties in promoting seafaring as a rewarding career," added Mr Kam.

For example, the SQRT in Dalian was conducted by Cosco Dalian Training Centre and Singhai Marine Service (S) Pte Ltd. Mr Liu Yi, Managing Director of the Cosco Dalian Crew Management Centre showed himself to be a strong advocate of the training scheme. "It is rare in China that such joint trainings are held," he pointed out.

Also giving the thumbs up was Capt Lee Chee Seong, Managing Director, Neptune Shipmanagement Service Pte Ltd, who said: "The course has direct benefit to us. It prepares the Chinese seafarers to work on board ships with crews from different nationalities."

Adding on, Mr Terence Zhao Wei, Managing Director, Singhai Marine Services (S) Pte Ltd highlighted that training for ratings has to be very practical and aimed towards improving their communication skills.

"As the maritime industry is a multi-national industry, the ability to speak English would enable the seafarers to be able to work better. They would be able to express themselves when working and they can speak about relevant work related matters to the other crew onboard."

The Trainees Say

Mr Luo Xue Zheng, 30, from Hubei

"I have learned a lot and improved on my oral and listening skills. I also learned how to work well in teams and the military training has helped build us up physically. I benefitted a lot from this course as it taught me how to be a quality rating."

Mr Qi Jian Gong, 24, from Hubei

"The trainers were good teachers and I enjoyed their style of teaching. I also enjoyed the practical training during the course."

Mr Song Yong, 36, from Shan Dong

"My level of English has improved tremendously as the trainers constantly made us use English. I have learned more practical stuff which I can use onboard and not just theoretical. From the course, I learned about MLC 2006 and how to protect my own rights. Teamwork and

the important drills on board were useful to me."

Views from the Trainers

Ms Phyllis Liang Trainer, Singhai Marine Services

"After five weeks of training, their English has improved a lot. Firstly, in terms of listening, they were able to understand what is being said to them in English and they could now express themselves clearly and properly. Secondly on writing, they are now able to write down their own opinions in proper structure. In general, they became healthier and are now more confident than ever. I hope that they are able to maintain the good habits cultivated and use them onboard."

Ms Zhu Pei Pei Trainer, Singhai Marine Services

"The majority of trainees have performed well during the training. No one withdrew and no one disobeyed the class rules.

All trainees dedicated their passion to learn English. It should be mentioned that especially those whose English foundation is not good have excellent attitudes towards training and made great progress step by step."

Mr Guan Fu Jun Trainer, Cosco Dalian Training Centre

"The performance of the trainees is excellent. They have worked hard to learn in every class and they have made great achievements in improving their command of the English language."



WORKING GROUP PAVES WAY for Training Grant Benefit Revision

With the aim of keeping the SOS training grant benefit relevant to current trends and practices, the Training and Skills Development (TSD) Committee set up a working group back in April 2009. The objective of the working group is to review and recommend improvements to the Training Grant Benefit for members.

The working group, which consisted of nine standing committee members of the TSD Committee, met and deliberated on existing components of benefit such as training allowances, application and claiming procedures and lists of courses eligible for the training grant.

The members of the working group completed the review, added new courses and recommended improvements to the Training Grant Benefit.

SOS members can now look forward to revised provisions such as training allowance and maximum capping, Procedure – Application & Claim form and Schedules II & III which contain the list of courses covered under the benefit.

In addition, two more courses are now supported under Schedule III of the Training Grant Benefit for members. They are:

- The Certificate in Security Operations conducted by SII and e2i.
- The Advanced Certificate in Security Supervision conducted by SII and e2i.

Members can contact Ms Adila Juman at 6379 5671 or Ms Clarissa Lim at 6379 5672 for more information.

PROCEDURE – APPLICATION & CLAIM

- 1** Ensure that any course you intend to enrol is listed in Schedule II & Schedule III, a copy of which can be obtained from the Welfare Division or through www.sosea.org.sg. Please note that only courses listed in Schedule II and Schedule III are eligible for the training grant.
- 2** Submit the duly completed course application form to the Welfare Division for endorsement together with the completed Union's Training Grant application form which can be obtained from the Welfare Division or through www.sosea.org.sg.
- 3** Proceed to submit the endorsed course application form to the course provider for enrolment and payment of course fee. Please note that you are to keep the original receipt issued to you by the course provider for claiming purpose later.
- 4** Inform the Welfare Division once the course schedule is confirmed within 6 months from date of application or submission of the Union's Training Grant application form. The training grant application will be cancelled if no confirmation of schedule is received within 6 months from date of application or submission. In this instance, member has to re-apply with the Welfare Division and repeat procedure (1) and (2).
- 5** On completion of the course or module*, submit the following to the Welfare Division for reimbursement of course fee and/or training allowance (within 3 months from completion of modules/course/training or last date of first attempt, whichever is earlier):

- a) The original receipt or in the absence of such original receipt a proof of payment of course fee or a receipt with Certified True Copy stamp by Training Provider; and
- b) A copy of the certificate or licence or in the absence of such certificate or licence, the attendance list from the course provider.
- c) The N-ETF claim application form for courses eligible for N-ETF funding. Please refer to important notes (8) on N-ETF claim.

* For module courses that lead to course certification, only the course fee may be claimed at the end of the module by submitting the required documents. The training allowance can only be claimed upon obtaining the course certification at the end of all the prescribed modules. Please refer to important notes (9) on modular course claim.

6 Having adhered to the procedure and met the requirements specified, reimbursement of SOS training grant for non N-ETF course will be made within three (3) working days from the date of submission of item (5).

7 For courses that are eligible for external funding from other agencies, SOS will forward all claims as required by the terms and conditions and procedures of the agencies. Applications for external funding are subject to procedures and conditions set by the agencies. Members will be notified of the status as and when information is available.

8 Member may wish to check with the course provider directly for more details on the courses. The Training Committee reserves the right to amend, delete and review any procedures or courses in its absolute discretion from time to time. Availability of courses offered at the discretion of the relevant training institutions or course providers.

9 For modular courses, members who request for modular claim need to sign an undertaking to commit to all prescribed modules and the course certification. Member, who defaults, would be barred from applying training grant for modular courses up to a period of 5 years. However, this debarment will not be imposed if the member refund the training grant already disbursed to him for the completed modules of the course.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1 Only the training allowance will be granted if the course fee is sponsored in full by other organisation. The above procedure applies. If course fee is sponsored in partial, Union will grant the remainder of course fee and Training Allowance will still be granted.

2 Reimbursement of course fee and training allowance will be granted only if the rate of attendance is more than 75%.

3 The course fee and training allowance will be paid as follow :-

1) Schedule II:	Pass – 100%	Fail – 100%
2) Schedule III:	Pass – 100%	Fail – 80%

4 The Training Allowance is computed at \$20 per 8-hour and maximum training allowance is capped at \$300 per course.

5 The number of courses entitled for training grant is two (2) courses per calendar year per member. Note that the year of claim follows the commencement date of course.

6 A member shall not be permitted to apply for any course(s) that the Union has previously sponsored him, except for courses that requires re-validation or re-licencing by the Authority.



AFFORDABLE DENTAL CARE



The two rounds of free dental screening and subsidised basic dental treatment have benefitted a total of 114 members. The pilot project has received valuable feedback from members on the types of dental services they require. These will be taken into consideration for future rounds to improve the standards of dental benefits made available to SOS members.

The Mobile Dental Clinic (MDC) is a pilot project which was carried out in May 2009 to provide dental services in the form of free or subsidised basic dental benefits to all eligible SOS local members.

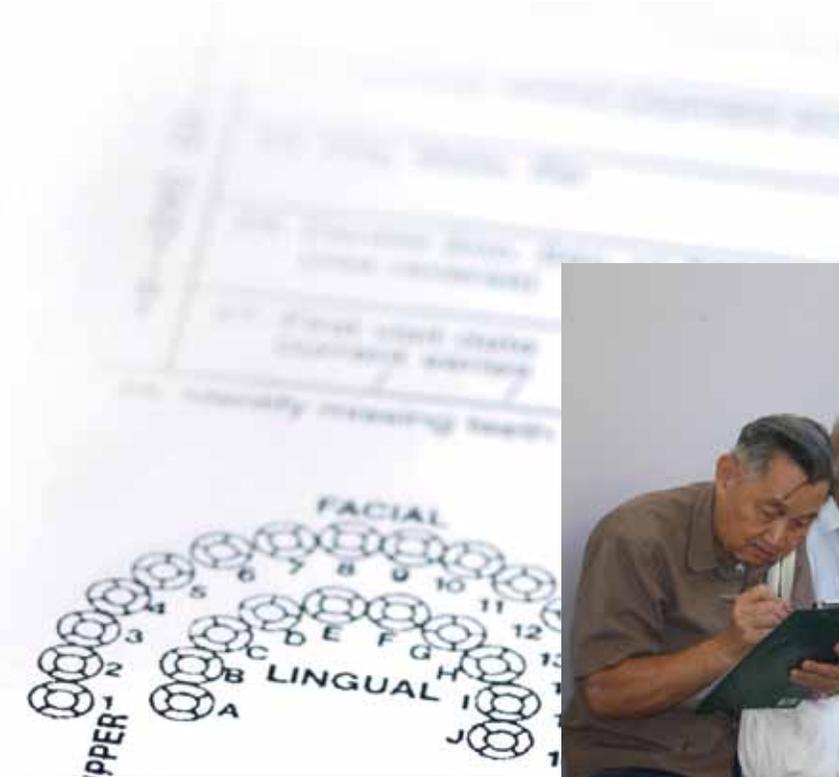
Based on requests from members who missed the earlier round due to prior commitments, the second round for financial year ended 31 March 2010 was arranged from 26 to 29 January 2010. Through the MDC that was stationed at the Seacare Building for the four days, SOS provided eligible members with free dental screenings and a \$50 subsidy per member for basic dental treatments of scaling & polishing and tooth filling.



I had a tooth scaling and polishing performed. It is a good thing that SOS has done – taking care of our teeth when it is so easy to get caught up in the ‘busyness’ of our lives and neglect the importance of basic, personal dental hygiene.

– Mr Iskandar B Ali Khan





I knew about the first round in May 2009 but had to miss it due to work. I work as a crane operator, and did not want to miss this round, so I took leave. I'm very happy about the dental service and the location at the union office is accessible as members are familiar with the place.

- Mr Mohd Jufry B Kadri

Some feedback from members:

I'm currently unemployed so I'm glad to have been offered this chance to attend a free dental screening.

- Mr Goh Hoon Meng



GRIGOROUSSA CREW MAKES AN 'SOS' CALL

Tension was in the air. For three months, the 25-member crew of the Greek-owned cargo ship Grigoroussa T, comprising of 19 Ukrainians and six Romanians have not been receiving their wages. An SOS call was made to the union and ITF who immediately made an arrest on the vessel while it was in Singapore waters.

The Singapore team, made up of Mr Adrian Aw, appointed lawyer from Gurbani & Co, Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar, SOS IR Officer, Mr Gwee Duo Duan, SMOU IR Manager and Mr Alvin Cheong, SMOU IR Officer, came to the rescue to help recover owed wages from the employer.

Anxious faces that met with the team on 16 October 2009 at the lawyer's office, gradually relaxed into smiles, when each crew member received cash immediately upon working out the exact wages owed to them. Standing by the union members, Mr Mohamad provided assistance to explain the fine print to each crew member who needed clarification on contract matters.

Thankful that the saga was finally over, Mr Alexander Danko said, "I am really tired but also very relieved. I can now go home and finally see my wife and daughter again!"



Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar cautioned employers: "Situations like this are totally unacceptable as it causes so much hardship and stress not just to the seafarers, but also to their families. Wages for work done should rightfully be paid promptly."



Thanks to the swift action in resolving the issue, all crew members of Grigoroussa recovered their wages in full, amounting to over US\$80,000. Wages owed varied from two months stretching to almost six months for some.

After exchanges of well wishes and handshakes, 19 crew members were repatriated to their home country directly, while the remaining crew agreed to stay onboard.

The union was with the seafarers at every step, from the time the SOS call was made, to visiting crew members onboard, making arrangements for the legal proceedings, recovering owed wages and repatriation.

"We will do whatever it takes to fight for the rights of seafarers," concluded Mr Mohamad.

NTUC WOMEN'S COMMITTEE IN TRAINING

Women representatives from various NTUC affiliated unions gathered for a one and a half day programme from 18 to 19 December 2009 organised by the NTUC Women's Development Secretariat (WDS). Madam Halimah Yaacob, Secretary for NTUC Women's Committee and Director of the WDS led in the programme.



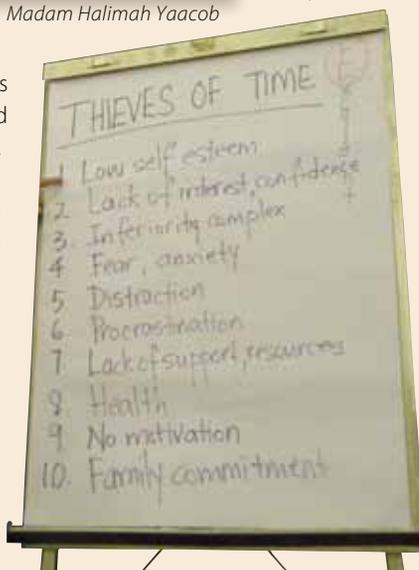
The first day entailed a Leadership Training Workshop with the theme: "I Will Do: Walk our Talk". The committee learned how to discover one's X-factor, supplement dreams with action, build on strengths and overcome weaknesses, interdependence for Success and build trust and confidence in personal and working relationships. At the end of the programme, the committee felt more confident to realise their vision and carry out the commitments within their unions. The WDS frequently organises activities and workshops for the women committee to nurture and develop the capabilities of its women leaders.



Madam Halimah Yaacob

The training programme was followed by a half day WDS Work plan discussion where the committee reviewed the current projects such as the Back2Work, We Care for U and Kids@Work and brainstormed on plans and activities for 2010. Ms Mariana pointed out that three interest groups which were introduced in 2009; Singing, Culinary and Health & Recreation were well received and will continue to be part of this year's activities. "It is good that the committee members are given the chance to get involved in such interests groups as volunteers, drivers or helpers. Through our involvement, we pick up valuable organisational skills and learn from our interactions with different people. The activities and programmes are very positive, helpful and beneficial. I am glad to have had the privilege of attending them."

Ms Mariana Angel who represented SOS had this to say about her involvement: "Participating in the Women's Committee provided me the opportunity to hear and learn from other women union leaders about their experiences and aspirations in serving their members. The leaders shared their thoughts on getting elected, and how they went about gaining trust from their male counterparts; all while juggling office, union and domestic responsibilities."



2010 will see the introduction of more leadership training courses and the Women Interactive Series (WISE) – a series of talks and dialogues with other women leaders and ministers with exciting activities from the interest groups. Last but not least, after the one and a half day programme, the women members also had a chance to unwind and bond after a hard year's work. Three cheers to the NTUC Women Committee and WDS!



"To be a Movement, in simple terms, is to have Activities oriented in a certain Direction. If we don't organise any activities at all, even if we are very clear about our direction, can we call ourselves a Movement? On the other hand, if we only have activities, but are all moving in different directions, how can we consider ourselves a Movement? M.A.D. equates to 'Movement = Activity x Direction'. A Movement means we forge ahead energetically as one."

– NTUC Assistant Secretary General and Young NTUC Adviser, Mrs Josephine Teo



MAKING PERFECT SENSE OF 'MADNESS'

This would turn out to be a message that resonated well with many participants, especially for SOS Youth Committee Chairman, Mr Abdul Rahim Mohd and SOS Industrial Relations Executive Officer, Ms Julia San, at the Young NTUC Committee retreat.

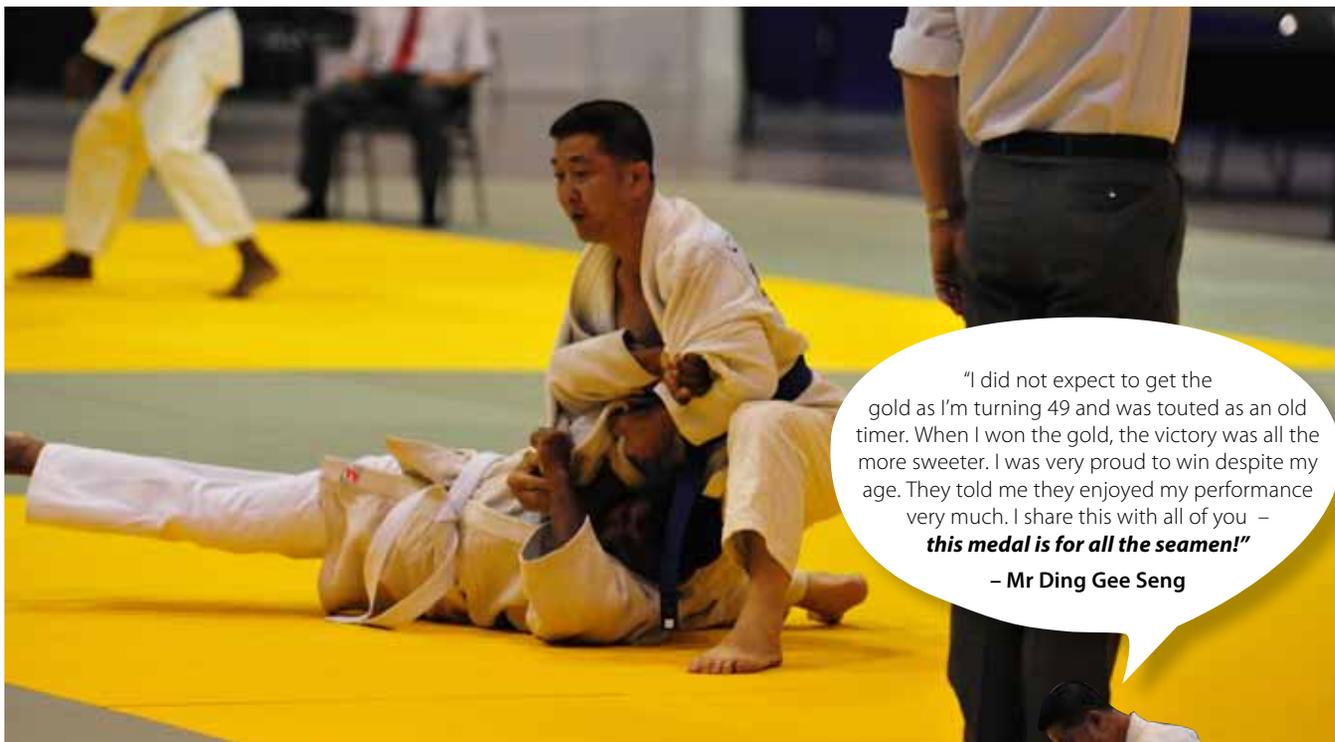
"Activity on its own is meaningless but an activity with a clearly defined purpose and direction makes all the difference! We have seen how a well thought out and well planned activity can complement the objectives of a Union to achieve a specific target or goal," concurred Mr Rahim.

"Yes. We learnt how we could organise and adapt purposeful event ideas that appeal to the different interests of our members from movie outings to charity work, healthy lifestyle events to skill workshops, and discussion forums over coffee. There were 12 affinity groups that encompassed various interests of youth members. As long as there are passionate and interested members, we can continue to explore developing other hobbies such as cycling, music, or cooking into new interest groups," shared Ms Julia San.

Such events, said Ms Julia, were part of the Young NTUC committee's plans to woo PMETs (Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technical People) and attract young people to join the Labour Union Movement.

Held annually to set objectives and directions for 2010, the retreat attracted members of the committee who gathered over two days in Kuala Lumpur on 19 and 20 November 2009. The purpose was to review the past year, assess activities carried out by the various youth chapters and set in place plans for new activities to develop potential leaders, as well as to foster better interaction between youth members. The committee also applauded and re-evaluated practices, and set Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for 2010.

It was an excellent eye opener for delegates as they got to visit the Union Network International Malaysian Liaison Council (UNI-MLC) office and observe firsthand the scope and extent of their work. In addition, UNI-MLC's Youth President, Mr A Prem Kumar shared on unemployment issues for unschooled Malaysian youth among other challenges faced in the labour movement.



"I did not expect to get the gold as I'm turning 49 and was touted as an old timer. When I won the gold, the victory was all the more sweeter. I was very proud to win despite my age. They told me they enjoyed my performance very much. I share this with all of you – **this medal is for all the seamen!**"
 – Mr Ding Gee Seng

SOS MEMBER WINS GOLD at Commonwealth Judo Championship



One of our members, Mr Ding Gee Seng, won the gold in the Masters Men 40 & Under 50 – 66kg Category at the 13th Commonwealth Judo Championships, Singapore 2010 held at the Suntec Singapore International Convention Centre from 10 to 12 January.

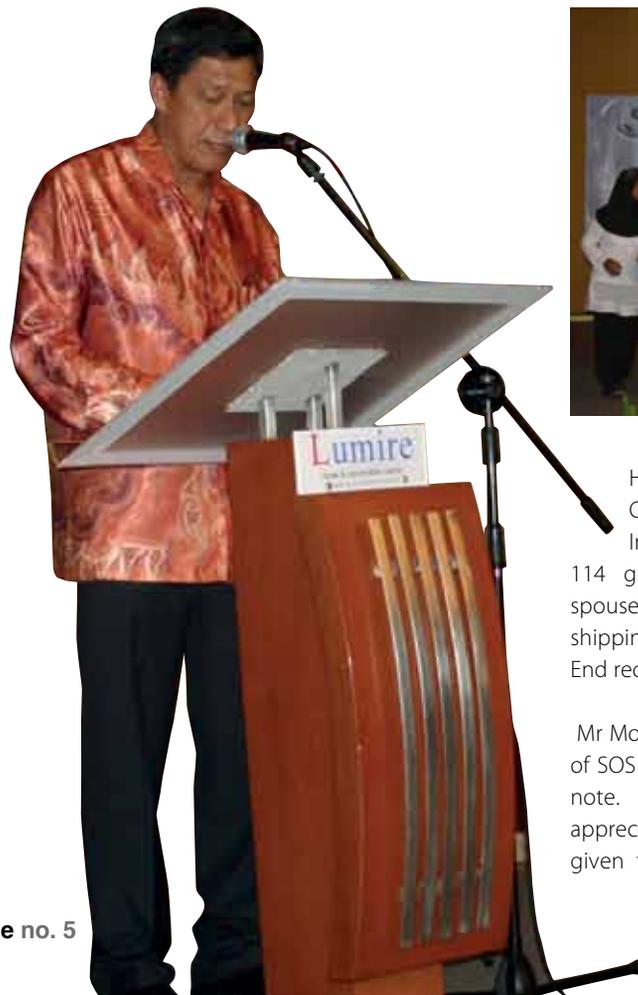
An avid Judo practitioner since his secondary school days and an SOS member since 1983, Mr Ding has been a "serial medalist" in the sport for over 30 years now at various levels – representing school and nation in the SEA games in 1979, 1981, 1983, 1993 as well as at the Asian and International games among others.

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO BROTHER DING GEE SENG FOR DOING SINGAPORE PROUD FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL!



Amid a festive Christmas cum New Year buffet dinner, fun entertainment, stage games, and a lucky draw was a gathering of many from the Indonesian Shipping industry. Some guests of special mention were Mr Hanafi Rustandi, President of Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia (KPI), Mr Zainuddin, a MMA Marine Engineer with the Directorate General of Sea Transportation, Directorate of Marine Safety and Mr Shigeru Wada from ILO.

SOS REACHES OUT TO INDONESIAN MEMBERS



Held at the Lumire Hotel and Convention Centre in Jakarta, Indonesia on 11 December 2009, 114 guests consisting members, their spouses, manning agents, and staff from shipping companies attended the Year End reception for Indonesian members.

Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar, Vice President of SOS opened the evening on a grateful note. While expressing his heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering support given to the Union, he also introduced



the launch of recent benefits such as the Seafarer's Provident Fund and Seacare Medical Scheme, and assured that SOS would continue to give their best for all its members in Indonesia in the New Year and years that follow.

"SOS often looks towards the interest of its Indonesian members. Presently SOS has launched recent benefits such as the SPF – a savings scheme and SMS – a healthcare service. Members may obtain more information from their respective shipping agents."

He went on to state that some time back, SOS had started a Ship Visiting Programme where SOS representatives visit ships which make their port of call in Singapore. Last year, SOS visited more than 100 vessels, 30 of which were occupied by Indonesian crew.

"We are thankful for the support and cooperation from the respective parties that have helped ease all the arrangements for the entire programme. In addition, we are also grateful for the great show of tolerance, unity and cooperation that has helped make this year end reception possible. Let us continue to work together as we endeavour and remain committed to serving you better."

– Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar





WELCOME TO THE FOLD!

SAMUDRA: WHAT IS YOUR DESIGNATION AND JOB SCOPE?

■ **CLARISSA:** I am a Welfare Executive. My scope of work includes organising social activities for members and attending to their concerns and needs.

SAMUDRA: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ON THE JOB?

■ **CLARISSA:** I joined in late October 2009.

SAMUDRA: WHERE WERE YOU PRIOR TO JOINING SOS?

■ **CLARISSA:** I was assisting the HR department in an offshore construction company and my work involved general HR matters.

SAMUDRA: SO WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE AND DECIDE ON SOS AS A CAREER PATH?

■ **CLARISSA:** Meeting new people energises me. As a Welfare Executive, being the first point of contact with members, I have the privilege of building a strong rapport with them. Not only do I get to interact with members, but also external vendors as well as service providers. I relish the fact that my job is both challenging and rewarding. I enjoy what I do!

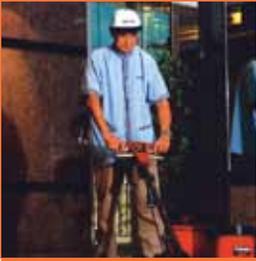
SAMUDRA: WHAT MAKES UP A TYPICAL DAY ON THE JOB FOR YOU?

■ **CLARISSA:** It includes processing transactions such as when a member comes to make payment to book a chalet, or register for an upcoming event. I attend to walk-ins and phone enquiries on details of social activities; handle the collection and deposit of members' funds; prepare circulars and mailers; liaise with service providers prior to any event, and visit members if they are sick and hospitalised.

SAMUDRA: ANY PARTING WORDS TO OUR READERS?

■ **CLARISSA:** Yes. I would like to thank SOS/Seacare for their belief in me. And to all Samudra readers – in listening and being attentive to you and members' needs, I look forward to your support and to serving you better and diligently in my new appointment.

SOS/Seacare recently welcomed the arrival of Ms Clarissa Lim to its family. Samudra takes a peak at life before SOS, the satisfaction she gets from her work, and what a typical day on the job entails ...



Seacare Focus





A regular practice in the past and in the spirit of giving during Chinese New Year, Seacare invited senior residents in the neighbourhood to partake in a lunch reception with yu sheng tossing and share in the joy of lunar new year festivities on 26 February 2010.

JALAN KUKOH AND KRETA AYER SENIORS JOIN IN FESTIVITIES

Senior residents joined in as performers serenaded to the tunes of Teresa Teng's – yue liang dai biao wo de xin (The Moon Represents My Heart) as well as other Mandarin, Malay, Hokkien, and Cantonese evergreen hits from yesteryears.

Mr Raymond Chia, Chairman for Seacare Properties Pte Ltd distributed hong baos to some 130 senior folk from Jalan Kukoh Zone C as well as new faces from Kreta Ayer Senior Activity Centre – which included those aged 60 and above, living in the Kreta Ayer - Kim Seng Constituency.





Mr David Shoo, SOS Welfare Manager with Mr Ernest Ng

"SOS/Seacare have been inviting our residents for the past few years. Today we have about 100 Jalan Kukoh Zone C senior residents present. Seeing them happy and enjoying themselves is always uplifting. They can take comfort in knowing that there are people who genuinely care about them."

Mr Ernest Chan, Chairman for Jalan Kukoh Residents Committee



"I'm glad that SOS/Seacare remember us every year. We are very grateful."

**Mr Mathieu Gordon
Anthony, 65, Jalan Kukoh
Resident**



"This is our first year participating in this Lunar New Year reception. Seeing the smiles on the faces of our senior citizens at this luncheon is priceless! We would like to thank Mr Leow, and staff of SOS/Seacare for their kind generosity and hospitality."

Ms Cindy, Programme Manager for Kreta Ayer Seniors Activity Centre



Mr David Shoo (centre) with Ms Cindy and Mr Koh Chui Seng, Programme Assistant for Kreta Ayer Seniors Activity Centre

CLINCHES DEAL WITH UK P&I CLUB AND AMERICAN CLUB

Seacare Maritime Medical Centre

Healthier and fitter crew are part of the ongoing quest to reduce claims, avoid delays and improve safety on board ships.



In recognition of high crew medical costs and the lack of accountability of clinics for failing to discover pre-existing medical conditions, the UK P&I Club set up the Pre-Employment Medical Examination (PEME) Programme to protect ship owners from insurance compensation claims and to provide crew with a first rate health check before going out to sea.

The Seacare Maritime Medical Centre (SMMC) upon passing PEME's tough audit process and sealing an agreement on 16 February 2010, is therefore proud to be the officially appointed medical facility here in Singapore representing the UK P&I club.

Ms Sophia Grant, Programme Director for the PEME Programme said: "We constantly audit the performance of our approved clinics whilst meeting the needs of our membership."

Commenting on SMMC's feat, Dr Chia Yih Woei, SMMC Chief Executive Officer said: **"Following an initial meeting at a symposium, The American Club and UK P&I Club expressed interest in our services and subsequently visited our medical centre to view our premises. The American club liked what they saw and signed with SMMC early this year, while UK P&I club conducted an audit and SMMC was chosen. We are excited about this new business prospect of working together with the UK P&I Club as well as The American Club and are privileged to be named as their appointed medical facility here in Singapore."**





How this works is that SMMC liaises directly with the PEME team rather than with the manning agencies. Information and examination results are compiled into a medical report. SMMC will verify individual crew details before each medical exam by cross-checking against the PEME records via the Internet.

Originating from the Philippines – the country with easily the most number of merchant seafarers, PEME, a leading loss prevention initiative within the UK P&I club, has provided a system for proper accountability by accredited clinics on the quality of pre-employment medical examinations for seafarers prior to boarding ships.

Combined with exhaustive, rigorous and high examination standards, the programme has led to consistency in protecting ship owners from claims arising from medical conditions which in fact could have been detected during a pre-employment health check. Participating ship owners may take comfort in knowing that they can rely on a proven system for managing this aspect of crew risks and consequentially benefit by having a fitter and healthier crew.

According to Mr Phil Nichols, Personal Injury Claims Specialist at Thomas Miller P&I, London – *“An unfit crewman will have, or is likely to cause a major incident due to illness; so it’s not just medical costs and sick wages that are at stake. Consider a few avoidable interruptions: delay in journey, disruption aboard vessel and unhappy customers or passengers.”*



In addition to healthier crew and safer ships, efficient medical examinations, significant savings in illness costs and repatriation, and reduction in claims above and below deductibles, the scheme offers handling of administration duties by the Club, industry leading quality control and biennial audit of clinics, and clinic network developed in direct response to member needs.

STRENGTHENING CO-OPERATIVE TIES WITH SNCF



To help SNCF better understand the co-operative, Mr Leow Ching Chuan, Chairman of Seacare, together with the Heads of all the Seacare group of companies and management staff provided background on the formative years of SOS / Seacare and the current business activities of Seacare group of companies which covered industries ranging from medical, manpower placement, properties, maritime-related services and environmental to landscape services.

It was with great pleasure that Seacare welcomed the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) team, led by the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mrs Dolly Goh on 4 February 2010 to strengthen ties and to explore possibilities of collaborations between co-operatives.



The SNCF entourage, which included the Head of Relationship Management & Business Development, Mr Kenneth Ang and Relationship Manager, Mr Jasni Jamil were keen to find out the secret behind the success of the co-operative enterprise of the union that was set up more than 15 years ago.

Though this was Mrs Goh's first official visit to Seacare, she was meeting familiar faces. Mr Leow serves in SNCF Executive Council and Ms Jacquelyn Lam, Group Senior Manager of Seacare Co-operative, heads the SNCF Youth Committee.



SEACARE MEDICAL SCHEME (SMS)

for Qualified SOS Filipino and Indonesian members & Dependents



Benefits available at SMS appointed clinics in the Philippines and Indonesia:

For more information on the SMS for SOS Filipino members, please contact:

A) FREE BASIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS (AT SMS APPOINTED CLINICS)

1. Medical consultation
2. Complete blood count
3. Stool examination
4. Urinalysis
5. Chest X-ray
6. ECG
7. Fasting blood sugar
8. Total cholesterol
9. Pap smear
10. Dental consultation
11. Simple tooth extraction (without surgery)
12. Simple tooth filling

B) MEDICINE REIMBURSEMENT

1. Medicine

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 1500 Roxas Boulevard,
 Ermita, Manila 1000
 Philippines

SMS Appointed Clinics in the Philippines

- Micah Medical Clinic and Diagnostic Laboratory (Manila)
- Galenus Clinic Inc. (Manila)
- Gillamacs Diagnostic & Medical Laboratories Inc. (Cebu City)
- Medicus Diagnostic Center & Medical Clinics (5 branches in Iloilo City, Antique and Capiz)
- Ilano's Medical & Dental Clinic (Cavite)
- CMDC Diagnostic Center (Cagayan De Oro City)
- Villanueva Clinical Laboratory (Bacolod City)

For more information on the SMS for SOS Indonesian members, please contact:

SMS Liaison Officer:
 Mr Sonny Pattiselanno
 Tel: (62) 21-3141495
 Fax: (62) 21-3141491
 Email: sms@seacare.com.sg
 c/o Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia (KPI),
 Jln Cikini Raya 58 AA/BB,
 PO Bok 3087,
 Jakarta 10330

SMS Appointed Clinics in Indonesia

- SMMC/Klinik Baruna (Central Jakarta)
- SMMC/Indosehat 2003 Clinic (North Jakarta)
- SMMC/Indosehat Cikarang Clinic (Bekasi)





SEACARE INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES OFFICE RELOCATED TO SERVE YOU BETTER

Our Seacare International Phils. Inc. Office
has relocated to:

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SOS Filipino members who need any assistance on Seafarers Provident Fund Scheme, Seacare Maritime Training Scheme, Seacare Medical Scheme and Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme can get in touch with us at our new office.

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International Phils. Inc.