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SAMUDRA

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

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THRICE THE CELEBRATION
IN THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT



SAMUDRA

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THREE TIMES THE CELEBRATION 10 TIMES THE RESOLVE



For SOS, there were many great reasons to celebrate. Firstly, it was the Chinese New Year, secondly, SOS commemorates its 40th anniversary this year and thirdly, SOS members were being rewarded with Long Membership Awards for their longstanding support of the union. But even greater still, is SOS' journey thus far, and the strength of their resolve in moving forward.

An annual tradition for SOS and Seacare for 17 years now since the founding of Seacare some 18 years ago, SOS and Seacare have jointly hosted the Hong Bao Presentation cum Lunar New Year Celebration as a way of showing appreciation to its members, affiliated unions, business associates, shipping/maritime communities, and government agencies.

This year, SOS was privileged to have residents from the Asian Women's Welfare Home (AWWA), the Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens and the Jamiyah Home for the Aged (Darul Takrim) join in the New Year luncheon at the Suntec Ballroom on 11 February. Each invited resident was given a festive gift and hong bao of \$50, while 274 retired seamen received festive gifts and hong baos containing \$100 each.

Joining in the celebrations alongside Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Manpower Mr Gan Kim Yong was President of the Singapore Shipping Association Mr Teo Siong Seng, Assistant Chief Executive of Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Capt Khong Shen Ping, Chief Executive Officer of Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) Ms Dolly Goh, Chairman of Singapore Maritime Employers' Federation Capt Francis Joseph, NTUC Central Committee Members, and SNCF Executive Council Members.





In his welcome address, SOS President Mr Mohamed Idris B Mohamed Ibrahim underlined the significance of SOS' 40th anniversary: "This year, SOS celebrates its 40th anniversary with the tagline: "Going Beyond; Going Forward". SOS is where it is today, because each and every one of us in SOS has constantly performed beyond our call of duty. As a result, we have gone forward to break new grounds, as in our co-operative venture. The two key words 'Beyond' and 'Forward' in the tagline aptly sum up how much our past progress has given us an assured sense of hope, confidence and vision. The past 40 years has been good; we have every confidence the next 40 years will be even better."

Minister for Manpower, Mr Gan Kim Yong in his speech commended SOS and Seacare for their work: "I would like to pay tribute to SOS and Seacare for your outstanding contributions to members' well being as well as to the maritime industry. I am confident that your union will continue to play an effective role in furthering the interests of your members and their families as well as to improve the competitiveness of the maritime industry in Singapore."

Contribution to Community

SOS and Seacare have contributed significantly to the community, looking after the overall well-being of its members and their dependents. Programmes such as the SOS Membership Benefit Scheme, the Seacare Medical Scheme, the Seafarers' Provident Fund Scheme, as well as the Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme have greatly benefited members. SOS established the Seacare Co-operative Ltd (Seacare) in 1994 to help Singapore seamen who are no longer able to sail at sea and their families. One key area of assistance is job facilitation efforts through Seacare Manpower Services.

In addition, SOS has played a wider social role to help the less fortunate in the community at large through social outreach events such as lunch with senior citizens and visits to welfare homes. The SOS has also contributed generously through co-sponsorships with Seacare for events such as this Hong Bao Presentation and Lunar New Year Celebration.





Challenges Ahead

The new Retirement and Re-employment Act will enable eligible, older employees to be re-employed when the new legislation comes into effect in January 2012. SOS will play an important role in working closely with members and management partners to ensure a seamless transition to re-employment.

In addition, SOS and management partners will work closely together on the Government's goal to achieve productivity growth of two to three per cent per annum over the next decade. SOS and Seacare have set up the Seacare Maritime Training Scheme, which provides comprehensive training programmes for its members and helps them boost their employability.



LONG MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Two groups of members were honoured at this year's SOS Long Membership Awards (LMA) for their long standing support of the union. The recognition of members was made all the more momentous as SOS celebrates the crossing of its milestone 20,000 membership mark in 2011.

Going up on stage to receive their awards from Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Manpower Mr Gan Kim Yong, were three representatives from the 15-years LMA category and 54 recipients from the 30-years LMA category. Their loyalty and support were acknowledged at the SOS/Seacare Hong Bao Presentation cum Lunar New Year Celebration 2011 held on 11 February at Suntec Singapore, Ballrooms 1-3.



"SOS/Seacare has outdone itself again: hong baos, treats, and welfare... what more can we ask? They have been nothing but generous."

- Mr Ong Huat Soon, 55, member for 30 years



"What I love most about the CNY luncheon is that I get to meet up with old friends. We seldom have opportunities to meet with each other except for functions such as this. The union always remembers us."

- Mr Johari Mansor, 48, member for 30 years



"I've got three children and six grandchildren. SOS/Seacare has done so much. They have study awards for children and invited us for meals. We are old, and yet, they still remember us every year."

- *Mr Chu Ah Suan, 71, member for 30 years



"I can confidently say that I can count on the union anytime I need help. After many years of being with the union, they have consistently shown care and concern, especially for the senior members."

- Mr Uttu Abdul Rahman, 64, member for 30 years

*Mr Chu has passed away at time of publishing. SOS extends its heartfelt condolences to his family.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

SOS thanks the following members for their unwavering support all these years:

15 YEAR LONG MEMBERSHIP AWARD

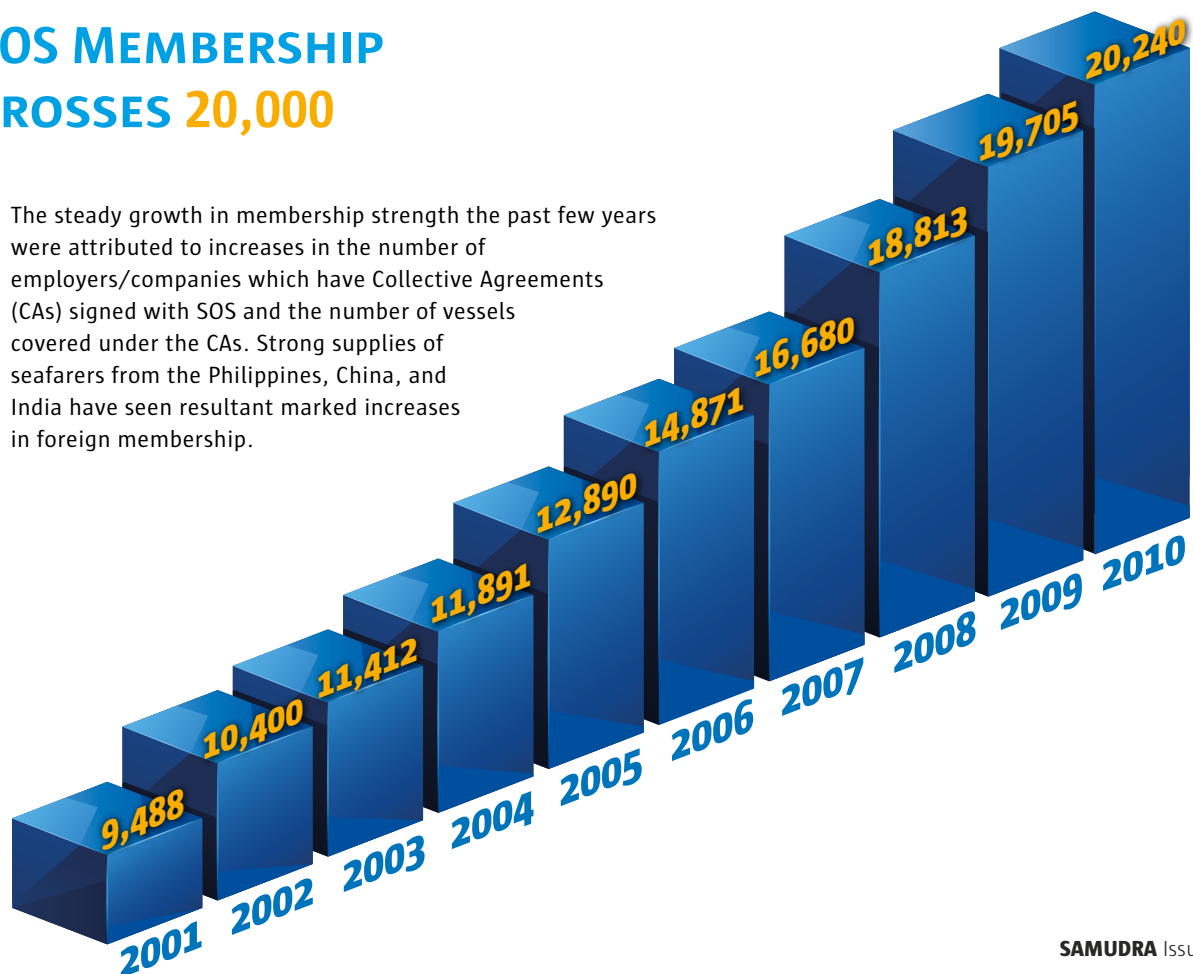
S/No	M/S NO.	Name
1	8346	HAMZAH B SULONG
2	8340	MOHAMMAD JUMAT B ALI
3	AL361	HENG AIK MUI

30 YEAR LONG MEMBERSHIP AWARD

S/No	M/S NO.	Name	S/No	M/S NO.	Name	S/No	M/S NO.	Name
1	6519	OW YONG CHEE WENG	19	6795	ONG HUAT SOON	37	AL208	CHU AH SUAN
2	6553	CHOO FUI JUNE	20	6823	YAP MUN HONG	38	AL213	LAI FONG KUM
3	6564	RAZALI B HASSAN	21	6847	ABDUL RAZAK B BUJANG	39	AL223	KUM YEOW CHOI
4	6575	JAMES ANTHONY	22	6862	LEONG MUN KHEONG	40	AL231	ABDUL SAMAD B MOHAMED AMIN
5	6580	TAN AH CHYE	23	6864	MOHD NASIR B JAMSAIK	41	AL237	LIAN YORK CHONG
6	6581	CHARLES ROLAND HENDRICKS	24	6865	WONG GEE HONG	42	AL248	ISMAIL B ALI
7	6585	SIM HOR PHENG	25	6871	YAP WENG KONG	43	AL295	GOH JOHN NAM
8	AL367	ONG SEE ONN	26	6891	ISHAK B OTHMAN	44	AL297	CHAY SWEE KEE
9	6633	TEY KIM CHOON	27	6893	LEOW CHIN GEE	45	AL305	QUEK KIM SIANG
10	6637	JAMHAR B YACOB	28	6909	AKBAR B ABD KADER	46	AL315	FOO KENG HOCK
11	6646	ABU BAKAR B JAFFAR	29	6926	AU KEE SWAN	47	AL316	CHENG CHWEE LIM
12	6659	JOHARI B MANSOR	30	6927	KAMAR B OSMAN	48	AL318	SNG CHENG HAI
13	6685	AHMAD FAROUK B ABD KADIR	31	6945	TAN KEK SING	49	AL344	HENG AIK CHEW
14	6742	RAMLANROS B ROSDI	32	6949	SULHAN B MAHMUD	50	AL346	SOH HEE LYE
15	6744	SULAIMAN B NOORDIN	33	AL125	WONG KUOK FONG	51	AL353	HAN KHEE KWANG
16	6771	BROWN NOLAN JERRY	34	AL172	TAN AH HOOH	52	CD08	LEE SZE LUAN
17	6778	ZAZALI B ABD RASHID	35	AL181	CHEW KYN KIAN	53	CD26	FOO MOO HEN
18	6780	CHUANG HUI YUAN	36	AL185	TAN SAY TIM	54	CD64	CHEW SIAN HAI

SOS MEMBERSHIP CROSSES 20,000

The steady growth in membership strength the past few years were attributed to increases in the number of employers/companies which have Collective Agreements (CAs) signed with SOS and the number of vessels covered under the CAs. Strong supplies of seafarers from the Philippines, China, and India have seen resultant marked increases in foreign membership.





IBF REVISES HIGH RISK AREA

Piracy has been an increasing concern for both seafarer and employer groups. As such, representatives of the Joint Negotiating Group (JNG) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) continued to address the issue of piracy at the meeting of the International Bargaining Forum (IBF) held from 6 to 7 October 2010 in New York City, USA.

The recommendations are aimed at assisting seafarers, as well as ship owners and managers in the event of piracy. They include recommendations for the protection and welfare of crew members who may become captives and also that of their families until, and if necessary, after their release.

Agreement has been reached on IBF pay settlements to facilitate pay negotiations which are scheduled to continue in early 2011, with completion expected in March 2011. In addition, all existing IBF Agreements will be extended to continue until the end of March 2011.

According to a press release, ITF seafarers' section chair Mr Dave Heindel commented: "The world has lost control of piracy. Each day it's becoming more savage and more widespread. All the Arabian Gulf and most of the

Indian Ocean are now effectively lawless. Yet there is a way that control can be regained: by actively going after pirates, stopping them and prosecuting them. Not this ludicrous situation of taking away their guns and setting them free to strike again."

"The burden of dealing with pirates is being borne by a few nations and the burden of actually taking them to court by even fewer. We have repeatedly requested stronger intervention by all governments, including the flag of convenience states that are reaping the profits from so much of the world's shipping fleet without meeting any of the obligations. If we daily allow a few thousand thugs to rack up the danger and violence then we will soon reach a point where there is no alternative but to stop putting people and ships within their reach – with all the effects that could have on world trade and oil and food prices."

As such, given continuing pirate attacks on merchant ships despite the presence of a number of international navies, the JNG and the ITF agreed to extend the duration of the IBF High Risk Area (21st revision) by 116 days. This 22nd revision of the IBF High Risk Area was to remain in force from 0001Z on 8 October 2010 until 2400Z on 31 January 2011 and would be reviewed.



It is agreed that:

The Area designated as the IBF High Risk Area as at 0001Z on 1 February 2009 in light of the revised UKMT0 Transit Corridor (officially named International Recommended Transit Corridor – IRTC) will be maintained, as follows:

“The western border of the High Risk Area runs from the coastline at the border of Djibouti and Somalia to position 11 48 N, 45E; from 12 00 N, 45 E to Mayyun Island in the Bab El Mandeb Straits. The Eastern Border runs from Rhiy di-Irisal on Suqutra Island to position 14 18 N, 53 E; from 14 30 N, 53 E to the coastline at the border between Yemen and Oman.”

In addition, the “coordinates” of the IBF High Risk Area in 1 above is extended to incorporate the 400 mile zone off the eastern coast of Somalia, i.e. from Socotra Island down to the Kenyan border.

During the period of transit of the area designated as the IBF High Risk Area, each seafarer shall receive a bonus equal to 100 per cent of the basic wage. During the period of transit, the compensation payable in case of death and disability shall be doubled.

However, the bonus and other benefits will not apply while vessels are alongside a berth, at another in secure anchorages off Yemeni ports or attached to a Yemeni SBM facility. It is understood that vessels will have to transit the high risk area in order to proceed to Yemeni ports and as such the bonuses should cease when a vessel is either all secure alongside, brought up to her anchor or fully coupled to a SBM. Likewise when sailing the bonuses etc. should commence when the vessel is “all gone”, i.e. the last line is let go from a berth, when the anchor is aweigh or a vessel has de-coupled from a SBM.

In the case of vessels that will transit the IBF High Risk Area outside of the east bound and west bound lanes created under the International Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), seafarers have the right not to proceed with the passage. In such an event, the seafarer concerned shall be repatriated at the company’s cost with benefits accrued until the date of return to the port of engagement.

Vessels may deviate from the IRTC lanes without affecting the terms and conditions for the seafarers onboard for collision avoidance purposes only, as long as they are returned to the original lanes as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so.



EMBRACING THE 3-FLOW STRATEGY

SOS 3-FLOW WORKSHOP

Taking its cue from the Labour Movement's intention to set its sights on three complete engines - the 3H strategy for an inclusive workforce, the 3R strategy for inclusive membership, and the 3F strategy for inclusive leadership, SOS conducted a 3-Flow workshop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 7 to 10 January 2011 to set the plan in motion.

Present at the workshop were SOS Executive Committee members and senior management staff.

Set to champion leadership growth and renewal within the Labour Movement, the 3F mantra consists three parts:

Firstly, with 'flow in' in mind, potential and promising leaders must be attracted to come forward and serve in the Labour Movement.

Secondly, leaders must find ways to guide these potential leaders to take on heavier responsibilities and 'flow up' their leadership ladders.

And thirdly, the 'flow on' concept sets in. When leaders who have contributed many decades to the Labour Movement decide to step aside, the Labour Movement will not merely bid them farewell but urge them to flow-on. This way, they can make way for younger blood and continue maintaining the relationship to tap on the years of expertise and experience of veteran leaders at the same time.



The 3-Flow Model:

• Flow In

To ensure a constant flow of new blood into the Labour Movement, efforts will be intensified to induct a new and more inclusive profile of union leaders to lead their unions and branches.

• Flow Up

To groom potential leaders to take on higher responsibilities with a view to passing them the baton, the Labour Movement will provide training and development.

• Flow On

To encourage union leaders reaching the statutory retirement age of 62 to make way for new blood. But the Labour Movement will continue to tap on their wisdom and experience in other areas.



At the NTUC Unite Leadership Summit 2010 held on 28 October 2010, NTUC President Mr John De Payva called on all union leaders at all levels of the Labour Movement to embrace leadership development and renewal.

In view of this, SOS set about discussing SOS' leadership development and renewal at its 3-Flow Workshop.

In full support of NTUC's 3-Flow Leadership Renewal Model, SOS will amend its Constitution at the Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) in 2013 to align itself with NTUC's proposed amendment on members' eligibility to stand for election/co-option.





To continue tapping on SOS Flow-On leaders' experience, knowledge and expertise, the following areas have been identified for veteran leaders, where appropriate and eligible:

- To be appointed as Cadre Members of SOS
- To be appointed as Advisors of SOS Standing/Special Committees
- To serve as mentors for various interest groups within SOS such as training, ship visiting and bonding between members and staff
- To participate in relevant SOS Workshops and meetings
- To represent SOS in local and overseas meetings, workshops and exchange programmes
- To be appointed as Directors of the Seacare Group of Companies

To further bolster areas which have been identified as well as to explore how to continue tapping on the experience and expertise of SOS Flow-On leaders, selected SOS full-time staff will be appointed as Cadre Members of SOS as part of SOS' Flow In Policy.

Young elected and potential leaders will also be groomed through assuming higher responsibilities and being appointed key posts such as those within the Executive Committee as part of SOS' Flow Up policy.

Organising the workshop in Cambodia presented SOS the opportunity to touch base and enhance bilateral relations with local maritime related unions namely the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (SAP). There, participants of the workshop had a chance to meet with the General Secretary of the Trade Union of Sihanoukville Port Mr Men Chann as well as Senior official for the General Department of Transport, Ministry of Public Works and Transport Mr Khit Chantara.

SAP is the international and commercial deep seaport of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

SPREADING YULETIDE CHEER

What transpired was the result of an invitation sent to Masters of vessels that have called into Singapore to 'drop in' for the Christmas party.

Reverend Christian Schmidt and Mr Wilson Wong from the International Lutheran Seafarers' Mission and Mr Willem Grooff from Nautilus International got in on the act as crew members representing eight vessels and five shipping companies responded, turning the Seacare Drop-in Centre for International Seafarers at Pasir Panjang Terminal into a hive of yuletide activity on 23 December 2010.

There, seafarers had the chance to link up with loved ones via a webcam over the Internet and tuck into a festive spread of finger foods, door gifts and lucky dip prizes.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SEAFARERS



As part of the ship visiting programme, SOS' very own Santa Claus, Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar visited 21 vessels in December 2010 and January 2011 with log cakes, human flu thermometers, "Year of the Seafarer" mugs, and calendar planners for 2011 to spread the festive cheer.





FELIZ NAVIDAD; MANIGONG BAGONG TAON!*

YEAR-END RECEPTION FOR SOS FILIPINO MEMBERS

Usually a year-end affair held in the second week of December to coincide with the festive season, it was once again time for friends, union members, and management staff to come together, catch up, and share in good fellowship.

Through such opportune “get-togethers”, not only is SOS able to better understand the needs of its Filipino members, but also form closer relationships with the employers and manning agents in order to continue providing relevant benefits to SOS’ Filipino members in an effective manner.

Some 180 guests packed the Le Salon Ballroom in Hyatt Hotel & Casino in Manila. Representatives from shipping companies in Singapore, manning agents in Manila as well as SMMC affiliated clinics in the Philippines and SOS Filipino Members and their spouses, Seacare business associates and SOS staff had a ball of a time as all were treated to a sumptuous buffet dinner and pleasurable entertainment.

In his welcome address, Mr Mohamad B Abu Bakar, Vice President of SOS highlighted the benefits of welfare schemes like the Seafarers Provident Fund (SPF), Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS), and Seacare Sailors’ Home Scheme (SSS), encouraging SOS Filipino members and their dependents to tap on them in order to fully enjoy the benefits these schemes have to offer.

To provide its Filipino member and their employers with a better understanding of the SSS, an information booth was specially set at the foyer of the ballroom during the event.





Samudra speaks to some of the participants to find out their takes of the event as well as to illicit their suggestions on how the welfare schemes may be improved further:

It's my first time attending this event. It was very well organised. With regard to improvements for the various schemes, I hope more types of treatments can be made available under the SMS, and more upgrading courses offered by Seacare.

- Mr Arnold B Padpad, Staff of Career Philippines Shipmanagement Inc

The event was very nice and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I hope SOS can help jobless/retrrenched members with job placements, and business & career guidance.

- Mr Richard R Pogoy, Chief Cook, Philippines Transmarine Carriers

In terms of benefits provided, SOS is second to none! The SSS is fantastic. But with more marketing, I feel that greater awareness and patronage can be generated. The SMS benefits are generous and with greater coordination and collaboration with more companies, the profile and reach of SMTS can be boosted as well.

- Capt Lee Chee Siong, Managing Director, APL Co. Ltd

***Merry Christmas; Prosperous New Year**





Held on 30 October 2010 at Club@52, Capt I G Sangameswar, Senior Assistant Director for Training Standards, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) delivered a presentation on amendments to the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW)*.

Attended by 35 members consisting of ExCo members, committee members and staff, the presentation was organised for the three groups in mind with the purpose of updating them on recent amendments to the STCW.

Touching briefly on the issues of background events leading to the revision of the STCW Convention which culminated in the Manila amendments, Capt Sangameswar also spoke about date of entries, key resolutions adopted by the Manila conference as well as responded to questions during the Q&A session.

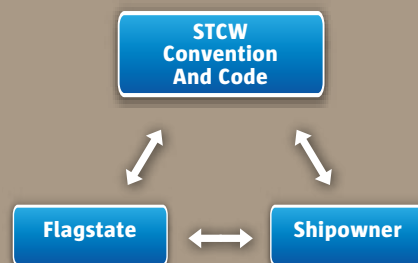
He explained that significant amendments to recommendations are consolidated once every five years while comprehensive reviews are performed once every ten years – the next one scheduled for 2020. This is practiced to avoid the frequent interruption of revisions within the shipping industry.

The information obtained through the enlightening session helped address members' queries on the amendments to the STCW.

** The first STCW Convention in 1978 was established to set standards for seafarers' competence and watchkeeping arrangements to be observed on ships. Its first revision was adopted in 1995, while the second which commenced in 2006 completed in 2010, and had its amendments adopted by a Diplomatic Conference held in Manila from 21 to 25 June 2010.*



International System



Condolences to Family of Deceased Member

A *NTUC GIFT cheque was presented to the wife of the late Mr Jose Sidlao Nacion on 11 December 2010 at the Seacare International (Phils) Inc. office in Manila by Mr Kam Soon Huat and Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar, General Secretary and Vice President of SOS respectively.

Originating from Iloilo, Philippines, Mr Jose Sidlao Nacion was employed via I.M. Skaugen Marine Services Pte Ltd's (formerly known

as 'Norgas Carriers Pte Ltd') manning agent Philippine Transmarine Carriers, Inc, where he worked as a Motorman on board the vessel - Norgas Challenger.

Mr Jose, who was a member of SOS, died from cardiac arrest at the age of 46. SOS would like to extend their condolences to his spouse, Madam Teresa Galeno Nacion, and his nine year old daughter, Kriszea Monique Nacion.



**NTUC GIFT is a group insurance that covers death and permanent & total disability due to natural causes and accidents (during or outside working hours).*

SEACAREFOCUS



SEACAREFOCUS

SEACAREFOCUS





SENIOR CITIZENS DESERVE OUR CARE AND ATTENTION

SOS and Seacare have been jointly hosting SOS/Seacare's series of Lunar New Year lunch gatherings for the senior citizens of Jalan Kukoh since 2001. For the past several years, these lunches were held at Club@52 in the Seacare Building. However, it was not possible this year due to the ongoing construction work on the Seacare Hotel project, which is set to house 16 storeys of well-furnished guest rooms and equipped facilities for the crews of shipping companies transiting through Singapore.

The new lunch venue had 150 senior residents from the Jalan Kukoh Residents' Committee and 40 senior citizens from the Kreta Ayer Seniors Activity Centre turning up early at the Red Star Restaurant on 15 February 2011 - a stone's throw from Seacare Building.

Delighted with the encouraging reception and participation of increasing numbers of senior citizens, Organising Committee Chairperson, Ms Shena Foo welcomed the seniors and thanked

members of Jalan Kukoh Residents' Committee and Kreta Ayer Seniors Activity Centre for helping co-ordinate the participation of the senior citizens.

"It is the intention of SOS and Seacare to enable the senior citizens in the neighbourhood of their premises to participate in the festive enjoyment of the lunar New Year. While SOS and Seacare are actively engaged in promoting the material well-being of their members, SOS and Seacare are also mindful of their obligation to care for the other Singaporeans in their neighbourhood."

Special Guest and Chairman of Seacare Medical Holdings Pte Ltd and Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd Mr Goh Yeow Tin distributed hong baos to the senior citizens, while guests were treated to jokes, friendly banter and evergreen tunes from the emcees and entertainers before a lucky draw, which saw 20 lucky winners return home with gift hampers.





"There are many old folk in our constituency. Many of them are not well off. So it's a nice gesture of the Union to look after them with dinner and ang pows. Our senior residents are very appreciative. We are very grateful to SOS/Seacare for their thoughtfulness towards the residents."

- Ms Yeo Gek Nai, Chairperson of Jalan Kukoh RC



"We ask them if they enjoyed the luncheon. They replied that they did and especially enjoyed the entertainment. We are very thankful to SOS/Seacare for the concern and generosity shown to our senior citizens. We are happy when they are happy."

- Mr Lee Wai Ying Kreta Ayer Seniors Activity Centre Vice Chairman



"I really enjoyed the food here. Thank you for the invitation."

- Mdm Nelly Tan, 83



"This is my first time eating in Red Star though for quite some time I had hoped for an opportunity such as this. I'm glad the union respects the seniors living around here. "

- Chng Wee Leng, 65

SEACARE MANPOWER PARTNERS WDS IN ASSIMILATING WOMEN INTO WORKFORCE



For the NTUC Women's Development Secretariat (WDS), 2010 has paid dividends in terms of employability, social assistance, benefits, and leadership advancement.

NTUC Deputy Secretary-General and NTUC WDS Alignment Director Madam Halimah Yacob highlighted some of these achievements while crediting WDS' partners for their assistance: "We have helped many female job seekers land jobs by providing them with better training, building up their self esteem and at the same time working with employers to explore various work arrangements to fit more women into the workforce. We have also been able to provide social assistance to many women throughout the year. All this progress could not have been achieved without the contributions of our partners."



As such, NTUC WDS organised an Employers' Appreciation Night at Zirca Mega Club in Clarke Quay on 15 December 2010 to specially thank all valued partners and collaborators for playing vital roles in supporting WDS' programmes and initiatives in order to reach out to more women members as well as to the wider community.

Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd is one such long standing partner of NTUC WDS. Since 2007, Seacare has provided administrative opportunities as well as prompt job assistance response to female job seekers referred by the MPs and union leaders. It is also one of several partners to tap on the Flexiworks! Funding to create flexible work arrangements for female job seekers.

Receiving the plaque from Madam Halimah on behalf of Seacare Manpower Services, Manager Madam Sulena Supa'at Tan was both jubilant and optimistic about Seacare's continued role in helping women re-enter the workforce: "We look forward to many more years of partnership with NTUC WDS to help female job seekers re-enter the workforce, change their lives, improve their well-being, families and communities."



NEW DIRECTORS FOR SEACARE PROPERTIES PTE LTD

Seacare Properties Pte Ltd, the company managing the construction and development of Seacare Hotel as well as the addition and alteration works to Seacare Building, appointed two new directors in the persons of Mr Allan Hui Kok Hong and Mr Lim Chye Teen to add value and contribute insights to the board.

Mr Allan Hui Kok Hong

A professional who has worked in management roles for shipping, logistics and hotel management companies, success to Mr Allan Hui is not only evaluated in financial terms, which could be short lived; but also nurturing a committed team where success could be sustained. Allan thrives for a job well done as part of job satisfaction.

Retiring from Stamford Group early 2009 and returning to Singapore, Allan has held several key positions such as Chief Operating Officer in Hai Sun Hup Co (Pte) Ltd/ Stamford Land Management Pte Ltd/ Stamford Hotels and Resorts Pty Limited. In Hai Sun Hup Co (Pte) Ltd, Allan rose from the ranks of Terminal Manager in 1981, to Assistant General Manager (Planning and Administration) in 1983, General Manager in 1991 before his Chief Operating Officer appointment in 1997. He was also a Port Officer, Assistant Traffic Superintendent, Container Operations Unit at Port of Singapore Authority from 1977 to 1981.

Allan brings with him a wealth of knowledge especially in the relevant area of property development, where he consulted, and at times intervened in negotiations of contracts and the purchase prices to promote the interests of his company. Allan also has experience in attending to contract disputes with builders and/ or contractors.



Mr Lim Chye Teen

Formerly a Senior Business Development Manager with Seacare Foundation Pte Ltd – a branch of Seacare Co-operative Ltd, Chye Teen presided over the search of new businesses as well as improved on existing businesses in the Seacare Group.

There, Chye Teen assisted in searching out new and potential business opportunities to invest in - facilitating, coordinating, crunching numbers, gathering information, and preparing feasibility studies and reports for analysis. On top of these, he participated in other Seacare Group initiatives, as well as assisted in assessing current businesses for ways to grow and improve.

His current role as Seacare Properties General Manager (effective July 2010) sees him supervising and executing operations in Seacare Properties. In addition to other business investments and joint ventures in property, construction and development fields, he also oversees the development, project and property management of commercial properties like Seacare Building and Seacare Hotel.



Apart from adding valuable experience and insights, Allan's and Chye Teen's appointments which come into effect on 1 February 2011 will enable the board of directors to augment its commercial, operational and industry specific experience, particularly within the hotel sector.

Seacare congratulates Mr Allan Hui and Mr Lim Chye Teen on their directorship appointments and wishes them every success in their professional pursuits.

LUXURY APARTMENTS TAKE SHAPE IN VIETNAM

The Seacare luxury apartments in Vietnam are progressing well. With piling works already completed, sub-structure works underway, and the show flat entering its final phase of touch up, preparations are well on course for the market launch in the third quarter of 2011.

Catered for Vietnamese professionals and executives for owner occupation or investment, the two blocks of apartments excluding its basements and mezzanine floors, will boast 29 levels of 280 units complete with fully equipped condo facilities such as a barbeque area, swimming pool, function room, gym and children's playground.


The 7,137 square metre site located in District 2 of Ho Chi Minh City on Thao Dien Ward, Quoc Hong Road will offer a choice of two types of accommodation – a 1 Bedroom and Study unit (75 square metres) and 2 Bedroom and Study unit (105 square metres).

Embarked upon in mid 2008, this project is the third in a series of projects by Seacare Properties after two previously successful overseas projects in Adelaide and Manila.

Seacare Properties (Vietnam) Pte Ltd which is the wholly-owned subsidiary of Seacare Properties Pte Ltd, is collaborating with three other companies CES-Vietnam Holdings Pte Ltd, Viet Investment Link Joint Stock Company, and Hoa Binh House Corporation on the current project.

Although this is Seacare's first time venturing into Vietnam, it has had the privilege of a long and successful working relationship with CEL Development Pte Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chip Eng Seng Corporation Ltd. Both parties collaborated previously on Seacare's first overseas property development project in Pulteney Centre in Adelaide, Australia, and are now working together on the Vietnam project via CEL Development's wholly-owned subsidiary CES-Vietnam Holdings Pte Ltd.





***“Through this venture,
we hope to advance the
brand of Seacare and
establish ourselves in
Vietnam. This undertaking
could not have been realised
without the esteemed
support and reliability of
our partners with whom we
have the privilege of working
closely with.”***

- Mr Leow Ching Chuan, Seacare Chairman

SUNSHINE GARDEN 2 UPDATE



Well On Course



Among its list of available facilities are a landscaped rooftop garden area and function hall, a mini children's playground, commercial areas, a resident lounge with wi-fi hotspot, fitness centre, 24/7 round-the-clock security and a basement car park.

Enter the Sunshine Garden 2 project, a residential project of Seacare Properties (Philippines) Pte Ltd which boasts 206 residential units comprising 1/2/3 bedroom types and six commercial units.

The Mandaluyong condominium is on its way to completion with the cherry on the icing - the roof deck presently in construction.

As of February 2011, 52 per cent or 107 out of the 206 total residential units have been sold since its soft launch in Manila, Philippines on 19 December 2008.

Seacare Properties (Philippines) Pte Ltd General Manager, Mr David Shoo cited that even though the sale of units seemed

slower on the uptake compared to the previous year's, the locality and condominium's proximity to facilities continue to remain as popular key considerations for recent unit purchases.

"We are optimistic about the sale of units. Plus, the quality of the Sunshine Garden 1 project which had earlier received rave reviews, has potential buyers for Sunshine Garden 2 sitting up to take notice. Construction began in February 2010 and the project is scheduled for completion in mid 2011. More informational updates will be released in due course."

Seacare Properties (Philippines) Pte Ltd is co-developer of the project with Pan Asia International Sunshine Garden Inc.

Ong Zhiwei

Teo Yong Hui

RECENT APPOINTMENTS IN SEACARE

Seacare recently welcomed Mr Ong Zhiwei as Seacare Foundation Marketing Manager on 22 September 2010 and promoted Ms Teo Yong Hui to Seacare Environmental Assistant Manager on 1 January 2011. In this issue of Samudra, we uncover their aspirations.

Samudra: Tell us about your companies and what you do.

Zhiwei: I am part of a team which spearheads Seacare Foundation's aspiration to make headway in the Singapore's hospitality industry through our very own Seacare Hotel. Concurrently, we are considering other projects around SEA to complement our foray into hotel development/management.

My role ranges from keeping abreast of the latest hotel developments; assisting

to planning and crafting overall project strategy; conducting market studies across the region to highlight investment feasibility; servicing potential clients, etc

Yong Hui: Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd provides cleaning services to foodcourts, cookhouses, childcare and eldercare centres, as well as commercial buildings and campuses.

I joined them as an Accounts / Administrative assistant in 2008 and my main role is settling accounts and facilitating administrative works. We are looking to secure more cleaning contracts; and through this – we hope to generate more employment opportunities.

Samudra: What do you hope to contribute to the advancement of Seacare Environmental/Seacare Foundation in your new role?

Yong Hui: I hope to do and give my best to Seacare Environmental as we grow together. In my new role as Assistant Manager, I hope to ensure in a greater

administrative capacity – the prompt and efficient processing and execution of new and existing cleaning contracts.

Zhiwei: I sincerely hope that I can grow from strength to strength together with the organisation as Seacare builds its own niche in the competitive hospitality industry, not just in Singapore but around SEA. In the meantime, I will keep an open mind to pick up all the relevant industry skills & knowledge, combined with my existing background in branding & marketing, in order to contribute to the advancement of Seacare Foundation.

I will work hand-in-hand with the management team to identify feasible investment opportunities, work out the customer segments and positioning, create brand awareness about Seacare and assist in creating a marketing plan to engage individuals.



2012 – INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES



The New Year Reception on 13 January 2011 at the Hard Rock Café was an amalgamation of Co-operatives as 230 invited guests and affiliates representing various Co-operative sectors from campus, credit, service, and NTUC sectors gathered in celebration of the start of a new year.

Seacare Co-operative Ltd, a co-operative affiliated to Singapore National Co-operative Federation's (SNCF's) turned up in force with Seacare Co-operative Ltd Chairman Mr Leow Ching Chuan and Seacare Co-operative Group Senior Manager and SNCF Youth Committee Chairperson Ms Jacquelyn Lam among those present.

A key highlight of SNCF Chairman Mr Chan Tee Seng's welcome speech was the announcement of 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives (IYC).

As declared by the United Nations, 2011 will be an exciting year in anticipation of the IYC in 2012. In view of this, Mr Chan called upon respective sector Chairmen in Singapore to support this effort through planning and the generation of heightened awareness of the co-operative movement. In addition, the sector chairmen were invited to urge Co-operatives from various sectors to commit to the IYC 2012 campaign.

In support of the IYC, Mr Leow said, *"There is much we can do to showcase the good work of Co-operatives. It is every intention of ours to leverage on the IYC in 2012 to bring greater awareness and garner greater support for the Co-operative Movement in Singapore."*

The UN launch will be held in New York on 31 October while SNCF will launch the IYC during SNCF's Anniversary Dinner on 3 December 2011.



Photos courtesy of SNCF

A Haven within the port

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