

Feb + Mar 2008

samudra

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

Applause All Round At The Opening of Seacare Drop-in Centre



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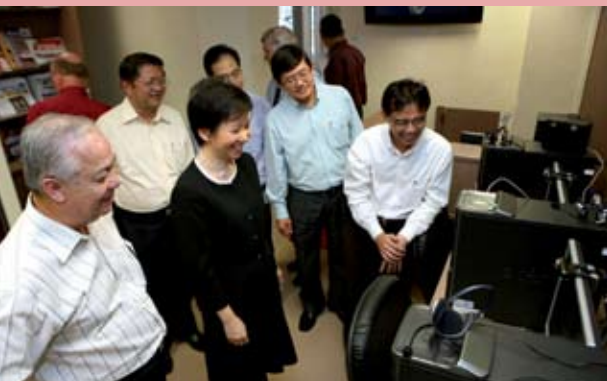
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SOS LAUNCHES

DROP-IN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS



"The Centre exemplifies the good rapport, close co-operation and symbiotic relationship between MPA, the trade unions and the seafarers' missions in providing welfare services for seafarers calling at Singapore. In doing so, we can aim to make Singapore a "port with a heart,"

Ms Grace Fu

Seafarers now have something to look forward to, even with shorten transit time at ports and restricted access to leave port areas.

SOS and Seacare have launched the Seacare Drop-In Centre for International Seafarers to enhance the welfare of the crew by providing them a place within the port where they can call home and be in touch with their families as well as get updates on current affairs. Officiated by Guest-of-Honour Ms Grace Fu, the then Minister of State for National Development as well as Adviser to SOS, the launch was held at the Pasir Panjang Terminal Building on 28 March 2008, in the presence of affiliates from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Port of Singapore Authority (PSA), shipping organisations and seafarers missions.

The Seacare Drop-In Centre is the latest addition to two others; the Finger Pier which was started by MPA and several seafarers' missions, is situated at Tanjong Pagar Terminal while the Seafarers' Care Centre, formed by the Mission To Seafarers is located at Jurong Port. The purpose for the Drop-In Centre, said Mr Leow, was to provide a place where seafarers can relax and communicate with their friends and families back home while their crewing ships are berthed at the terminal. With shorter ship stay due to higher port productivity, as well as restricted port access due to security concerns, seafarers do not have the luxury of time and access to leave the port to find means of communication. Therefore, the Drop-In Centre provides a solution for this situation, enabling seafarers to catch up with their loved ones back home without the need to leave the port.

"As a seamen's union, SOS is naturally keen on promoting facilities like the Drop-in Centre in the interest of seafarers' welfare," added Mr Leow.

Facilities such as telecommunication access terminals are vital to help seafarers stay connected. An easier access to communications helps to lessen the impact of separation from their loved ones and make working life at the sea more tolerable. Seafarers now can look forward to keeping in touch with their friends and families through the Seacare Drop-In Centre without the hassle of going out of the port to seek communication access.

Several representatives from various missions who were present to show their support for SOS and Seacare on the launch of the Drop-In Centre shared their views. Samudra takes a scoop on their perspectives and thoughts on the new set-up at Pasir Panjang Terminal.



Congratulation !

SOS and Seacare would like to congratulate Ms Grace Fu for her recent promotion as Senior Minister of State for National Development and her concurrent appointment as the Senior Minister of State for Education.



"I think it's in a way, a recent trend especially post 9/11, where there are actually new regimes and security coming in. While the trend has improved security, in a way it has caused some restrictions to seafarers because they used to be able to go to shore and move around coupled with the fact that port stay has actually shorten, due to higher productivity. So it is becoming more and more important to bring in the right relax and recreation activities for seafarers, within the port itself and make it more accessible to them."

Ms Grace Fu, Adviser to SOS



"Our congratulations to SOS and Seacare on the opening of its new Drop-In Centre. This effort underscores the commitment of SOS, MPA and the seafarers' missions to continually better the welfare of mariners. PSA is pleased to have played a part in making the Centre a 'home away from home' for all mariners calling at our port."

Mr Tan Puay Hin, PSA Chief Operating Officer



"I find that the Drop-in Centre is a very good facility, for seamen. It helps to encourage and promote our port. I think SOS has done a great job; it takes away the homesickness away from the seamen."

Capt Khong Shen Ping, Group Director, MPA



"These days, it's getting more difficult to get to shore so I feel that this is something the seafarers can enjoy."

Mr Rolf Westfal-Larsen jr, Project Manager, Commercial, Masterbulk Pte Ltd



"When SOS and Seacare open the centre, we found that it is natural to support the cause because it is important for seafarers to have the chance to make a phone call or use the internet if they cannot go outside or leave the port. Pay phones will be a hassle if you don't have coins or cards. I wish SOS and Seacare all the best and I hope the drop-in centre will be a success."

Revd Katarina Backelin, The Norwegian Seamen's Mission Church of Sweden



"The Drop-In Centre is convenient. Since last September, the Singapore immigration changed the system for the seamen. So it becomes more difficult for seamen to go to shore. Now, it is easier for them to get information from the centre."

Captain Ryuichi Maruyama, Japan Seamen's Center



"I think it's important to have a center for seafarers who do not have time to go out. They can come into the port and visit the Drop-in Center. After six to eight hours, they leave the port again. We at The Norwegian Seamen's Mission visit them on the ships, but they can also come to this center to make calls and catch up, it is very convenient."

Rev Lars Bernhard Olberg, The Norwegian Seamen's Mission



"We have one at Jurong Port and another at Finger Pier which we all share together. In the old days, the ships came in for a very long time and the crew could come to shore and they could have rest and recreation for maybe, about two to three days. But now the turnaround time is so short so the whole idea is to bring communication opportunities closer to the sailors as possible so they can leave the ships for a few minutes, go into the centre, download emails maybe even connect through to their families, use the telephones, just get away from the noise of the generators at the ships for a little while. So I think the drop-in centre has proved to be the way to go now."

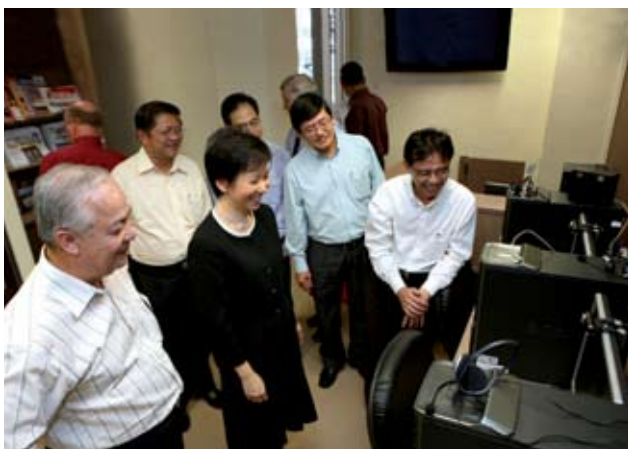
Rev Mervyn Moore, Port Chaplain, The Mission To Seafarers



"This is a good contact point where staff and seafarers can interact. SOS and Seacare make it easier for them in the sense that they bring the centre right inside the port, providing them with very practical facilities. In the past, sailors have asked for postcards and stamps to write back home. But now, they need not do so with the technology provided."

Mr David See, Assistant Port Chaplain, The Mission To Seafarers

Caring for Seafarers



The Seacare Drop-In Centre was initiated with the welfare of international seafarers in mind. Located within the port itself, the centre serves as a one-stop point where seafarers can get connected with current affairs and their families back home, through the availability of broadband internet access. Devices such as the web cameras and microphone headset are also made available to the seafarers at the centre. A quick email or a chance to browse through the internet would help to take some time off work for the seafarers as well as allow them to catch up on news around the world.

Seacare also takes into account the need for privacy for the seafarers when they make a phone call. Telephone booths are constructed with sound proof walls to ensure privacy for the seafarers. Besides that, different clocks showing time from different parts of the world are also placed on the wall, so that

seafarers who intend to call home can check and on the time of the countries where their friends or families are residing. Reading materials such as various dailies and magazines on shipping are placed on the shelves for easy reference. For those who prefer to relax and catch up on the latest shows, the television provides the best entertainment and informative source for them.

"It's something that sailors look forward to and I find that it is done up very well, the cubicles give them the privacy. Normally the seamen would run to the gates and purchase phone cards to call home. Sometimes they are permitted, sometimes they are not. Therefore, it is a good cause, to provide these facilities to the seafarers," said Captain Ravinder Gour who used to sail for 15 years. He is the Manager for Safety and Marine Operations, Masterbulk Pte Ltd.

Technology has brought about a world of improvements to seafarers. Recalling the times where the internet was unknown, Captain Ravinder Gour who had experienced what it was like to lose touch with his family due to work, commented that it is a good move forward for Seacare and the Union to provide such facilities and services to seafarers.

Representatives from the missions as well as shipping companies also commented that the facilities provide a personal touch by having a staff there to man the centre.

Rev Hans Vestergaard Jensen, Port Chaplain, Social Attache from The Royal Danish Embassy highlighted the value added service that the centre brings.

"We find it excellent and we support it. It's a home away from home. Not only will they find telephones and use the internet to send their emails, but they can find a person who's attached to the centre. And having the physical presence of someone there is important. The seafarers can still go to make their phone calls via public phones but it's different because here, they can have someone to talk to and be updated."

Mr Werner H Strauss, Port Chaplain, International Lutheran Seafarers' Mission, agrees to the idea of having someone at the centre, adding that it would help much in interaction, sharing of ideas and news that the seafarers received from back home.

Complete with comfortable couches and a refrigerator that is filled with refreshments as well as staff who takes care of the centre's operations, the Seacare Drop-In Centre For International Seafarers sees through the different needs of every seafarer.



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Rev Hans Vestergaard Jensen (left), Port Chaplain, Social Attache from The Royal Danish Embassy and Mr Werner H Strauss (right), Port Chaplain, International Lutheran Seafarers' Mission



ASIAN SEAFARERS' SUMMIT AND NASCO MEETINGS IN MANILA MEET OBJECTIVES



The 25th Asian Seafarers' Summit and 18th Norwegian / Asian Seafarers' Committee (NASCO) meetings were both held at JSU-AMOSUP Mariners' Home in Manila on 26 March and 27 March 2008 respectively. About 50 participants from countries such as Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam were there to attend the summits. Executive Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, IR Senior Manager Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim and IR Manager Mr Daniel Tan represented SOS for the meetings.

Both events that are held annually are hosted by the Asian unions on a rotation basis. The unions discuss bilateral issues of mutual concern and labour supply as well as to inform the participating bodies on the current protocols in handling training and education programmes. At the Manila Seafarers' Summit, topics such as the "Flag-of-Convenience (FOC) Campaign Review Policy," "Promotion of Education and Training of Asian Seafarers," and "How to Tackle Problem on Shortage of Seafarers" were touched on and shared among the participants. The Guest-of-Honour for the summit was Hon Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr Jose L Atienza.

The NASCO meeting was aimed at forging closer relations among participating unions as well as to discuss matters of common interests. These include the revision and status of the NIS evaluation, statistics of FOC activities and the organisation of global reports. It was also held with the objective of having closer cooperation between the Norwegian and Asian ITF affiliated maritime unions as well as to oversee the involvement of seafarers on board vessels that are registered under the NIS and Norwegian-owned ones.

Both meetings have been successful in putting forth issues closely linked to seafaring supplies and welfare of crew members. As annual features in the calendar of participating unions, both the Asian Seafarers' Summit and NASCO meetings have proven to provide the platform for active discussion and cooperation amongst union representatives who are all keen to promote better working conditions for all seafarers.



AN INSIGHT INTO THE SCHEMES UNDER THE IBF CBA

The International Bargaining Forum (IBF) consists of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the Joint Negotiating Group (JNG) which comprises of the International Maritime Employers' Committee (IMEC), International Shipping Employers Group (ISEG) and Korean Ship-owners Association (KSA).

The IBF CBA was signed by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), International Maritime Employers' Committee (IMEC), Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) and the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) on 16 November 2007.

Schemes That Benefit Seafarers

Staying true to its purpose, the IBF CBA includes provisions of welfare schemes for seafarers. These are namely; the Seafarers' Medical Scheme (SMS) and the Seafarers' Maritime Training Fund (SMTF). Provided by both SOS and SMOU respectively, these schemes encompass the areas of upgrading and health for all seafarers, regardless of nationalities. The IBF CBA also includes funds that will be used for the Seafarers' Hostel for both unions to provide accommodation for their members.

Working together through the long-standing bipartite relationship between the unions and the IMEC partners, the IBF CBA aims to achieve sustained cooperation among all parties as well as to involve the unions and shipping organisations to work together. The IBF CBA also offers ship managers another option for Flag-of-Convenience (FOC) ships. Ships covered under the ITF IBF Agreements will be issued with ITF Green certificates.

The IBF agreement also seeks to promote career and skills development of seafarers, address the concerns on requirements and placements of seafarers and health and safety of dockworkers.

Members can contact the following SOS staff should they require further information.

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Mr Daniel Tan / Ms Koh Soo Lee

Email: daniel_tan@seacare.com.sg / koh_soo_lee@seacare.com.sg

Tel: 65-6379 5666

Website: www.osea.org.sg



SOS VICE PRESIDENT IS ICSW'S FIRST REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA



"I will take up this challenge and try my best to get more regional bodies to be involved in welfare issues as well as to coordinate welfare programmes across the South East Asia countries,"

Mr Mohamed Idris.

Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim has been appointed as the International Committee on Seafarers' Welfare's (ICSW) first Regional Coordinator (RC). The Vice President of SOS will oversee matters pertaining to the coordination of regional meetings and activities of the Regional Welfare Committee (RWC). Mr Mohamed Idris will also lead in the implementation of RWC's programmes and activities over the period of four years.

Programmes under the ICSW include welfare issues arising from regional countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam. Issues such as communication, access to ships, welfare assistance for seafarers and their families, training and the need for an increased awareness and advocacy across all boards are some of the matters that Mr Mohamed Idris and his committee will be looking into. The need for a Regional Coordinator emphasises the importance of having a leader to formulate practical implementation of programmes that will aid seafarers in transiting into the regional ports. The RC will also help to identify opportunities to work with programmes under the ICSW and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) Seafarers' Trust.

As the first Regional Coordinator, Mr Mohamed Idris's contribution towards the ICSW and ITF Seafarers' Trust is integral towards the growth and success of their programmes.

SHIP WELFARE VISITOR INSTRUCTOR COURSE

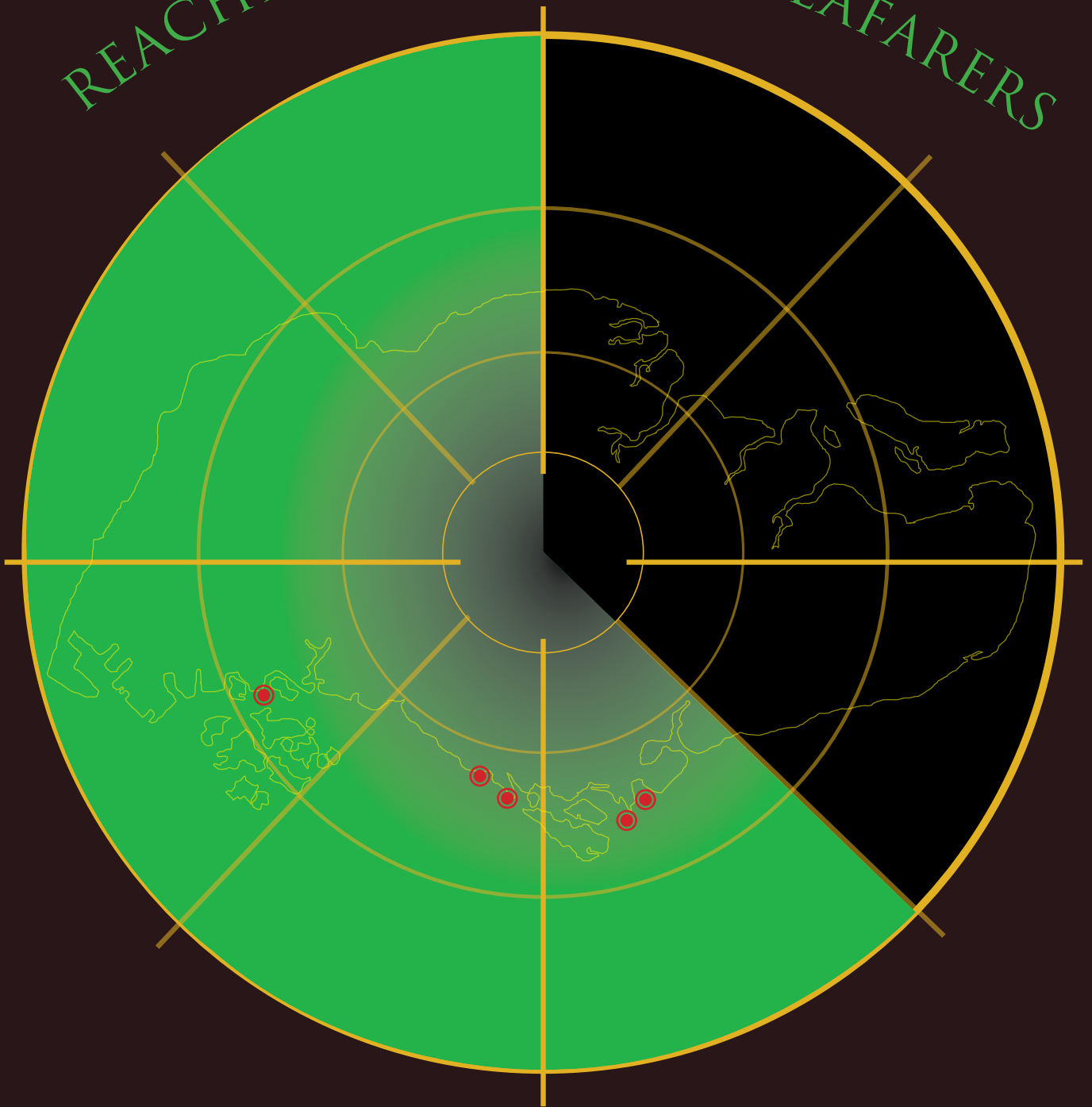
Personal safety and security issues with regards to port facilities and ships have always been an important factor when it comes to operations within the maritime industry. This is why the Ship Welfare Visitor Instructor Course was held over the span of six days in Hong Kong, from 10 March to 15 March 2008.

Representatives from over eight countries attended the course. Officials from Hong Kong, Russia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, New Zealand, Fiji and Singapore worked hand in hand to get more information from the course as well as to share their knowledge and experience with one another. Representing SOS was Industrial Relations Senior Manager, Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim who was there to learn more on how to conduct the ship welfare visitor course.

Besides providing an overview of the shipping organisations, the course was held to highlight current port security issues and to facilitate personal safety as well as the utilization of port and ship facilities. The Ship Welfare Instructor Course was also aimed at introducing the customs and practices of the maritime industry, various descriptions of ship types, shipboard organisations, trades and specific hazards that are all important in maintaining the safety of ships and port areas to ensure both ships and ports are safe for work and port activities.

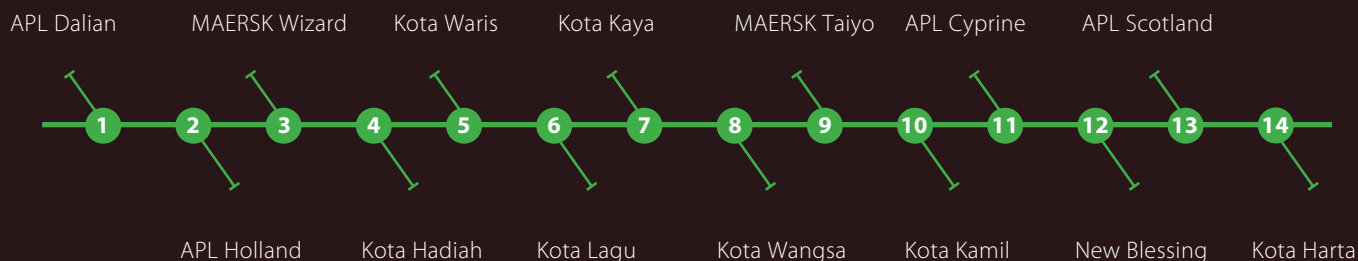


REACHING OUT TO 149 SEAFARERS



In the months of February and March, SOS Industrial Relations Officer (IRO) Mr Mohamad Bin Abu Bakar visited a total of 14 vessels under three shipping companies namely; A. P. Moller Singapore Pte Ltd, Neptune Shipmanagement Services (Pte) Ltd (NSSPL) and Pacific International Lines (PIL).

A time well spent, Mr Mohamad managed to catch up with over 149 seafarers and update them on the current affairs as well as listen to their needs and feedback on matters related to their work. With him were some cakes, calendars and corporate planners brought especially for the seafarers.



Take a look at the IRO's ship visits throughout the two months...

1. APL Dalian
When: 4 February 2008
Visited: 1 Singaporean & 8 Filipino seafarers
2. APL Holland
When: 6 February 2008
Visited: 1 Indian & 7 Filipino seafarers
3. MAERSK Wizard
When: 12 February 2008
Met up with: 8 Filipino seafarers
4. Kota Hadiah
When: 12 February 2008
Visited: 3 Sri Lankan & 10 Indonesian members
5. Kota Waris
When: 13 February 2008
Visited: 4 Sri Lankan & 8 Indonesian seafarers
6. Kota Lagu
When: 15 February 2008
Visited: 2 Burmese, 3 Sri Lankan & 6 Indonesian members
7. Kota Kaya
When: 18 February 2008
Visited: 1 Burmese, 3 Sri Lankan, 7 Indonesian members
8. Kota Wangsa
When: 19 February 2008
Visited: 5 Sri Lankan, 7 Indonesian seafarers
9. MAERSK Taiyo
When: 22 February 2008
Visited: 1 Indian, 9 Filipino seafarers
10. Kota Kamil
When: 28 February 2008
Visited: 2 Burmese, 2 Sri Lankan & 7 Indonesian members
11. APL Cyprine
When: 4 March 2008
Visited: 3 Singaporean & 6 Indian seafarers
12. New Blessing
When: 7 March 2008
Visited: 11 Filipino members
13. APL Scotland
When: 12 March 2008
Visited: 1 Indian & 10 Filipino seafarers
14. Kota Harta
When: 12 February 2008
Visited: 3 Sri Lankan, 10 Indonesian seafarers



LADY BELINDA CREW RESCUED IN SINGAPORE

The chapter finally drew to a close when the last battle to claim for the remaining wages for some of the crew working onboard the MV Lady Belinda was fought and won. In total, more than US\$126,000 of wages owed to the 22 Indian seafarers were paid up.

Lady Belinda was on its way from India to China when the engine broke down and was towed to Singapore on 14 January 2008 for repairs. In Singapore waters, the cargo vessel, which was registered in North Korea, was inspected and found unseaworthy and was detained by the Maritime Port of Authority of Singapore (MPA). The vessel had failed to pass a safety inspection and all outstanding deficiencies had to be rectified and a follow-up inspection conducted before the detention could be lifted.

The MPA went out of its way and urgently initiated the setting up of a committee consisting of representatives from the several welfare missions, SMOU and SOS to look into the welfare of the stranded seafarers. The representative from the High Commission of India was also onboard to render assistance to the stranded crew. The ITF also played a major role in the rescue.

Help came in the form of the provision of food and water, encouraging words and most of all, in the recovery of wages and a safe repatriation of all the crew.

Singapore sent a clear message to ship owners worldwide to fulfil the responsibility of providing safe working conditions for the seafarers.

The case of Lady Belinda, fortunately, ended on a high note. All the crew got back their unpaid wages of three to four months and returned home safely.



IR Senior Manager Mr Mohamed Idris (far right) discussing ways to help the Lady Belinda crew.



IR Manager Mr Daniel Tan (foreground, far right) visiting the stranded seafarers.

IN CONVERSATION WITH GS

At the recent Dialogue Session with SOS General Secretary, Mr Leow Ching Chuan, the hot topic of interest among members were the Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) and the social activities.

The casual session held at the Club@52 on 19 March 2008 is one of the regular platforms where members are updated on new developments and where they have opportunity to offer feedback on various issues.

Some 70 SOS members were pleased to hear that since 1 April 2008, their adult dependent could enjoy complimentary basic health screening at the Seacare Maritime Medical Centre (SMMC) and comprehensive eye examination at the New Optometry and Ocular Care Centre (NOOCC). Available for the first time, this benefit entitles a qualified SOS local member and his adult dependent to two free basic health screenings and two free comprehensive eye examination during the current Exco term of office ending 16 November 2011. Members were encouraged to utilise the benefits within four years.

During the session on the update of social activities for the financial year 2008/2009, members pointed out that they would like to see more activities organised further away from local shores and suggested destinations such as Penang. The idea was so well received by the SOS Welfare and Community Services Committee that they had agreed to plan one such trip for members, to be updated in the social activities calendar.

The dialogue progressed from feeding the mind to feeding the body. Lunch buffet was a perfect conclusion to the well-deliberated session.



ONE BIG EXTENDED FAMILY

The Lunar New Year this year was celebrated with much emphasis on community bonding as the SOS and Seacare's extended family gathered together on 15 February 2008 to soak in the festive joy. Guest-of-Honour (GOH), Mr Heng Chee How, NTUC Deputy Secretary-General and the then Minister of Health, was in attendance at the luncheon, along with 870 invited guests; representatives from various shipping companies as well as associates from the labour and co-operative movement.

Also sharing the celebration which was held at the Suntec City Convention Centre were 287 retired seamen as well as 92 residents from four welfare homes – namely, Sree Narayana Mission Home for the Aged and Sick, Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens, Asian Women's Welfare Association and Jamiyah Home for the Aged.

In his speech, Mr Heng commended SOS and Seacare's leadership qualities in handling both business and people, which have contributed to its long-standing success as a union and co-operative. The GOH also highlighted that by inviting the homes and retired seafarers to the celebration, both SOS and Seacare have not forgotten their roots and social mission to contribute towards the community and serve the people.





Mr Heng, together with the SOS leaders, went on their rounds to present red packets to the grateful elderly guests. SOS and Seacare presented each former seaman with a \$100 Hong Bao and a \$50 Hong Bao for every Home resident. Goody bags comprising of essential items were also given out to these guests.



"I am very happy to be here. The food is great and I enjoy watching the interesting performances with my friends. And I have this hongbao!"

Mr Hoi Keng, 70, resident of the Sree Narayana Mission Home for the Aged and Sick.

WE THANK YOU...

One of the highlights of the Lunar New Year celebration was the Long Membership Award (LMA) presented by Guest-of-Honour Mr Heng Chee How, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Health to members who have been with SOS for 15 and 30 years.

SOS would like to thank these 50 members who received the award for their support and encouragement all these years.



"The Union takes good care of us and never fail to invite us for their festive celebrations such as the Chinese New Year and Hari Raya."

Mr Phua Ah Tan, 62 years old, recipient of LMA (30 years).



"The Union benefits are good. The committee members serve well together. I want to encourage more members to be active in the different committees as well as family members to join the Union for its various benefits."

Mr Jagan Mohan, 55 years old, recipient of LMA (30 years), Alternate Member in the SOS Welfare and Community Services Committee.



"In the 30 years that I have been with the Union, SOS has been very attentive to the welfare of its members. Look at this celebration! It's great, isn't it? SOS takes good care of the working conditions of seamen on board ships."

Mr Mohd Sharizal, 55 years old, recipient of LMA (30 years) who has been sailing since the last 23 years.

Also giving the thumb's up were good friends Mr Harun Salleh and Mr Yusof A Rahman. Both described the union as "very helpful" and "caring" and giving it a "five-star" rating.



Long Membership Award 2008 Recipients

15 Years

No.	Membership No.	Name	No.	Membership No.	Name
1	7753	SU'AINI B AHMAN	8	8231	ISMAIL B SIAS
2	8191	CHUNG KENG MENG	9	8235	CHUA KIM AN
3	8211	AMZAH B AHMAD	10	8236	LAW FONG
4	8216	MOHD TAHIR B MOHD YUSOF	11	8249	NAMAZIE B BABA
5	8218	FRANCIS GODFREY M THEDORE	12	A299	TAN KEOK KIANG WILLIAM
6	8223	CHOW SENG KOK	13	A302	KOH JULIE
7	8224	TAN ENG HUAT			

30 Years

No.	Membership No.	Name	No.	Membership No.	Name
1	3736	MOHD SHARIZAL	20	5435	AHMAD B OSMAN
2	5014	CHONG HO ENG	21	5439	LIM ENG SENG
3	5028	HO YIP HONG	22	5465	RAMJEET JADOH
4	5029	HENG KOK KHIANG	23	7207	SHARIF BIN MOHAMAD
5	5034	CHIAM TOW KANG	24	AL059	WONG CHIAW LEE
6	5049	WOO SUAY LONG	25	AL124	HASSAN B IBRAHIM
7	5101	MOHD YADI B AHMIN	26	AL127	LOI KOK KWANG
8	5121	MOHD KASSIM B NOOR	27	AL132	FOO KEE ENG
9	5167	CHAN KENG KOON	28	AL169	TEO CHIN HOCK
10	5193	ONG SEE SUAN	29	AL182	TENG LOI SIN
11	5202	JAGAN MOHAN	30	AL190	HOO CHIAP HUI
12	5215	TAN CHOON HUAT	31	AL198	WEE YORK LIANG
13	5282	ABD TALIB B JANTAN	32	AL200	PANDAK B HJ SHARIFF
14	5288	AERSAD B MOHD NOOR	33	AL264	CHENG HIM SENG
15	5295	MUNASIB B KESAS	34	AL284	CHEONG THIAM KIAT
16	5301	JUMAAT B TALIB	35	AL300	LEE TENG POK
17	5308	OMAR B ABDULLAH	36	AL328	PHUA AH TAN
18	5369	TANG TENG LUNG	37	CD29	HAN TOONG JOHAN
19	5409	MOHD MOHIDEEN S N			

LIST OF COURSES UNDER TRA


In its aim to provide more training for its members, SOS has put in place various training programmes under the Training Schedule II, which range from Certificate of Competencies to many other short courses related to the maritime industry. Below is a list of courses that are available under the training grant.

COURSE PROVIDER	COURSE TITLE
SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY (SMA) Dover Road Campus Tel:67721817 www.sma.sp.edu.sg	CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY: MARINE ENGINEER OFFICERS 1. Class 1 & 2 Combined Engineer Officer – 20 weeks 2. Class 1 & 2 Combined Part A Engineer Officer – 20 weeks 3. Class 5 (MEO) – 2 weeks 4. Preparatory Course for Graduate Engineers – 22 weeks DECK OFFICERS 1. Class 1 & 2 Combined Deck Officer – 20 weeks 2. Class 3 Deck Officer – 15 weeks 3. Class 2/1 Deck Officer Re-validation – 5 days 4. Class 3 Deck Officer Re-validation 5. Class 2/1 Marine Engineer Officer Re-validation - 5.5 days STCW95 AND OTHER SHORT COURSES : 1. Medical First-Aid Onboard Ship – 4 days 2. Medical Care Onboard Ship – 5 days 3. Navigation Control – 5 days 4. Tanker Familiarisation – 5.5 days 5. Advanced Oil Tanker Safety – 10 eves 6. Advanced Chemical Tanker Safety – 5 days 7. Advanced Liquefied Gas Tanker Safety – 5 days 8. GMDSS General Operator Certificate (For all Sea Areas) – 2 weeks 9. GMDSS Restricted Operator Certificate (For Sea Area 1) – 5.5 days 10. Proficiency in Survival Craft & Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boat (Full course) – 5 days 11. Proficiency in Survival Craft & Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boat (Bridging Course) – 2 days 12. Familiarisation Training – 3 days



TRAINING GRANT FOR MEMBERS

For more information, members may contact Ms Adila Juman from the Training Division at 6379 56 71.

COURSE PROVIDER	COURSE TITLE
<p>SMA</p> <p>Dover Campus</p> <p>Tel:67721817</p> 	<p>13. Basic Safety Training (4 modules)</p> <p>Module 1 - Personal Survival Technique – 1.5 days</p> <p>Module 2 - Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting – 2 days</p> <p>Module 3 – Elementary First Aid - 2 days</p> <p>Module 4 - Personal Safety and Social Responsibility – 2 days</p> <p>14. Advanced Fire Fighting – 5 days</p> <p>15. Advanced Fire Fighting (Bridging Course) – 2 days</p> <p>16. Shipboard Training and Assessment – 5 days</p> <p>17. Fire Safety Training -</p> <p>18. Powered Pleasure Craft Driving Licence – 4 days</p> <p>19. Electronic Navigation Systems – Bridging - 5 eves & 1 Sat</p> <p>20. Crowd Management & Safety Training for Passenger Ships – 1 day</p> <p>21. Crisis Management, Human Behaviour & Safety for Passenger Ships – 1.5 days</p>
<p>1. STET Maritime Education P/L</p> <p>Tel: 68747782</p> <p>www.stet.com.sg</p> <p>2. MPA Training Development Department</p> <p>Tel: 68747669</p> <p>www.mpa.gov.sg</p>	<p>PORT LIMIT COURSES :</p> <p>1.High Speed Craft Operator course – 3 days</p> <p>2. Port Limit Engine Driver (Third Class) Course – 9 weeks / 54 hours</p> <p>3. Port Limit Engine Driver (Second Class) Course – 9weeks / 76 hours</p> <p>4. Port Limit Steersman Course – 36 hours</p> <p>5. Port Limit Helmsman or Class 6 (Deck Officer) Preparatory Course – 54 hours</p> <p>6. Harbour Craft Master Course – 3 days</p> <p>7. Dangerous Goods Course – 3 days</p> <p>8. Oil Spill Control Course – 1 day course</p> <p>9. Intermediate Shipping Knowledge & Practices</p>
<p>Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)</p> <p>Tel: 62225238</p> <p>www.ssa.org.sg</p>	<p>1. Principles of Shipping Operations & Practices</p> <p>Fee-\$735 / 13 evenings</p> <p>2. Principles of Shipping Documentation & Practices</p> <p>Fee-\$735 / 13 evenings</p>

A NIGHT THEY CALL THEIR OWN

MEMBERS-ONLY AFFAIR!

SOS and Seacare members soaked in the good fun and company as they gathered on 29 March 2008 for an exclusive 'members-only affair' – The SOS/Seacare Members' Nite.

A turnout of 135 members was seen, with some arriving at as early as 5.30pm, all geared up for a lovely night out with their friends. Music which was aired throughout the event could not drown their happiness as they chatter the night away and shared updates with one another.

A dinner reception was hosted followed by light entertainment. Twenty members went home with prizes from the Lucky Draw. These include a \$60 NTUC FairPrice voucher for the third prize and \$70 NTUC FairPrice voucher with additional \$50 NTUC Club vouchers for both first and second places. Two special prizes, which consist of gift hampers, were also given out during the Members' Nite.

The event was aimed at building closer relations among the members. Held at the Club@52 at the Seacare Building, the Members' Nite was a relaxing one as members socialize and spread joy through the night.



LOOK OUT FOR...

SOS Family Outing (Overseas)



Date : 12-15 June 2008
Venue : Penang

SOS Durian Trip to West Malaysia



Date : July 2008
Venue : Malaysia



Seacare Focus



SEACARE EDUCATION EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS THROUGH IHUB-SINNET



Meeting with UCLAN Senior Management

The birth of iHub-Sinnet Education Pte Ltd from two parent organisations – the iHub Education Pte Ltd and Seacare Education, happened in 2006. The joint venture was a natural progression for both, being firm believers in lifelong education. Chief Executive Officer of iHub Education, Mr Jimmy Lim said, "It is a natural development where iHub can utilize its linkages with the industries and the international educational institutions with the financial and management strength of Seacare".

It did not take long before iHub-Sinnet launched into its stream of collaborative projects with various educational providers across the region. Its first tie-up with the Hainan College of Vocation and Technique was made possible given the combined strength and expertise from both iHub and Seacare. The tie-up explored ways in which they can upgrade their courses to international level with the use of the Australian Technical and Further Education (TAFE) programmes particularly in the areas of hospitality and travel.

BSc (Honours) in Facilities Management – The First of its Kind Offered in Singapore

Besides providing courses that relate to the service industry, iHub-Sinnet saw great potential in the Facilities Management (FM) sector that had led it to sign a collaborative agreement with FMedge, a leading registered training organisation based in Melbourne. Currently, iHub-Sinnet has been given the accreditation from the University of Central Lancashire to launch its top-up Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Facilities Management in Singapore, the first to be introduced locally. The Institute of Facilities Management (IFM) was formed and is now housed within the Seacare premises.





iHub-Sinnet Extends its Education Services to Vietnam

Working on its close linkage with the co-operative movement in Vietnam, iHub-Sinnet signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IFM to promote FM programmes educational courses and training in various parts of Vietnam.

To expand its base of programmes, iHub-Sinnet also started a collaboration with a Malaysian representative of the International Financial Accountants (IFA) to run their Diploma programmes in Singapore. Like the FM programmes, the IFA programmes will also be made available in the Vietnamese market via Seacare's co-operative network.

In the Pipeline

In its latest development, iHub-Sinnet is in the final stages of discussion with Bolton University to run their top up degree in the area of Accounting and Business Management.

Their agreement to work hand in hand with iHub-Sinnet has spurred growing successes, with Bolton University opening up its other degree and masters programmes for iHub-Sinnet to run.

Speaking on the future of iHub-Sinnet, Mr Leow Ching Chuan, Chairman of Seacare Co-operative said, ***"We are very excited about the future growth and development of iHub-Sinnet as the educational sector both in Singapore and the region is growing pretty rapidly. With our good range of programmes and our tie-up with reliable international educational institutions, we are well-positioned to penetrate the market in Singapore subsequently the region."***

Being in the educational field for many years, Mr Lim expressed confidence that apart from the traditional academic educational market, the move into sector skills market is a good strategy. Looking at the many building and facilities that are being developed in Singapore and the region he commented, "Our timing to move into the Facilities Management market is excellent; there is so much development in this area both in terms of technologies, strategic considerations, etc, that I am very excited with its long term prospect. Indeed, we are well positioned to ride this wave."

About iHub Education Pte Ltd

The birth of iHub Education Pte Ltd was marked by the shareholders' vision of becoming the leading Education Integrator and Provider with strong linkages to the industries and international bodies. The iHub Education Chief Executive Officer Mr Jimmy Lim Ah Ong commented: "We want to develop our graduates to their fullest potential by providing them with an excellent education and skill based training, working closely with international educational institutions and the industries."

Within the first two years of its formation, iHub Education has already sealed a collaboration with Chisholm Institute of Australia



to conduct sector skills training in Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia and China. Similarly, it also tied up with TAFE North Adelaide to conduct sector skills training in the same countries.

iHub Education also has good working ties with Nilam College of Nursing & Allied Health Sciences situated in Malacca. Under this exclusive collaboration arrangement, iHub will assist to recruit overseas students into Nilam's Certificate & Diploma in Nursing programme. According to Mr Lim, a top-up degree programme in Nursing is now being discussed with a reputable foreign university.



A TREAT FOR JALAN KUKOH RESIDENTS

As the Lunar New Year is traditionally an occasion for reunion and rejoicing, SOS and Seacare firmly believe they should care for and share with those around and near them whatever success and prosperity they have enjoyed.

Mr Tan Jing Bock, SOS President.

A total of 120 residents of Jalan Kukoh were invited to an afternoon of fun and good food in the spirit of Lunar New Year. Held on 20 February 2008 at Club@52, Seacare Building, the LNY lunch was organised to share the joyous celebration with the senior citizens of Jalan Kukoh.

The event also included the popular entertaining acts. Singers sang familiar classic songs in dialect and even Thai which managed to reach through to our guests. Instrumental performance which consists of a solo played on the guzheng, a traditional Chinese string instrument which produced melodious tunes that sank in well with the LNY mood. Residents and representatives from SOS and Seacare also took part in the customary lo hei or the tossing of yu sheng, to wish one another prosperity and abundance in the coming year.

The senior citizens showed great joy and participation watching the performances while enjoying their lunch. Twenty lucky draw prizes which consist of NTUC FairPrice vouchers were given out that day. The LNY lunch with senior citizens residing at Jalan Kukoh, means a lot to SOS and Seacare. Since its inception in 2002, the annual feature has brought about a close-knit community within the district.

One happy resident, Mdm Lim Hui Lan, 74 said, "I'm very happy to be here with my friends. I enjoy the food very much and hope that we can have more of such functions in the future."

Mdm Phua Kwee Choon, 55, who has been long-time neighbours with Mdm Lim, seconds her opinion.



It's very nice of SOS and Seacare to hold this lunch especially for the Jalan Kukoh elderly residents. Chinese New Year spent without the help of any associations such as the Union and Co-operative, will be one that is very hard to celebrate for some of the seniors. Here, the elderly can spend time to chat with one another and enjoy the entertainment and food served to them.

Mr Ng Kim Leong, Chairman of Jalan Kukoh Residents' Committee.



GETTING MORE OUT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH NTUC PLUS CARD



NTUC has recently collaborated with the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd (OCBC) to come up with enhanced benefits for all union members. Exclusive to Union members, the sleek, new card, aptly named the NTUC Plus Card has all the added services catered especially for its members. Here's a look at the core benefits that members can get to enjoy when they upgrade their existing membership card to the Plus Card.

Plus Points

- Members are entitled to a free starters account with OCBC with no minimum initial deposit required. The NTUC Plus Card also acts as an ATM card which is linked to the OCBC deposit account, which requires no minimum balance and monthly fee.
- Embark on a different traveling experience with the Plus Card as it doubles up as an EZ-link card. LinkPoints are also awarded when members top up the card using the EZ-link auto top up facility, giving members the convenience they need while traveling.
- Earn rebates and LinkPoints at NTUC FairPrice outlets. With a conversion of 1 LinkPoint per every S\$2 spent, members can collect LinkPoints when they use the Plus Card at participating merchants or VISA locations. The card can also be used for Platinum VISA credit, debit or NETS payment without any minimum income needed for debit cards.

Apply Now!

Members also stand a chance to win attractive prizes when they upgrade their existing membership cards to the NTUC Plus from 1 March 2008 to 31 May 2008. With over 48 prizes to give away, including \$1000 worth of Metro Shoppers Cheque as the top prize, members can look forward to more benefits when they apply or upgrade to the NTUC Plus Card.

To apply, simply fill in the application form available via www.ntuc.org.sg and return it to NTUC via fax or mail.



club@52'S SPECIAL PROMOTIONS

Head on down to the Club and enjoy these fabulous offers!



Fine Wine at Fine Price

The exotic Malborough 2006 Riesling from West Brooke is available exclusively at Club@52. This New Zealand award-winning white wine is specially imported and is available at a low price of just \$51.90.



Double Good Time

Indulge in the smooth, mellow taste of this premium Scotch whisky with your friends! Swoon over at its honeyed, round and creamy taste and let its amber radiance take you for a ride. At just \$229 for TWO bottles of Chivas Regal, you are bound to have a good time!



Get a Mini with These Towers

Get hold of this cute mini golf bag with every purchase of two towers of Carlsberg beer. Each tower of beer costs \$47 and promotion starts 1st May 2008! Hurry down to Club@52 for this freebie. Valid while stocks last.

Seacare i-ConnecZ Pte Ltd

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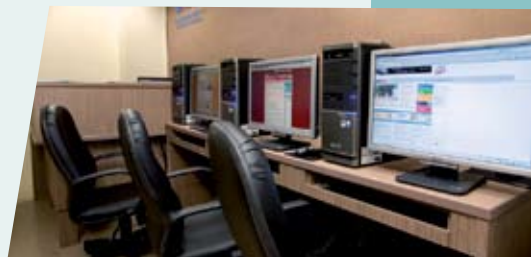
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