

# SAMUDRA

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

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**FIRST UNION/  
CO-OPERATIVE  
OWNED AND  
MANAGED HOTEL  
IN SINGAPORE**





# SAMUDRA



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# SOS SHARES AT MLC 2006 IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP

**M**ore than 200 maritime professionals in the regional maritime community attended the Singapore Tripartite Workshop on the implementation of Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 at the Marina Mandarin Hotel on 14 August 2012.

These participants, hailing from shipping companies, manning agencies, social welfare organisations, maritime administration and seafarers' unions, were invited to be familiarised and conversant with the general rights and provisions of the MLC, which will officially come into force on 20 August 2013.





Organised by the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) and participated by its tripartite partners - the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), SOS and its sister union, the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) - the workshop kicked-off with an opening address by Mr Lam Yi Young, Chief Executive of MPA.





SOS General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat was among the panel of invited speakers. In his presentation on the Training of Cooks, Mr Kam highlighted the importance of the MLC-compliant training programmes for ships' cooks, specifically referencing SOS' training programmes and modules for ships cooks in China and the Philippines as case studies.

He reiterated the need to re-train and certify existing cooks who did not receive official training, and added that the impending entry of the MLC 2006 would require a cook to perform cross-functional duties taught in the training programmes, such as accident prevention in the galley, waste management, and water administration.



In his presentation, he compared the different requisites for ships' cooks stated in the MLC and past conventions, and illustrated how a cook's competence, performance and creativity at work can effectively enhance the morale onboard.

Other distinguished speakers included President of SSA Mr Patrick Phoon, MPA Deputy Director (Shipping) and Deputy Director of Marine Mr Mark Lim Yew Guan; who spoke on the Shipowners' Perspective of MLC and the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance respectively.

The full-day programme saw tripartite members recognise the importance of co-operation, present their perspectives and understanding of the obligations, and enforcement of the provisions in the convention.

The Guest-of-Honour, Dr Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, Director of International Standards Department, International Labour Organisation (ILO) was specially invited to participate in the tripartite workshop. She gave an overview of the MLC and expounded the intricacies and significance of the convention with respect to the rights and protection at work for some 1.2 million seafarers in the world today.

As part of the workshop, the participants and speakers engaged in rounds of lively discussions in the Questions & Answers session, riveting attention on tricky issues such as the urgent demand for international seafarers and legislations that bars seafarers of certain nationalities from entering foreign ports.





## HAMPERS TO SHIPS IN PORT ON WORLD MARITIME DAY

In its recent celebration of World Maritime Day, the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) joined Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) in the distribution of hampers to ships in port as a gesture of goodwill to seafarers onboard.

To reward the hard work of seafarers, SOS chipped in to co-sponsor the 600 hampers amounting to \$70,000. Each hamper contained food items, a movie DVD, and 15 medium-sized towels.

This heartwarming act points to a participative effort by the Singapore seafarers' unions, and MPA in strengthening rapport with the international maritime community.







## ITF INSPECTORS' SEMINAR COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO IMPROVE WELFARE

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) holds the Inspectors' Seminar once every three years, gathering delegates to discuss pertinent labour issues.

This year, some 150 ITF Inspectors from over 44 countries gathered in Casablanca, Morocco, from 20 to 22 September 2012. Among the participants was SOS Executive Secretary, Mr Daniel Tan.

During the seminar, several speakers gave updates on the plans to improve the welfare of seafarers in the next two years. The two areas of focus mentioned by Mr Tom Holmer of the Seafarers Trust were getting Wi-Fi installed in ports so that seafarers may access the Internet without getting off the ship, and developing benefits for seafarers' welfare coming from the MLC.

Other topics of discussion during the seminar included the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006, Inspectorate Review, ITF Helpline, Ports of Convenience Campaign, Maritime Crew Resource Management System, Global Network Terminals (GNT) Strategy, organising dockworkers and the Mexico City Policy.

Mr Tan expressed that the seminar served as a good networking session for ITF Inspectors from all over the world, and encourages a collective effort for the betterment of the Flags of Convenience (FOC) Campaign. In addition, Inspectors gained a better understanding of the MLC 2006 and heightened awareness of the GNT.



# BREAKING GROUND IN CASABLANCA

A brand new event organised by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the Maritime Round Table (MRT), attracted some 200 delegates from over 51 countries to Casablanca, Morocco.

Focused on building union power and strengthening links between dockers' and seafarers' unions, the Maritime Round Table aimed to draw up a more effective campaign against Flags of Convenience (FOC) by getting input from transport activists.

From 25 to 27 September 2012, SOS delegates General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, Executive Secretary Mr Daniel Tan, and Senior Executive Ms Clarissa Lim participated in the inaugural event to exchange knowledge and develop new ideas to improve the well-being of seafarers.

The main topics discussed at the workshops and dialogue sessions included barriers to active union membership, FOC and Ports of Convenience (POC), building union power along the supply chain, new maritime technology, and health and safety issues in the maritime industry.

For the SOS delegates, attending the ITF MRT was an eye-opener and an enriching experience to widen their network of contacts.







# YOUTH ACTIVISM GROWS AT ITF YOUTH CONFERENCE

Held in Montreal, Canada, the ITF Youth Conference 2012 brought together young men and women who learnt from the ITF Young Transport Workers' Committee about what has been achieved from the work programme for the past two years.

SOS Assistant Director Ms Sharon Li, who is the Asia-Pacific representative in the ITF Young Workers' Committee, was among those who gained important insights into the challenges faced by young unionists from other parts of the world especially in the face of global political, economic, and environmental crises.

At the conference, the participants worked in groups to brainstorm on ideas to strengthen unionism and build stronger networks. They also deliberated on how they could utilise social media for campaigns to promote youth activism. More importantly, ways on how they could advocate for better workers' welfare in their workplaces were shared.

In preparation for the ITF 2014 Congress, delegates had the opportunity to discuss the congress' theme, 'From global crisis to global justice – transport workers fighting back', its motions, elections, and the four-year work programme.





# SOS VISITS VESSEL NORGAS CATHINKA IN THE SUNDA STRAITS



**I**n early October this year, a ferry-tanker collision took place in the Sunda Strait waters. On the morning of 5 October, SOS IR officers took a speedboat from Merak to visit the crew of the Singapore-owned Norgas Cathinka, located in the Sunda Straits off the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra. The intention was to render emotional support to the distraught seafarers onboard.

“The seafarers were looking tired and emotionally drained and the mood amongst the crew was tense and somber as they did not know what to expect. Some of the ratings were also apprehensive about possible legal implications on them,” said SOS Vice President Mr Mohamed Abu Bakar.



“As a Union, it is our duty and moral obligations to give our assurance to the seafarers and clarify any doubts that they may have, to help alleviate any emotional and mental burden they shoulder,” he added.

## UNPAID WAGES RECOVERED

For two months, the crew of vessel MV Avila were not paid their salaries. They made a distress call to International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) and SOS was activated to help the seafarers.

SOS Vice President Mr Mohamad Abu Bakar led the way in recovering two months outstanding wages, and a compensation amount based on three months of salary. Close to \$48,000 were paid out to the crew.

SOS witnessed the payout which took place at Marina South Pier, and clarified any doubts the seafarer had. The crew were safely repatriated.





# PERUVIAN SEAFARERS SEEK INTERVENTION

Unfair treatment and unsafe work measures led two Peruvian seafarers Mr Jorge Calderon Puescas and Mr Alipio Eulogio Zarate Ochoa to file a complaint against the vessel captain.

SOS President Mr Mohamed Idris Bin Mohamed Ibrahim, who is also a Singaporean delegate with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), received the call for help from the seafarers on 10 September 2012 and promptly responded to assist.

According to the seafarers, upon the vessel's arrival into Singapore's port on 7 September, they, under the captainship of Mr Felix Fiestas were instructed to siphon the water out of the petrol tank and release it into the sea. To the knowledge of both seafarers, no permit was sought from the Singapore port authorities to carry out the procedure.

Mr Puescas and Mr Zarate were also instructed to clean the petrol tank but were not provided with safety equipment to undertake the hazardous process. In addition, the Chief Officer-in-Charge did not verify the existence of life-threatening gases nor was he able to give the assurance that there was sufficient oxygen in the petrol tank. For safety reasons, the complainants decided not to go ahead with the task. Not only did Mr Fiestas refuse to carry out any safety checks for the seafarers, he proceeded to expel the two seafarers. They were made to sign final settlements which resulted in them not receiving any payment due to them.

With Mr Mohamed Idris' help and advice on seafarers' rights, Mr Puescas and Mr Zarate successfully got the ship master to pay them their wages, and repatriate them at the shipowner's expense. The Peruvian seafarers eventually received the amount owed to them on 13 September and were repatriated.





## TEEING OFF IN CAMBODIA





**I**n the idyllic countryside of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, some 45 participants turned up at SOS' Industrial Relations Networking Golf to mingle and tee off. Held over three days, the golfing event gathered shipping companies, event sponsors, SOS business associates, and ExCo members. Directors of Seacare Group of companies and SOS staff attended the event to maintain strong networks of contact in the maritime industry.

Also present were overseas guests; President and General Secretary of Merchant Navy Officers' Guild, Hong Kong, Capt Dominic Ho and Capt TT Chung; Head of Hong Kong ITF (FOC) Campaign Office Mr Ting Kam Yuen; and General Manager of Cosco Dalian Crew Management Centre Mr Liu Yi.

The first day of the event saw a friendly golf session at the Royal Cambodia Golf Club; but the real heat took place on the second day at the Cambodia Golf & Country Club where under the scorching sun, the participants put on their best game. Some of the participants took

the chance to visit the Royal Palace of Phnom Penh and the Killing Field of Choeung Ek.

The fruitful networking session ended with a prize presentation ceremony, where SOS General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat congratulated everyone for putting on their best game and making the event a success. He pointed out that such gatherings facilitate a constructive exchange of ideas and information, and to keep everyone in the know of the latest developments of the industry. Participants of the event provided positive feedback toward the event, saying that it was a great opportunity to interact with old contacts and make new acquaintances, fostering new working relationships – all this while indulging in a leisure activity. They most definitely look forward to the next networking session by SOS.

SOS organises networking events every other year for the purposes of maintaining and strengthening ties in the maritime industry.





## AIDILFITRI CELEBRATED IN KAMPONG SPIRIT

**D**ressed in their best were some 310 members and their families who turned up to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri with SOS. The festivities held at the Re!Joice Ballroom in Hotel Re! included 40 residents from the Darul Ihsan Orphanages, Ramakrishnan Mission Boys' Home and St Theresa's Home.

The event's Guest-of-Honour was Member of Parliament for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC Mr Zainal Bin Sapari, who was in the thick of the celebratory mood. He gladly indulged in the kampong spirit of friendliness and spontaneity when it came to singing songs and dancing along to the tunes. SOS Vice-President and Chairman of the event's organising committee, Mr Mohamad Bin Abu Bakar, delivered a welcome speech announcing the addition of the event-long fringe activities to this year's celebration, and encouraged attendees to try out a different experience.

Participants were encouraged to get up from their seats and take part in the fringe activities such as traditional games of gasing, capteh and five stones. Other highlights included performances by singer Wann; and children who demonstrated their skilled Silat moves.

The jubilant members and their families enjoyed their buffet lunch, along with a fragrant lemongrass pit which gave more meaning to the kampong spirit that the Malay community held true to their hearts. To end the celebration, lucky draw prizes were given away to participants.







# NEW PERSONNEL UP THEIR ANTE

Having never worked in a union before, two new staff recently joined SOS to widen their scope of knowledge and learn what it's like to work in an organisation whose core business is the welfare of seafarers. Mr George Foo joins SOS as an Assistant Manager in the Corporate Communications Division; and Ms Peggie Neo an Accounts Executive.

**Congratulations on your new charge! Tell us, what attracted you work in a union?**

**George:** I feel that working in a union is more meaningful and fulfilling since we are working towards a shared objective. SOS is committed to protect the interests of our seafarers and improve their working conditions, which makes my job all the more interesting.



There is a greater sense of satisfaction when you know how the different aspects of a task you engage in, be it minor or major, could move the organisation closer to reaching out to the seafarers.

**Peggie:** I have never worked for a union before, so I hope to gain more experience working in a different environment and in a different field. I have attended SOS events such as the Hari Raya Celebration and was given a complimentary hotel stay for soft opening of The Seacare Hotel. These opportunities have given me a chance to interact with my colleagues and understand more about the working culture in SOS.

**Do you see any differences in working for a union and regular organisations?**

**George:** The working environment in the corporate jungle is tense and the pace can be dreadfully fast. However, the atmosphere in SOS is calmer and more soothing. This is good as it allows us to better concentrate and focus on the task at hand to produce better quality work.

**Peggie:** I believe that wherever a person works, we have to be meticulous and ensure that everything is in correct order before proceeding. However, in SOS, unlike in other companies, we have many opportunities for staff to participate in; and for us to bond and strengthen the team spirit.

**What do you hope to achieve in your career with SOS?**

**George:** I hope to learn the ropes as quickly as possible and excel in a position which holds more responsibility.

**Peggie:** As I did not have any similar working experience before joining SOS, I hope to be able to learn new things and knowledge from my colleagues and improve myself. In terms of personal goals, I wish to be a more outspoken person and be able to interact with others more freely.

**How do you think you can contribute to SOS?**

**George:** My experience in different industries has given me firsthand skills and real-world knowledge from a broad range of job functions and departments. I hope to bring in some of their best practices and perspectives and put them to good use in SOS' Corporate Communications Division.

**Peggie:** I hope to give my best to SOS, and achieve a greater level of excellence in finance matters and maintain a dedicated focus on continuous improvement. I look forward to build stronger working relationships with my colleagues.





SEACAREFOCUS

SEACAREFOCUS

SEACAREFOCUS



# Presenting... *The Seacare Hotel*

**A**bout two years after construction began; The Seacare Hotel opened its doors for guests during a soft launch on 18 September, ahead of its official opening early next year.

Located at 52 Chin Swee Road, the first union/co-operative owned and managed hotel in Singapore, received over 60 corporate guests at the soft launch. The first guest to arrive received a bottle of exquisite wine as a connoisseurship of gesture from the hotel.

At the reception, invitees were entertained by live Jazz a cappella set while they mingled in between a pre-launch photography session. As part of the programme that day, they took a tour around the 16-storey Superior Class hotel to view its suite rooms and facilities.

Designed with a contemporary business theme, the 103-room building has a selection of Suites, Executive Deluxe, Executive and Superior rooms.

Some of the hotel's facilities include Cable TV channels, Internet access, work desk, universal power plugs and a gymnasium - tailored to business travelers from the region and corporate clients on short-to-mid term stays, according to the Seacare Hotel Division. Among the hotel's attractions are a Sky Garden and a Sky Lounge, where guests can enjoy the panoramic sights of the city skyline while chilling at the bar counter.

The highlight of the day was the carving of a gigantic Japanese Tuna, flown in especially from Tokyo's famous Tsukiji Fish Market, the world's largest wholesale fish and seafood market.

Weighing over 80kg and spanning two-metres, the long Tuna was showcased to the guests and sliced to mark the official opening of Japanese restaurant, Niji, located at the ground floor. The slicing kept guests entertained and allowed the sampling of quality sashimi dishes served at Niji.

The guests were then hosted with an evening cocktail function at Seacare's Club@52 lounge with live music and singing to keep them entertained throughout the night.



Fish cutting ceremony



Seacare Hotel's first guest



Seacare Hotel Team



# Soft Launch

## An overview of Seacare Hotel's Facilities:

103 Rooms - 16 Floors / Sky Lounge @ Level 16 / Workout Gym @ Level 16

Sky Garden @ Level 10 / Conference Room @ Level 4 & 9

Club@52 KTV Lounge @ Level 2 / Niji Japanese Restaurant @ Level 1

Wired and WIFI connection

For more information on Seacare Hotel kindly visit: [www.theseacarehotel.com.sg](http://www.theseacarehotel.com.sg)



Hotel Reception



Club@52



Conference Room



Jackpot room



Double Room



Sky Garden



Niji Japanese Restaurant



Sky Lounge

# Whopping

**T**he much anticipated momentous event took place when The Seacare Hotel swung opened its door to a whopping 660 guests over the course of five days, from 8 to 15 September, as part of its pre-opening event.

As part of the complimentary hotel stay, SOS leaders, Seacare directors and staff; and SOS paid up local members became the first group to enjoy the delights the hotel offers.

Kicking off the pre-soft launch stay on 8 September 2012, Seacare Chairman Mr Leow Ching Chuan thanked the Seacare team for the tenacity, hard work and commitment to see the fruition of the hotel project.

“We finally reached a major milestone since the groundbreaking in May 2010,” the SOS Executive Adviser said, beaming with pride.

At the event, special guests Mr Kong Mun Kwong, Chairman of Seacare Holdings Pte Ltd and Mrs Kong Mun Kwong; SOS Office Bearers; Executive Committee Members; Directors of the Seacare Group of Companies; invited guests and staff raised their glasses and gave a hearty toast to celebrate the achievement and the ‘can do’ spirit of Seacare. It was a special night to remember.

On 9, 12, 14 and 15 September, 540 SOS paid up local members were also treated to a luxurious suite stay that came complete with gift bags, meals as well as full access to the hotel’s facilities.

To celebrate the special occasion, the hotel staged a karaoke session with a free flow of drinks into the wee hours of the night. The Sky Lounge, which presented a spectacular view of the skyline of CBD, stayed opened for the night birds to enjoy the midnight breeze. A free breakfast with a wide spread of Asian and Continental offerings awaited the guests the next day.



# 660 Guests Enjoy





# *Hotel Complimentary Stay*





### *The Verdict on Seacare Hotel Complimentary Stay*

*"Our stay here was wonderful, especially since we came on a weekend. I brought along my wife and two kids and I can tell they were enjoying themselves thoroughly. I had the opportunity to use the gym at level 16 and I enjoyed my workout."*

*– SOS Exco Member ,  
Mr Mohammad B Kodrasono*

*"It's really a nice gesture to invite your staff, together with their family or friends to try out the rooms. My good friend and I thoroughly enjoyed the warm hospitality and the ample facilities here."*

*– Ms Phua Sze Lu,  
Assistant Manager,  
Seacare Manpower  
Services Pte Ltd*

Guests were greeted with drinks and instant photography services at the lobby when they checked in.



# SEACARE'S NEWEST ADDITION INTRODUCED TO SHIPPING INDUSTRY

One evening at Seacare building's Club@52 saw the gathering of shipping companies for a night of networking. After enjoying a cocktail reception and mingling with one another, participants received a welcome address from SOS General Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat. He warmly welcomed personnel from shipping companies and gave an enthusiastic introduction of a brand new project - The Seacare Hotel, situated right next to the Seacare building.

Mr Kam elaborated that the ground-breaking project was in line with the Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme, aimed at providing affordable accommodation for the seafaring community. A similar project exists in Manila, Philippines, and a drop-in centre at the Pasir Panjang Terminal Building, where seafarers who stop over



in Singapore can easily gain Internet access to stay in touch with families and loved ones.

Mr Kam went on to thank the maritime industry for the support they have shown to the seafarer's union over the years, and promises to strive for more robust hospitality abroad and locally. With that, he announced the presentation of gift certificates to shipping companies participating in the Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme. The gift certificates entitle gift holders to a one-night stay at The Seacare Hotel, inclusive of breakfast.

The evening concluded as participants enjoyed a presentation and tour around the facilities of The Seacare Hotel.





# GIFT CERTIFICATES - A NEW ADDITION TO THE SEACARE SAILORS' HOME SCHEME

In its efforts to enhance the accommodation benefits for seafarers, the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) has launched the “Gift Certificates” under the Seacare Sailors’ Home Scheme (SSS). The objective of the SSS is to provide fully subsidised accommodation benefits and services to the SOS Members, International Seafarers and the Shipping Community.



The Gift Certificates were presented to Shipping Companies who have Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the union and are participating in the SSS scheme. The holder of the Gift Certificate is entitled to a One-Night Stay in Superior Room, inclusive of breakfast for two, at the recently launched - The Seacare Hotel. All Shipping Companies who have a CBA with the union are also entitled to a 10 per cent discount off the prevailing room rates at The Seacare Hotel.



The other benefits of the SSS includes the fully subsidised accommodation benefits for SOS Members at the Seacare Sailors' Home which is conveniently located in Mandaluyong City, Philippines; and the free services provided to International Seafarers at the Seacare Drop-In Centre located in the Pasir Panjang Terminal Building in Singapore.

The Seacare Hotel is the first union/co-operative owned hotel in Singapore. It is strategically built next to the union office and provides guests and seafarers with easy access to the Central Business District, tourist attractions and port area. It certainly offers SOS Members and International Seafarers an alluring choice whenever they visit Singapore.



## PROGRESSION TOWARDS A HIGHER DESTINATION

It is our aim and our determination to not only overcome all difficulties but also become stronger in the process.

Seacare Chairman Mr Leow Ching Chuan gave this strong assurance at the Seacare Co-operative Ltd 18th Annual General Meeting held on 28 September 2012.

Highlighting next year's theme, Progression Towards a Higher Destination, Mr Leow underscored that "to stand still is not a viable option. It is either forward and upwards or, most unacceptably backward and downwards to square one".

On the performance of the Group, the Chairman shared that taking an overall look at the total revenue and staff strength, "we have reason to be satisfied".

One of the momentous milestones is the fruition of the Seacare Hotel project which held its soft opening in September 2012. Also on the Seacare Properties Pte Ltd front, Mr Leow reported the acquisition of the Citin Hotel in Kuala Lumpur

through a joint venture subsidiary. In view of the opportunities in hotel development and management, Seacare Properties and its partners have also acquired a piece of property with the potential for eventual development into a 100-room hotel.

"What Seacare Properties has successfully accomplished in the review year gives an insight to the opportunities that are abound in the region for hotel development and management," Mr Leow confidently revealed.

Another area witnessing promising growth is Seacare Maritime Medical Centre Pte Ltd (SMMC). With its listing in the Alliance Healthcare's medical panel, SMMC's scope of medical treatment and consultation services have widened since then, which has served its patrons, the seafarers, even better.

In his report, Mr Leow highlighted that the investments made by the Seacare Group are not entirely maritime-related. Seacare Manpower has set up an Infocomm Technology (ICT) division to serve schools due to the increasing demand for ICT





executives and support staff. Similarly, Watertech Pte Ltd was set up to provide integrated systems for water and waste water treatment because of the demand for such systems.

In the review year, the brand name of Seacare was spread far and wide with the Co-operative's active participation in large-scale conferences and exhibitions such as the International Year of

Co-operatives (IYC) Conference, SMMC's participation in Sea Asia 2011 and Seacare Manpower Services' participation in job fairs.

After a fruitful update, the attendees made their way to a lunch reception held in commemoration of the World Maritime Day (WMD). This year, the WMD's theme was "One Hundred Years after the Titanic", highlighting the safety of life at sea.





## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SHARE AT IYC REGIONAL CONFERENCE



The one-day International Year of Co-operative (IYC) Regional Conference 2012 attracted more than 800 leaders of cooperative, charity and social enterprise sectors from across the region.

As the conference's official co-operative hotel, The Seacare Hotel provided accommodation for the many world co-operative leaders and regional cooperators who flew in to learn from the best on how leading and sustainable co-operatives succeed commercially.

The summit, organised by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) on 3 October 2012 at the Rock Auditorium, Suntec City, had Mr Chan Chun Sing, Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, as its Guest-of-Honour.

In his address, Mr Chan underscored the important role co-operatives play in Singapore in forming an integral part of the social safety net for the society. More social and economic benefits can be met if the co-op business model of resilience and sustainability is applied to wide-ranging industries and across platforms, be it social enterprise, charity or private enterprise.

Inspired by the Summit theme, "How Social Capital Drives Profits, Growth and Sustainability", three speakers, all leading one of the ICA Global 300 cooperatives, shared their story.

Mr Henk Adams Member of the Board of Commissioners, Rabobank International Indonesia, spoke on "A Co-op Bank's resilience through the Crisis"; Mr Seah Kian Peng, Chief Executive Officer (Singapore) NTUC FairPrice Co-operative, shed light on how "A World-class Consumer Co-op





Photos: Singapore National Co-operative Federation

Strengthens Social Safety Nets” while Mr James McVitty Vice President for Government and Industry Relations for the South and South East Asia Region of Fonterra Group, spoke on “Co-operating to build New Zealand’s Largest Enterprise”.

Showcasing a sustainable co-op was Mr John Raghavan Chairman, The Singapore Government Staff Credit Co-operative Society (Singapore’s first Co-operative) who gave an account of “Doing Good since 1925: The Mark of Sustainable Enterprise”.

Among the co-operative leaders who gleaned much wisdom from these distinguished speakers were leaders and staff from Seacare Co-operative. Mr Leow Ching Chuan, Seacare Chairman and SNCF Service Sector Chairman commented:

“This Summit drives home the salient point that to do good and do it well, we need to build sustainable enterprises - with a clear purpose, offering a relevant service and with good people running it.”



Keynote speaker, Professor Rosabeth M Kanter spoke on ‘Super Co-op: The DNA of Business Leadership Today’

**Profile:**

Ernest L. Arbuckle Professorship at Harvard Business School. Named amongst ‘50 most powerful women in the world’ by Times of London, and ‘50 most influential business thinkers’ by Accenture and Thinkers 50 research. Author of award-winning book ‘SuperCorp: How Vanguard Companies Create Innovation, Profits, Growth and Social Good, a manifestor for leadership of sustainable enterprises.

# BOOSTING RELATIONS IN SNCF SERVICE SECTOR

The soft opening of the first-ever co-operative-owned and managed hotel in Singapore, The Seacare Hotel, was given the thumbs up at the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) Service Sector Night.



General Manager of The Seacare Hotel, Mr Francis Choo, gave a presentation of The Seacare Hotel and its facilities.



The tour of The Seacare Hotel by the 53 representatives from 13 service sector co-operatives, headed by SNCF Chief Executive Officer Ms Dolly Goh, was one of the highlights of the night. Playing host was Seacare Co-operative Chairman and SNCF Service Sector Chairman Mr Leow Ching Chuan.

The night of 28 September 2012 was also special for the champions of three newly formed co-operatives who had the chance to share their passion to the fellow cooperators.



## **REVERSE Co-operative, founder Mr Geoffrey Kung**

REVERSE stands for Re-Employ Valuable Equipped Retirees to Service Elderly.

Its mission is “to harness and re-deploy the vast resources of the elderly population neglected by our present materialistic socio-economic society and to offer seniors/retirees opportunities to an enhanced second life. Together as a family, to shine as light in the world through meeting some of the social needs of the old and needy in our society.”





**Employment for Persons with Intellectual Disability Co-operative (E4PID), presented by Mr William Teo**

A group of parents who wanted to provide sustainable jobs for their children with special needs are the founders of E4PID. The co-operative focuses on helping intellectually disabled individuals find employment. As a long-term goal, the E4PID hopes to find new businesses that can tap on the skills of people with special needs.



**Silver Horizon Travel Co-operative Ltd, presented by Mr Low Wai Poon**

SH is a co-operative, a social enterprise formed by seniors for fellow seniors.

Its social mission is “to promote active living and learning through customised travel programmes for seniors and to use travel as a platform to build friendship and bonding before, during and after the tour. The activities are intended to make life more active and meaningful for seniors.”





SUITES ROOM



DOUBLE ROOM



TWIN ROOM



SKY LOUNGE



SKY GARDEN



CLUB@52



MARITIME HALL



CONFERENCE ROOM



WORKOUT GYM



NIJI JAPANESE RESTAURANT



NIJI JAPANESE RESTAURANT



JACKPOT ROOM

# The Seacare Hotel Is Now Open!

52 CHIN SWEE ROAD, SINGAPORE 169875



Scan this QR code to visit our website now!

Strategically located in the heart of the city between Chinatown, Clarke Quay and along the Singapore River, The Seacare Hotel exudes a perfect blend of eastern and western cultures, while exhibiting the traditional ambience and cosmopolitan charms of Singapore.

The hotel is uniquely designed with a fusion of 103 contemporary classic and modern chic suites. Together with our warm and friendly service, you can be assured that your stay with us will be a memorable experience; be it for business or leisure.

For reservations, email us at:

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