

Issue 1
16/17

SAMUDRA

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

MCI (P) 162/08/2015



Long-Serving
DEDICATED



SEACARE STAFF HONoured



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Participants of SOS Workshop 2016

SOS TO 'CARE, FAIR, GROW' WITH MEMBERS



(Left) SOS Treasurer David Sim, Vice President Lim Thizhi Chee, General Secretary Kam Soon Huat and Executive Secretary Daniel Tan at the workshop's sharing session

The number of attendees at this year's SOS workshop on 21 May was the highest yet. It comprised about 70 staff, Office Bearers and Executive and Standing Committee Members, one of whom was beloved SOS trustee and Pioneer Generation union leader Leow Peng Kui.

Headed by General Secretary (GS) Kam Soon Huat at the St Giles Wembley Hotel in Penang, Malaysia, the workshop's theme of 'Care, Fair & Grow' was modeled after NTUC's vision of the years leading up to 2019. Centering on the workers' welfare, it seeks to Care for workers, be Fair to them and Grow with them.



Although many of the participants were first-timers at the workshop, they did not shy away from offering their opinions, ideas and recommendations. Following their segregation into the Care, Fair and Grow divisions, and with the help of SOS facilitators Halimahtul Saa'diah Mohamed Sadon, Shirley Lai and Mariana Amad, they brainstormed on how locals could be effectively encouraged to take up seafaring careers and how the union could take better care of its members' interests.

The audience's eagerness to explore new options for the union's progression was not a one-shot occurrence, as evident from its active participation in the subsequent sharing session with panelists GS Kam, Executive Secretary (ES) Daniel Tan, Vice President Lim Thizi Chee and Treasurer David Sim.

Prior to the session, ES Tan and Assistant Secretary David Shoo highlighted the union's intention to thrive alongside its members by





Participants enthusiastically sharing their ideas and suggestions at the workshop

touching on SOS's welfare-enhancing schemes and activities, its progress over the years, and the core areas for improvement like Skills Training & Upgrading, Communication, Leadership, Tripartism and Globalisation.

GS Kam also delivered several encouraging points in his presentation, the most notable one being the good performance of SOS during the previous term of 2011 to 2015, in spite of the economic crunch that rocked maritime-related sectors such as the oil and gas industry. Bilateral relations with Japan, China, Russia and Ukraine have also been strengthened, while membership numbers have steadily grown over time. To top it off, SOS achieved a new milestone when it joined Nautilus International, a trade association made up of nine unions.

Everyone was heartened by the good news. The productive plans generated from the workshop will be implemented, lasting until 2019.





ATTUNED TO WORKERS' NEEDS THIS MAY DAY

Care, Fair, and Grow together. The message rang loud and clear on May Day.

“The only way to keep Singapore growing is to transform the economy. At the heart of our economic transformation is the need to ensure that the nation continues to offer the right jobs, our workers have the right skills, and there is a good match between the two. These can only be achieved if the government, businesses and workers work together,” Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong declared to some 1,500 attendees at the May Day Rally 2016, held on 1 May at D’Marquee, Downtown East.

“In Singapore, you have a dynamic and constructive Labour Movement that not only says it believes in tripartism but practises it. Here union leaders take a long term view, we have professional and rational mindsets. The government is ready, the Labour Movement is ready, the people also need to be ready,” he added.

An amendment to the Industrial Relations Act last year allowed unions to represent a wider category of workers. Noting the increase of professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs) in the workforce, PM Lee encouraged employers to also do their part and “work with the Labour Movement, build up a partnership, develop a constructive and productive relationship” with PMETs.

At the May Day Rally, PM Lee also announced that workers will get a \$200 million boost from the labour movement and Government to upgrade their skills. The Labour Movement will raise \$50 million for its Education and Training Fund while the government will match every dollar with three dollars, contributing another \$150million. NTUC will start by partnering Nanyang Technological University (NTU) for the training, in its first tie-up with an institute of higher learning.

NTUC Secretary-General (SG) Chan Chun Sing’s speech at the same event ran along a similar line.

It is in Singapore, only in Singapore, you have a dynamic and constructive labour movement. It not only says it believes in tripartism but it practices tripartism. In many countries, it is not easy.

– PM Lee Hsien Loong



Although NTUC today has 60 affiliated unions and a national taxi association, it cannot afford to be complacent. Calling for the Labour Movement to examine and adjust existing policies so as to cater to more workers, SG Chan said that NTUC will continually “strive to reach out, advocate for and represent workers in every sector of the economy”.

He urged unions to advise working people to capitalise on available resources like the \$1 billion worth of SkillsFuture Credit and upgrade their skills. “There is no point in the Government putting \$1 billion in the kitty if we are unable to mobilise (workers) to do what’s right,” he said.

The May Day message from Minister for Manpower Lim Swee Say summarized the main points: “Caring for our workers, treating them fairly and helping them to grow in their jobs and careers are of great priority. Companies should learn to make better use and take better care of all employees regardless of age and qualification, invest in them and help them develop to their fullest potential. Unions will have to rally workers to keep learning and re-learning, upgrade and update their skills to be of greater value to their employers. On the part of the government, we will strengthen our policy and resource support for companies and workers to adapt and grow in the future economy.”

MAY DAY AWARDS CEREMONY

At the May Day Dinner held on 29 April at the Orchid Country Club, May Day awards were bestowed on 91 deserving recipients who had contributed significantly to the Labour Movement and workers alike. The annual event saw a turnout of about 1,600 affiliates from union, partner and government organisations. The team from SOS networked and caught up with other fellow unionists and management guests during the dinner.



SOS General Secretary Kam Soon Huat (Fifth from left) with other SOS officers at the May Day Dinner at Orchid Country Club

MAKING SINGAPORE

A GREAT PLACE FOR FAMILIES



HOUSING

Helping families own homes

- **Affordable home ownership**
Public housing subsidies
NEW Fresh Start Housing Scheme
- **Helping families to live closer together**
- **More flats available earlier**



FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORK CULTURE

Helping Dads & Mums manage work and family

- **More time with our children**
16 weeks of Maternity Leave
NEW 2nd week of Paternity Leave legislated*
NEW Shared Parental Leave increased to 4 weeks*
NEW Adoption Leave increased to 12 weeks*
- **Supporting Flexible Work Arrangements**



Up to **\$160,000** over three years in grants for companies which may require funding support to implement & sustain flexi-work arrangements

*From 2017



CARING FOR OUR CHILDREN

Supporting parents in child-raising

- **Baby Bonus Cash Gift**



- **Enhanced Child Development Account**
Government contributions up to



Including

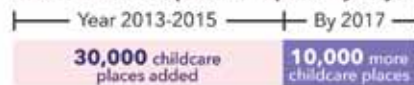
NEW CDA First Step of **\$3,000** Part of existing Government contribution caps



QUALITY CHILDCARE & EDUCATION

Providing conducive learning opportunities for our children

- **More childcare places, especially in young estates**



- **Education subsidies**
- **After-school care in all primary schools by 2020**
- **Quality early childhood education**
NEW FLAiR programme extended to more pre-schools
NEW KidSTART to support low-income children



BETTER HEALTH

For all ages

- **Healthcare for newborns & mothers**
NEW Use up to \$900 of Medisave for pre-delivery care, from \$450 previously
- **NurtureSG Taskforce**
NEW Nurturing healthy behaviours in our young
- **MediShield Life for every Singaporean, for life**
- **Subsidised primary care for CHAS cardholders**
- **Pioneer Generation Package for our Pioneers**

Visit www.gov.sg for details

gov.sg

ACTION TAKEN AT OFFSHORE TASK FORCE GROUP MEETING



(Left) Jacqueline Smith (ITF Maritime Co-ordinator), Terence Tan (SMOU IR Assistant Manager), Mick Doleman (Deputy Chairperson, OTFG), Norrie McVicar (Chairperson, OTFG), Abdulghani Serang (General Secretary, NUSI), Capt. Hasudungan Tambunan (President, KPI), Daniel Tan (Executive Secretary, SOS), John Canias (ITF Head of Maritime Operations), Chen Chuanyi (IR Senior Executive, SOS)

The recent economic slump in global oil prices has proven costly for thousands of oil workers, who found themselves out of jobs.

Acknowledging the workers' plight, SOS Executive Secretary Daniel Tan and IR Senior Executive Chen Chuanyi, along with almost 50 International Transport Federation (ITF) Secretariats and delegates from countries all over the world attended the ITF Offshore Task Force Group (OTFG) Meeting held in Stavanger, Norway, on 26 April.

The OTFG, attended by the maritime nations such as Denmark, Australia, UK, India and the Philippines, provided an excellent platform for discussing the development and economic viability of the Oil and Gas sector.

The delegates reviewed regional reports and the OTFG agreements and toured the Norwegian Petroleum Museum. The meeting also marked the stepping down of ITF OTFG Chairman Norrie McVicar.

SOS thanks Norrie for his invaluable contributions over the years, and wishes him all the best in his future endeavours.



Participants of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Asia Pacific Young Workers Network Workshop in Singapore



Young transport unionists from the region sharing their experience at the workshop



Adrienne Woltersdorf (right) from Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) at the opening of the workshop

ITF ASIA PACIFIC YOUNG WORKERS CONNECT IN SINGAPORE

The improvement of working and employment conditions of regional transport workers were discussed at the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Asia Pacific Young Workers Network Workshop in Singapore.

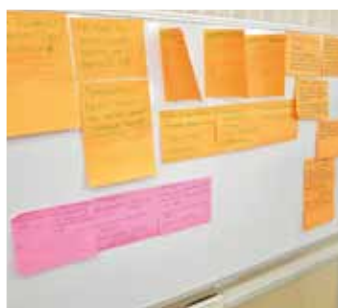
Held from 30 May to 1 June at the Seacare Building, the meeting, which was co-organised by SOS and supported by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), saw regional trade unionists from the Seafaring, Railway, Civil Aviation and Land Transport sectors share their efforts and challenges in reaching out to transport workers. A dinner was hosted for the participants by SOS and SMOU.

The increasing number of cases of transport workers facing reprisal for participating in trade union activities is a worrying trend that warrants looking into, given the rising demands for transport workers in Asia and the continual growth of the region's transport industry.

Despite the great potential displayed by Asia's emerging economies, trade unions are concerned about the deregulation and privatisation of Asia's transport sectors since these could contribute to a higher number of contract and illegal labour work. According to ITF affiliates, such workers may be subjected to long working hours and occupational risks like lower safety standards and fatigue.



SOS IR Executive Alan Kor (left) with fellow transport workers in a group discussion



SOS IR Senior Executive Chen Chuanyi



ITF Education Assistant Ali Howes



Assistant Branch Secretary (Western Australia) and MUA Youth Coordinator Danny Cain

The 14 Asia Pacific representatives, who came from Mongolia, Australia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines, delved into the development of Singapore's tripartite system, a unique framework which allows unions, employers and the government to collaborate to create a competitive advantage for the country.

In a breakout session, they explored global issues that plague the transport industry such as the problem of climate change.

"It is a great opportunity for young transport worker representatives to meet up and discuss issues that regional unions face since the labour movement climate in each country is different," said SOS IR Senior Executive Chen Chuanyi.

"Other than the maritime sector, we learnt about the priorities and activities of different transport sectors. This meeting is both enriching and important for young transport workers in terms of strengthening our Asia Pacific network," he added.

Social Media to the Rescue

The Asia Pacific delegates also deliberated over the ways in which the Labour Movement could attract youths to sign up, noting that social media platforms enabled them to reach out to members who were geographically inaccessible.

During a training session, delegates had the opportunity to become a reporter for a day with a portable microphone attached to their smartphone. Their video clips were uploaded and shared on Facebook and YouTube.

"It was an eye-opener for me as this is the first time I am attending the meeting," said SOS IR Executive Alan Kor. Learning from fellow transport union members had enlightened him on their development.

"The presentations on the types of issues faced by each country were refreshing as the delegates recall and discuss what they are currently doing in light of the challenges. I learnt that unions from different countries utilise different concepts and strategies, and there is no 'one size fits all' solution," Alan said.

With 1.1 million ITF affiliates, Asia Pacific is the largest transport union membership outside of Europe.

BREAKTHROUGH IN TACKLING VIOLENCE



Violence issues were the focal point of the Violence Against Women in Public Transport Action Forum in Bali, Indonesia. It is the first forum to bring up this subject on a global scale.

Held on 26 and 27 May, the forum, organised by the ITF, saw about 75 regional union speakers and participants, including SOS Assistant Treasurer and ITF Young Transport Workers Committee Co-chair Sharon Li, sharing their experiences and efforts on preventing physical and verbal assault against women transport workers.

One programme addressing this topic's relevance to both companies and unions is the Women's Advocate Programme. Supported by Unifor (Union for Canada), it champions the idea of how safety at work and union growth can be amplified by women advocates.

There was also much interest and union backing for a proposed International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention, the first international treaty that targets workplace violence. The convention, scheduled for discussion at an upcoming ILO meeting in October this year, could potentially be implemented in 2019.

Not only was this forum a good chance to exchange suggestions and solutions, it was also one more step towards eradicating the violence that threatens women transport workers.





READY TO ROLL ON BOARD

In a bid to help seafarers from China brush up on their language proficiency for easier communication with crew members of different nationalities, SOS has been sponsoring them for Seacare Quality Rating Training (SQRT) and Seacare Quality Cooks Training (SQCT) courses that are run by the Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute (SNIMI).

Conducted fully in English and lasting four weeks each, the lessons revolve around safety, health and other related issues that seafarers might face on board.

From 18 April to 13 May, the SQRT and SQCT courses produced their 38th and 39th batches of graduates respectively. Some 22 ratings were trained to better their grasp of the English language with Maritime English, while another 18 learnt about Basic Catering with Maritime English. Under the guidance of their trainers, the 40 trainees reported a swift progression both in their learning of English and knowledge of vessel equipment.

SQCT trainer Ma Yi Dong observed, "The trainees' attitudes towards learning are good, and their communication and professional skills have also improved. Now, the trainees are confident. They believe that they can complete all the tasks in a short time."

SQRT trainer Peng Xiao In agreed, "They have a full understanding of working situations and their responsibilities on board. Coupled with their positive mindsets, I'm sure they are ready."



I think the course was very good.

My oral English improved tremendously and I gained more knowledge about ships. I feel honoured to have encountered such teachers.

- SQRT graduate, Liang Linfei, 20, from Chongqing

It helped me become more confident and brave in conversing with others in English. I also enjoyed the activities in class.

- SQCT graduate Mai Jin Xi, 25, from Guangdong





SOS GS Kam Soon Huat, Guest-of-Honour for International Sportsweek for Seafarers 2016

SPORTING STRENGTH IN UNITY

SOS participants got to flex their muscles and demonstrate their physical prowess at the Yio Chu Kang stadium during the 2016 International Sportsweek for Seafarers.

From 19 to 22 April, they competed with other maritime affiliates in adrenaline-pumping games such as shot put, and exhibited the SOS team spirit by egging their team members on.

In an exhilarating finish, SOS bested the rest to clinch the top spot in the Tug-of-War for the Local Team category, as well as the gold, silver and bronze medals for the 60-metre dash under the Veteran category in the track and field competition. Seacare bagged a victory of its own, coming in 2nd runner-up in the Tug-of-War.

SOS General Secretary Kam Soon Huat was the Guest-of-Honour



SOS and Seacare athletes at the International Sportsweek for Seafarers 2016 at Yio Chu Kang Stadium





at the annual event, which seeks to promote good sportsmanship by bringing seafarers of various nationalities and cultures from the shipping community together via sports activities.

For 20 consecutive years, the International Sportsweek for Seafarers has been organised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). It is one of the many activities held in conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week 2016.





BRINGING BAGFULS OF CARE

In a move that demonstrated the Union's care and concern, SOS has been presenting foldable, water-resistant duffel bags to its members during its weekly ship visits since mid-April this year.

Approximately 1000 bags, meant to convey the Union's greetings to its members and its heartfelt appreciation for their support, were specially ordered for seafarers whose ships have docked at Singapore en route their international voyages.

As of 31 May, Industrial Relations (IR) Officers Maximillian Theodore, Alan Kor and Chen Chuanyi have visited more than 20 vessels – several ships a day frequently – and have distributed over 200 bags.

The gifts were a pleasant surprise for the members, who readily expressed their appreciation and gratitude.

Maximillian said, "Our members are very happy to see us, with or without the bags. Our ship visits let them know that there is always somebody who cares when the going gets tough."



I like the bag very much. It is tough and suitable to bring along when I go onshore. It is foldable and easy to carry around.

– Rodel H Gapay, Chief Cook



A FRUITFUL TRIP

It was a dream come true for durian lovers.

On 4 June, SOS members and their families assembled as early as 6.30am, before making their way to Malaysia to get their fix of the king of fruits. Arriving at Pekan Nanas Farm in time for lunch, they made a beeline for baskets of delicious durians and gleefully ate to their hearts' content.

While the 'king' durian reigned that day, participants also indulged in other fruits aplenty on the farm like sweet mangosteens and rambutans.

Other destinations in their day-long itinerary included shopping stops at local product and wholesale stores, and KSL Mall, Johor Bahru. Laden with goodies and gifts, the participants made one last stop for a sumptuous dinner before returning to Singapore. It was a fun-filled, fruitful day indeed!



FREE HEALTH SCREENING & EYE EXAM BENEFIT EXTENDED



Good news! SOS has extended the complimentary Basic Health Screening and Eye Examination by another year, starting from 1 April 2016.

Eligible local members and their dependants can continue to enjoy health screening and eye examination to identify and prevent potential health risks. Members are encouraged to get themselves screened even if they feel perfectly healthy.

Please call SOS Membership and Welfare Services at 6379 5671/ 672/689 to check your eligibility and make an appointment*.

Stay healthy!

** Available on a first-come-first-served basis.*

•• Endocrine abnormalities include diabetes, which is a growing problem in Singapore. Visit www.moh.gov.sg to learn about the government's campaign against the disease.

Health Screening	Eye Examination
Consultation and Complete Physical Examination	Visual acuity assessment
Biophysical Measurement	Binocular vision assessment
Office tests	Pupil assessment
Imaging Studies Lipid Profile	Colour vision assessment
Liver Profile	Central visual field screening
Hepatitis Profile	Keratometry
Kidney Profile	Intra-ocular pressure assessment
Endocrine Profile••	Refractive status assessment
Bone & Joint Profile	Slit lamp biomicroscopy
Veneral Profile	Ophthalmoscopy
Urinalysis	Fundus photography
Full Blood Count	
3 Cancer Markers	
Medical Review	



SEACAREFOCUS

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Long Service Award recipients Sulena Supaat, Phua Sze Lu and Cher Nghee Hwa sharing a memorable moment with fellow colleagues and directors from Seacare Manpower Services and Seacare Environmental



(Left) Phua Sze Lu, Cher Nghee Hwa and Sulena Supaat

THE PRICE OF LOYALTY

If loyalty is defined as being faithful to a cause, ideal, custom, institution or product, then there seems to be a short supply of them these days. That's why individuals who possess such qualities are truly an asset to their organisation.

Since its inception in 1994, Seacare Co-operative Limited today sports five distinct clusters of business enterprises and two Plaques of Commendation for aiding both the Co-operative and Labour Movement. This is only made possible with continuous support from its staff. The Long Service Award is a testament to their contributions.

On 26 April, three well-liked and longtime Seacare staff were honoured with the awards during the staff lunch at Club@52, in recognition of their decades of service and dedication.

10 Years *Long Service Award*

Mr Cher Nghee Hwa,
Cleaning Specialist, Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd

Nghee Hwa, or 'Ah Hwa' as affectionately known by the Seacare family, has been with Seacare Environmental since 2 November 2005.

A reliable and highly committed individual who takes his duties seriously,

he is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of Club@52 so that staff, members and guests alike can work, unwind and relax in the comfort of an immaculate environment.



20 Years *Long Service Award*

Ms Phua Sze Lu,
Manager, Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd

Sze Lu joined Seacare Manpower Services in October 1995, when it was first set up and operating in Midlink Plaza.

One of the pioneer staff members of the company, she advocates its mission of helping Singaporean seafarers secure both marine and non-marine related job opportunities.

Although her core duty lies in accounting administration, she often goes beyond

what is required of her by providing support to the Admin Department and standing in as a member of the Placement Department's float team whenever extra manpower is needed.

With her resourcefulness, positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile, Sze Lu is someone whom her colleagues can turn to for guidance and advice, and who has excelled at making a difference in the lives of others.



20 Years *Long Service Award*

Ms Sulena Supaat,
Senior Manager, Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd

Ms Sulena is another pioneer staff of Seacare Manpower Services, having joined two days before its incorporation on 11 October 1995.

Serving the company since then, she has both witnessed and played an instrumental role in an engine of change in the company. Sulena was tasked with setting up the NTUC Membership Recruitment division in October 2001, which exceeded expectations by increasing NTUC's membership growth by over 247,000 members.

She heads the Placement Department of the company which is involved in liaison with various organisations such as the NTUC Women's Development Secretariat (WDS), Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), Community Development Council (CDC), Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), Employment and Employability Institute e2i and Yayasan Mendaki, to build a pool of manpower to meet the HR needs of its expanding base of clients.

For her efforts in initiating and conceptualising training and development programmes that improve workers' skills and enable them to offer value-added services to customers, Sulena was appointed as one of the Directors of Seacare Manpower Services



on 1 August 2004. Her versatility has strengthened the company's image as one of the leading manpower suppliers in Singapore.

"Nghee Hwa, Sze Lu and Sulena, thank you for growing together with Seacare!"



SEACARE HOSPITALITY ACQUIRES SCOTLAND'S COLUMBA HOTEL

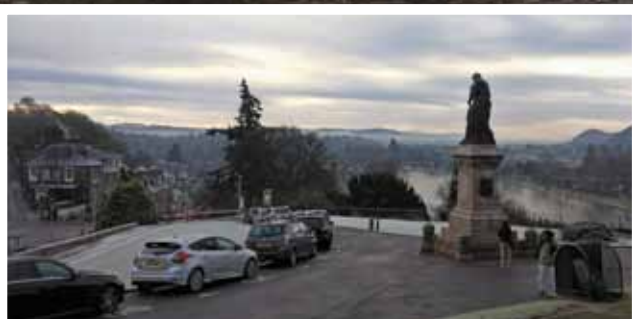
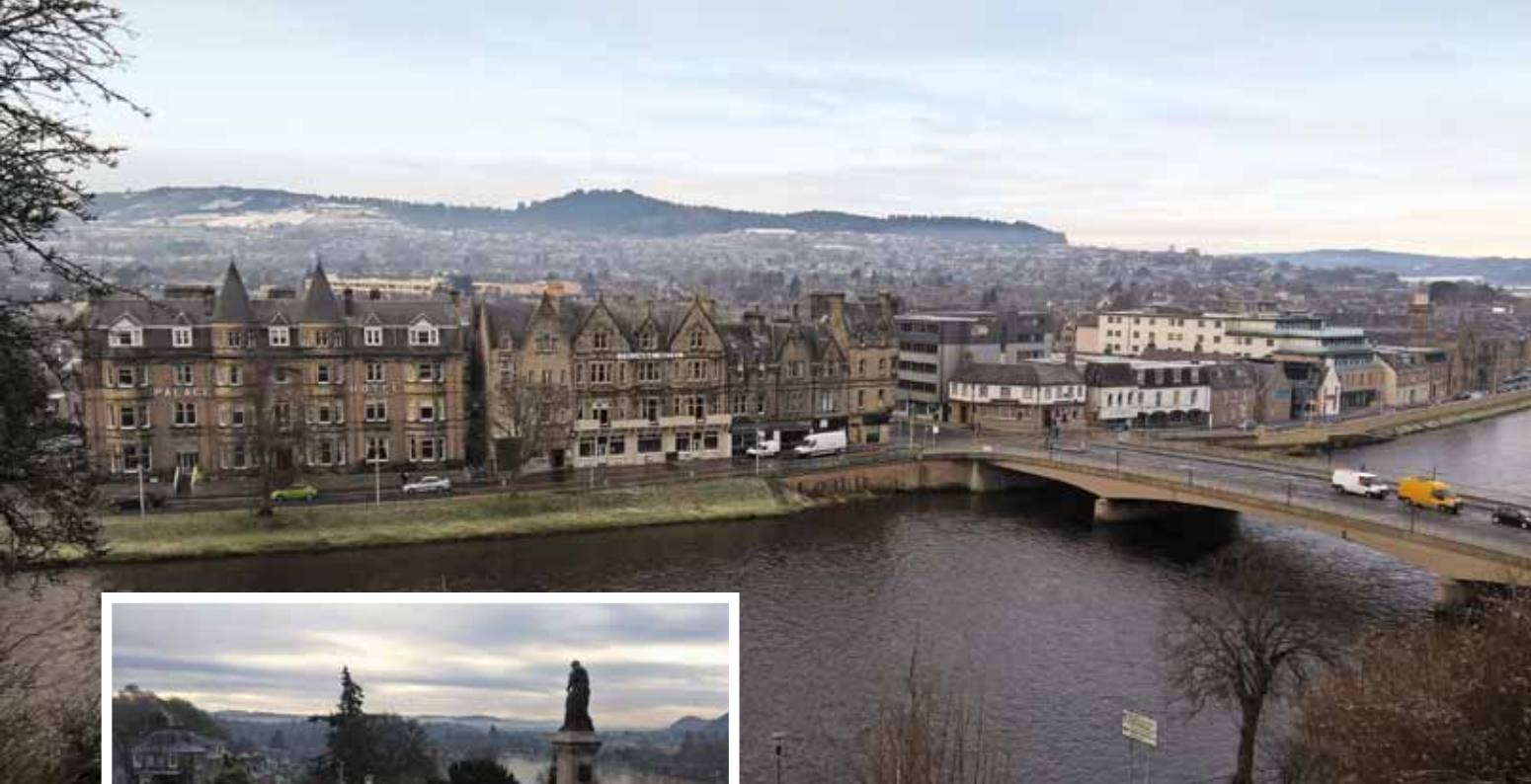


Seacare Hospitality Pte Ltd acquired the luxury Columbia Hotel in Scotland in May 2016, and appointed Thailand-based Compass Hospitality as its operator.

Built in 1881, this four-star establishment is Seacare Hospitality's fifth and latest acquisition in the UK, following a joint acquisition of The Victoria Hotel in Manchester in February 2016 – and the Big Sleep Hotel portfolio in Cardiff, Cheltenham and Eastbourne in August 2015.

Nestled along the renowned River Ness, one of Britain's most beautiful riversides, The Columbia Hotel's strategic location offers





a spectacular view of Inverness Castle, an 11th-century Cliffside castle that was featured in Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'.

The stonewalled hotel parallels its heritage-rich streetscape by adopting a corresponding Scottish-styled interior for its 82 guestrooms and spacious suites. Travelers can choose between indoor dining in cosseted comfort at the signature Victoria Restaurant, or a breezy, moonlit alfresco dining by the riverside terrace at the MacNabs Bar & Bistro.

Seacare Hospitality CEO Lim Chye Teen, who has set his sights on Scotland's robust tourism sector, said that acquiring the Columba Hotel has strengthened the international presence of the iconic Seacare brand, given the hotel's appeal to Asia's growing business and leisure travelers.

"Scotland's enchanting mountainous landscapes, Northern lights and rich history draw hordes of international and domestic tourists every year. The Columba Hotel, being a high-end loch-side accommodation, is a hit among holiday makers, especially the middle-class travelers," he explained.

One attractive feature of The Columba Hotel is its close proximity to Inverness Airport and the train station. Furthermore, it is less than a minute's walk to Ness Bridge, the landmark of Inverness; and there is convenient access to just about every old town, medieval church or must-visit sites such as the Victorian Market and retail haven Eastgate Centre.

"Inverness is small, compact and easy to get around. Its gateway to the mountain wilderness of Scotland and the rich variety of attractions in and outside the city made her one of the busiest and most attractive places in northernmost UK," said Mr Lim.

"For the more inquisitive, you can take a 20 minutes' ride to the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition, as well as the nearby Loch Ness lake... that is, if you are a fan of the legendary Loch Ness Monster!"



Shena Foo (left) and Sharon Li were elected as directors of Seacare Inverness Limited, the holding company of Columba Hotel



Seacare Hospitality Pte Ltd, the hospitality arm of Seacare Co-operative Ltd, has a portfolio of hotels in Singapore, Malaysia and the UK.

TAKING SMALL STEPS FOR GREAT IMPACT



Seacare Officers with ACLC guest speaker Mr Koh Seng Choon, SNCF Chief Executive Officer Dolly Goh and SNCF Chairman Chan Tee Seng (first, second and third from right respectively)

Each action that benefits society, no matter how trivial, creates a ripple effect.

That was what 10 Seacare Co-operative delegates learnt at the four-day Annual Co-operative Leaders' Conference (ACLC) 2016, which was held by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) from 15-19 April in Kochi, India.

Keeping in step with the theme 'Small Steps...Great Impact', 10 guest speakers from several industries, including Mr Poh Leong Sim, Group Company Secretary and Director (Legal) of NTUC Fairprice Co-operative Ltd, and Mr Alex Shieh, Deputy Director of Education Consultancy Division at Educare Co-operative, captivated the attendees with motivating stories of their co-operatives' rise to excellence.

Managing Director of Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (Amul brand) Rupinder Singh Sodhi presented on the role of co-operatives in India's socio-economic development. Amul, India's largest dairy co-operative and a prime example of long-term success in the co-operative sector, was first conceived to prevent dairy traders from exploiting marginal milk producers.



Seacare Officer Kathryn Ang (left) receiving a memento on behalf of Seacare Co-operative, from SNCF Chairman Chan Tee Seng and Chief Executive Officer Dolly Goh

It birthed the White Revolution of India, resulting in the country becoming the largest producer of milk products in the world today.

Mr S Gulam, Chairman of Singapore Statutory Boards Employees' Co-operative Thrift and Loan Society Limited, shared how the co-operative recovered from a financial crisis, while SNCF Marketing and Events Manager P Ramesh spoke about the benefits of social media in promoting the co-operative identity.

Mr Koh Seng Choon, guest speaker and Founder of Singapore's first hawker training school for the disadvantaged, Dignity Kitchen, won the admiration of the affiliates for his unconquerable determination in creating a better world for the disabled.



Rupinder Singh Sodhi, Managing Director of Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (Amul brand)



Alex Shieh, Deputy Director of Education Consultancy Division at Educare Co-operative



Poh Leong Sim, Group Company Secretary and Director (Legal) of NTUC Fairprice Co-operative Ltd



S Gulam, Chairman of Singapore Statutory Boards Employees' Co-operative Thrift and Loan Society Ltd



Yoong Ee Chuan, Chairman of the Ngee Ann Polytechnic Consumer Co-operative Society Ltd



Panelists Poh Leong Sim, Alex Shieh, Koh Seng Choon, Rupinder Singh Sodhi, and moderator Kwek Kok Kwang engaging the audience



Seacare Officer Shirley Lai giving an update on Seacare's progress since the last ACLC

The Seacare Hotel's Assistant Sales Director Yvonne Teo said, "Mr Koh was able to overcome multiple obstacles and make full use of every opportunity, which really impressed me. He taught me that there are solutions to every problem."

"Listening to his stories was heartwarming," agreed Claudia Toh, Assistant Manager of Seacare Manpower Services. "He was full of passion and love for the people in society who require extra assistance, and was so attuned to their needs. Leadership starts with a vision."

A panel discussion and breakout sessions allowed the delegates to gain a deeper understanding of co-operative operations and come up with effective ways to recruit more youths.



Taking time off their busy schedules, they also embarked on a free and easy excursion to Kochi's places of attractions.

Kathryn Ang, Senior Manager of Seacare Co-operative Limited, summed up the whole conference perfectly: "It is a good platform to learn more and network with other Service Sector co-ops. The speakers are also very inspiring. They reminded us that taking small steps to deal with challenges can leave a big impact."



It was enjoyable to hear the different speakers share about their experiences and dedication to their focus. They were well versed in what they wanted to convey.

– **Razak, from Seacare Maritime Medical Centre**

I will never forget what Mr Gulam mentioned during the sharing session: 'In life, do not forget people who push you up'. A good organisation needs a strong committee and employees with integrity.

– **Nurul Shadrina, from Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd**



SOS members and SSC Ordinary Members registering their attendance for the SSC AGM on 8 June 2016



SSC Chairman David Sim (centre) giving an overview of the club's past performance and answering queries from the floor during the AGM

SSC HOLDS AGM IN JUNE

The Seacare Seafarers' Club (SSC) conducted its 6th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Seacare Maritime Hall on 8 June. The meeting was attended by some 100 SSC members.

Chairman David Sim Hor Pheng gave an overview of SSC's performance over the years while Secretary Ong Zhiwei highlighted the Club's progress for the past year in terms of its membership, finances and operations.

At the AGM, the motion to cease SSC's jackpot facilities was unanimously approved. Operations will cease on 7 July.





NETWORKING FUN FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL AFFILIATES



This year, the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) took its Service & NTUC Sectors Networking Event one step further by hosting it at Seacare's Club@52 on 31 May.

Unlike previous years, this year's event was attended not only by local affiliates, but also international participants of diverse areas of work and fields of expertise. Foreign delegates from Malaysia, Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Vietnam, who attended a three-day regional workshop arranged by International Co-operative Alliance Asia Pacific, mingled with local affiliates from 22 Service and NTUC Sectors Co-operatives. Joining them were regional delegates who had gone for the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Asia Pacific Young Workers Network Workshop that was held at the Seacare Building.

The event kickstarted with a welcome speech by SNCF Chairman, Chan Tee Seng, followed by a presentation, showcasing past co-operative events, as well as SNCF's upcoming activities and programmes. RunningHour Co-operative Ltd, a co-operative that aids athletes with special needs, updated the audience on their upcoming events, while Silver Caregivers Co-operative Ltd, of which Seacare Co-operative Limited is an institutional member, showcased its activities and programmes via a booth.

The programme created a positive environment for participants to reach out to one another, widen their social network and strengthen ties.



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