

Nov + Jan 2006

samudra

UNITED WE TOAST!

S **STAFF**
15th Anniversary

seAcAre
12th Anniversary



nov + jan 2007

samudra

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seAcAre

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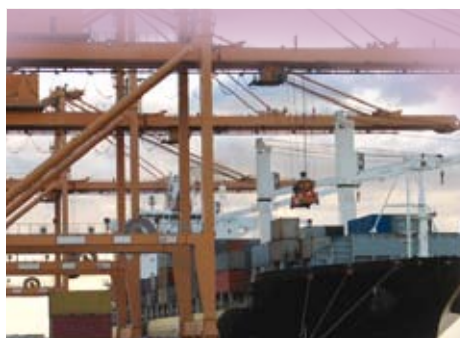
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SOS PROMOTES SINGAPORE UNLIMITED MINDSET

SOS was commended for adopting and promoting a Singapore Unlimited mindset.

Though a large number of the Union members are not Singaporeans, SOS takes pride in looking after their interests. These members are part of the Singapore Unlimited family. By constantly looking for new ways to take care of its local and foreign members, SOS possesses a mindset that seeks to break ground.

These compliments came from then NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Mr Lim Swee Say who was the guest-of-honour at the joint SOS 35th/Seacare 12th Anniversary Dinner Celebration held on 24 November 2006 at the Ritz-Carlton.

In his speech, Mr Lim advocated the building of the Singapore Unlimited and Singapore United vision. Singapore Unlimited will be a nation that is not limited by internal or external factors such as talents and markets. Singapore Unlimited will require an unlimited mindset.

“At the same time, we want the unlimited Singapore to be a united Singapore. We want to do more for our workers to make sure that as they work harder or run faster in the climate of globalisation, they are well-fed and well-paid and are not neglected,” Mr Lim commented.

The labour movement has been playing its part in nation building – by keeping Singapore competitive and by taking care of the workers.



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Mr Lim commented.



GOING BIG ON MEMBERS' WELFARE HERE AND ABROAD

Five exciting projects, which will significantly benefit SOS local and foreign members as well as international seafarers, were revealed by SOS General Secretary and Seacare Chairman Mr Leow Ching Chuan.

Within two years, as part of the Union and Co-operative's sustained effort to broaden the scope of operation of both the SOS and Seacare, these projects will be rolled out:

- A Seacare International Drop-in Centre for Seafarers is to be set up in the Pasir Panjang Container Port.
- A Seacare Sailor Home is to be set up in Sunshine Garden Building in Manila for the use of SOS members.
- A Maritime Telemedical Service Centre is to be set up at the Seacare Maritime Medical Centre to provide 24 hours round-the-clock remote medical advisory assistance to seafarers serving on board SOS CBA ships.
- The current Seacare Medical Scheme will be further expanded and improved to serve all our members better.
- A Seacare Maritime Training Scheme and a Seacare Gift Scheme are to be launched.

"I hope what I have been saying does not sound too ambitious to you, but it is

the very least the SOS and Seacare can do for SOS local and foreign members and also International seafarers," Mr Leow said at the joint SOS 35th/Seacare 12th Anniversary Dinner Celebration held on 24 November 2006 at the Ritz-Carlton.



The Union chief pointed out that by itself, the SOS may find it impractical to serve its members satisfactorily beyond the Singapore shores. Thus, these projects are made possible through Seacare Group of companies with their diverse range of business activities which provide the basis for commercial networking and link-ups with similar enterprises elsewhere in the world.

"Such networking and link-ups will serve the SOS well in the event of our participating in the promotion of international seafarers' welfare. We are confident we can play this role well," Mr Leow pointed out.

On SOS' success, Mr Leow had a glowing report to present on the auspicious occasion.

SOS THEN	SOS NOW
1970s	2006
500 Members	14,500 Members
200 square feet rented office	32,338 square feet Seacare Building
25 CBA Ships	500 CBA Ships and Growing

"The SOS is where it is today mainly because of the staunch support we receive from the NTUC, our members and the shipping community," Mr Leow highlighted.

The Seacare Co-operative, the commercial arm of SOS has also steadily grown in strength since its formation 12 years ago. The Seacare Group currently consisted of 15 units with a yearly turnover of more than \$25 million and a staff strength of more than 1,000 persons.

Indeed, that called for a glittering celebration!

The Ties That Bind

They jet in from various corners of the world, to congratulate SOS on its 35th anniversary. Some proudly donning their national costumes, like the Vietnamese; some presented sincere tokens of gifts on stage. SOS is indeed proud to play host to our distinguished guests.

Mr Paddy Crumlin

National Secretary,
Maritime Union of Australia



"Singapore plays a crucial part in the success and the future of the Asia Pacific Region. Singapore workers are essential to the economy and therefore, it is important that unions like SOS continue to perform in workers' interests as well as the public's interests. I would hereby like to thank SOS for their friendship to our Australian unions and their strong support to ITF."

Mr Erik Bratvold

President, Norwegian Seafarers Union



"Thirty-five years of SOS, thirty-five years of solidarity, thirty-five years of taking care of seafarers' interests. You have overcome many challenges through implementing new solutions and adapting to the ever-changing environment. The leadership and members of SOS have braved these changes and challenges in a professional manner. Let me propose a toast to all members and leaders of SOS; thank you for your friendship and the very best for a greater future ahead!"

Mr Tomas Abrahamsson

Vice Chairman, Swedish Trade Union of
Communication & Service Employees



"I expect to be invited even in 35 years' time... even if I were to be an 89-year-old veteran!"
Mr Abrahamsson praised the excellent relationship shared with SOS and even bestowed a special gift to General Secretary, Mr Leow Ching Chuan – making him a member of the Swedish union!

Mr Abdulgani Y. Serang

General Secretary cum Treasurer,
National Union of Seafarers of India



"Someone asked me why I was willing to make such a long journey from India just to attend a dinner function in Singapore. I told them, 'Goodwill and solidarity'. It is inexplicable, but it is more than the dinner we are coming for; it represents the firm ties we have enjoyed all these while, and it bodes the well wishes we have for SOS. May you continue to strengthen and have a bright future!"

Mr Kwok Kam Wah

Chairman, Hong Kong Seamen's Union



"We share a long history with SOS, and it is my wish to see this friendship extend forever more!"

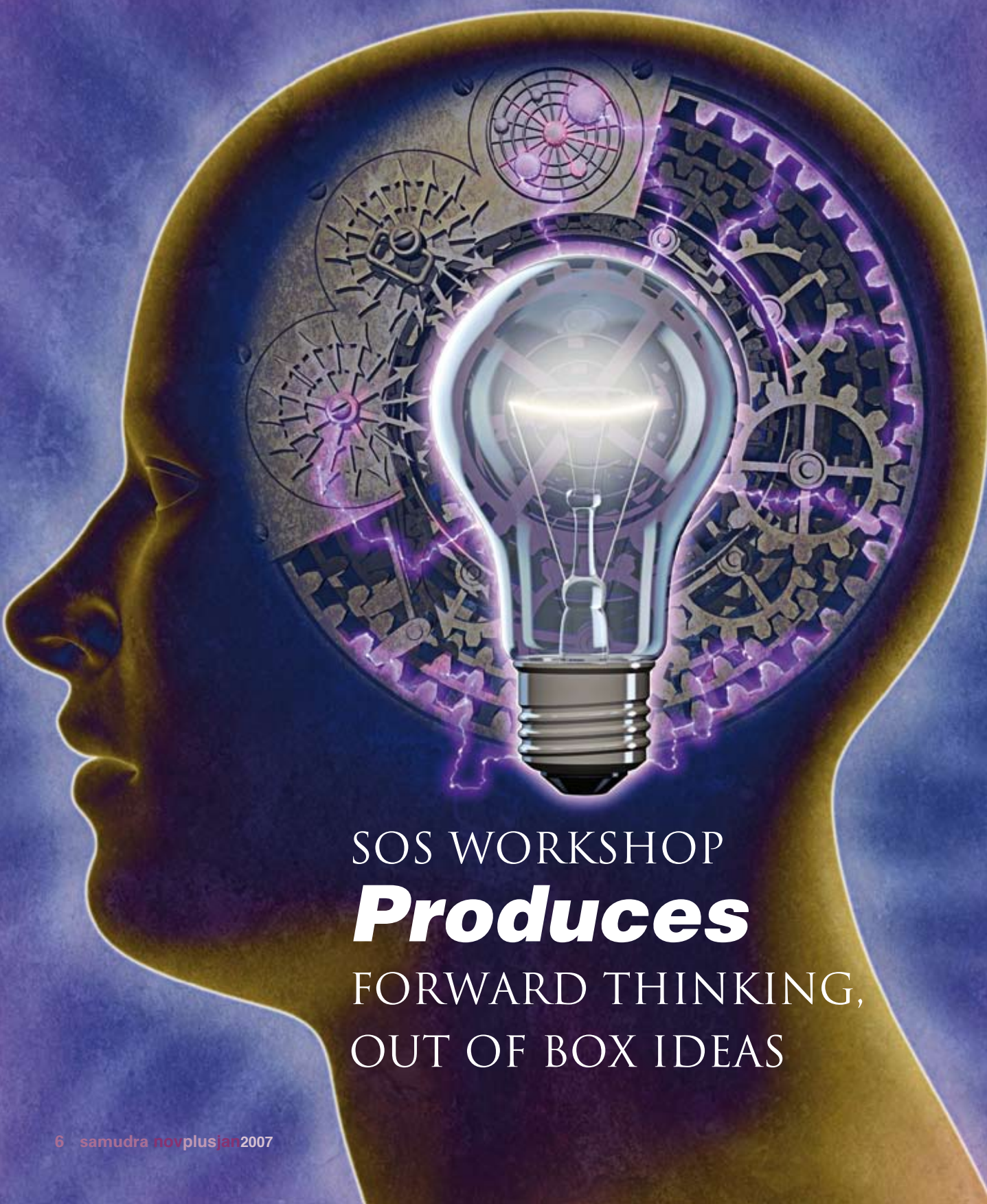
Capt Lu Shui Tien

President, National Chinese Seamen's Union



"Singapore's robust economy is due to the win-win-win relations between the tripartite parties. There is so much we can learn from our Singapore comrades. I am very impressed with SOS and their members, the solidarity and unity they have, standing tall and firm together as a union. SOS is a success story, definitely a good example to emulate."





SOS WORKSHOP
Produces

FORWARD THINKING,
OUT OF BOX IDEAS



SOS welcomed the new year with a four-day round table session where leaders and staff reviewed and reformed workplans for the new financial year, focusing on the values and relevancy of the Union.

Chaired by General Secretary Mr Leow Ching Chuan, this annual workshop which took place from 18 to 21 January 2007 brought some 60 Executive Committee, Standing Committee members and staff together at Hainan Island, China.

This year, participants were privy to tap on the expertise and knowledge of an invited guest speaker, Ms Cindy Koh, Director of The Write Stuff Pte Ltd, who presented a paper on Corporate Communications in shaping perception.

Taking on a new approach in this workshop, participants were grouped into the four main divisions namely the

- Industrial/International Relations;
- Welfare, Community Services and Training;
- Membership, Finance & Investment and
- Corporate Communications

Led by a chairperson, each group of participants made up of committee members and support staff from the relevant divisions, deliberated on related issues and thought out-of-the-box. The aim was to brainstorm on ways to enable the Union to be even more relevant, effective and dynamic in all it does.

Participants reviewed the Workplan FY06/07 and were challenged to formulate forward-thinking plans, of how SOS can scale greater heights and enhance the quality of life of members and value of membership. These findings and decisions will shape the Workplan for the next financial year, and will be tabled for the EXCO's final approval and input.



ITF Offshore Taskforce Seminar Calls for

STRONGER ACTION AGAINST FOC VESSELS

Following the success of the inaugural ITF Offshore Taskforce Group meeting held last June in Seacare Building, the ITF Offshore Taskforce Seminar held on 22 and 23 January 2007 also took place in the multi-purpose hall of Seacare Building.

The seminar, which offered invaluable opportunity for discussion and exchange of views amongst delegates from the offshore and oil-rig and gas representatives in the region, called for stronger action against Flags of Convenience (FOC) vessels. The core message was that if all parties in the maritime industry shape up and work

together hand-in-hand, FOC vessels will be a thing of the past.

The two-day seminar aimed at educating volunteers and shipping management organisations about the role of ITF, and the 'how's and 'why's about combating ship owners flying FOC. The greater buzz created amongst unions and companies can certainly contribute a positive impact in the battle against FOC. The seminar also addressed the need for stronger tripartite efforts.

Mr Kam Soon Huat, SOS Executive Secretary, told Samudra: "Offshore oil-rig installations or gas production and supply do not employ many Singaporeans but international offshore activities has a bearing on our country. We must not negate the significance globalisation has on our economy, and embracing globalisation is about securing decent work for workers. That calls for strong tripartite efforts."

He suggested that an ideal possibility and outcome would be focusing on organising companies and unionising seafarers or workers in offshore industries.

ITF Advance FOC Seminar

FOC issues dominated the ITF Advance FOC Seminar too, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 27 to 30 November 2006.

An annual conference, delegates congregated to tackle concerns arising due to FOC vessels, which are not covered under any ITF Approval agreements.

Mr Mohamed Idris Mohamed Ibrahim, Vice President of SOS reported that matters relating to the Week of Action were also touched on at the seminar. The Week of Action took place from 4 to 8 December 2006.



APSRC Meeting

A one-day ITF Asia/Pacific Regional Committee Meeting was held in Sydney, Australia on 21 November 2006.

The APSRC members met up to look more in-depth at issues which were brought up at the ITF 41st Congress, which took place last August in Durban; as well as examine and consider possible plans of actions. Mr Kam Soon Huat Executive Secretary of SOS represented the Union at the meeting.

Taking centrestage at the forum was the issue of retaining jobs for seafarers in developed countries. Other highlights of the meeting included the deliberation of issues concerning ITF FOC Campaign Policy and wage rates for non-domiciled seafarers on national flag vessels.

The Vice-Chairman of the ITF Asia/Pacific Seafarers' Regional Committee (APSRC), Capt George Oca, stepped down from the position at the APSRC Meeting. His past contribution was noted and appreciated.

SOS AND PACC SEALS A GOOD DEAL



A new Collective Agreement with better terms.

That sums up the new Singapore Flag/Foreign Crews' CA negotiated and signed between SOS and PACC Ship Managers Pte Ltd. Mr Leow Ching Chuan, General Secretary of SOS and Mr Kam Soon Huat, Executive Secretary, sealed the CA with Mr Lim Tau Kok, General Manager of PACC and Capt Anthony Khoo, Senior Manager, on 13 December 2006.

Both SOS and PACC nailed down the details of the new CA and shook hands on it, and it certainly was 'not just another CA'. The new CA spoke volumes about PACC Ship Managers' commitment towards providing better welfare for the ratings through SOS.

PACC will implement the Seacare Medical Scheme, Seafarers' Education Plan and the Seafarers' Insurance Plan offered through SOS; giving members well-rounded coverage in terms of healthcare needs, security and the opportunity to upgrading themselves.

Ratings employed onboard the 24 Singapore Flag vessels can look forward to benefiting from this renewed CA, which is slated to be in force for three years, with effect from 19 September 2006 to 18 September 2009.

Said GS Mr Leow, "We are pleased and appreciative to the Management for the smooth conclusion of this CA. Our firm working relations and strong level of trust with PACC form the basis for this new CA, and will certainly continue to pave the way for better days ahead."

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SEASONS GREETINGS PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO SEVEN VESSELS

It was a race against time, but SOS Vice President Mr Mohamed Idris Mohamed Ibrahim overcame the challenge to visit as many as seven vessels within two weeks.

The whirlwind ship visits were carried out in conjunction with the festive season of Christmas and New Year Celebrations and to spread the spirit of giving and sharing.

Mr Mohamed Idris paid courtesy calls to crew members serving on board vessels covered under SOS CBAs, asking after their welfare and giving away a galore of mementos including calendars, caps, towels and umbrellas.

And it was especially meaningful, because members got to celebrate the festivities with a log cake specially prepared for them. It was not at all surprising that all the members are proud to proclaim that they feel proud to be an SOS member!

The vessels visited were:

- APL Cyprine on 13 December
- Kota Waris on 15 December
- APL Cairo and Kota Hadiyah on 19 December
- APL Amazonite and Kota Waruna on 20 December
- Kota Beranj on 23 December





LM 2011

- ALL ENCOMPASSING;
ALL INCLUSIVE



NTUC Secretary-General Mr Lim Swee Say's call to work towards fulfilling the bold, new vision of creating a Labour Movement for All collars, nationalities and ages of workers by 2011 is gaining much momentum.

"Dragonboats", each with its own drummer, also known as an Alignment Director, has like-minded, passionate rowers in the form of NTUC staff, union leaders and tripartite partners, are formed to work toward fulfilling LM 2011.



The overall aim of LM 2011 is to take the labour movement further and to touch the lives of everyone. The framework is to attract, grow and retain members. No one will be left out and there will be no room for the social divide (such as younger and older workers; higher and lower-waged workers and foreign and local workers).

What happens if the labour movement is only for older, lower-waged and local workers? Then, the labour movement becomes part of the social divide. Then, the labour movement becomes part of the problem, said Mr Lim.

"Dragonboats", each with its own drummer, also known as an Alignment Director, has like-minded, passionate rowers in the form of NTUC staff, union leaders and tripartite partners, are formed to work toward fulfilling LM 2011.

On 26 January 2007, it was announced that four more dragonboats were added to the list of nine dragonboats as a result of the continuing conversation.

- Care and Share Dragonboat will focus on the kindness movement of the NTUC
- All Nationalities Dragonboat which will develop a holistic framework to reach out to foreign workers
- Organisation Development Dragonboat with responsibilities that encompasses branding, knowledge management and people development; and
- NTUC 50, to plan and execute NTUC's 50th Anniversary in 2011.

No	Dragonboats	Target Segment	Objective
1	0 – 12 Years Old	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise potential
2	12 – 18 Years Old	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give children from lower income families a good head start • Build connection so that they remain associated with NTUC
3	Uth Movement	Adults 18 – 35 Years Old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, Retain & Develop Young adults • Instill passion to serve in Labour movement
4	No Collar	Workers in atypical work arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve stronger representation for workers • Help attain fairer employment terms
5	Gold Collar	Executives & Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract more execs & professionals to join membership
6	Silver Collar	Senior Citizens Post-50s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance quality of life • Healthy Lifestyle • Stay employable
7	Life-time Connect	Union members, customers of NTUC Co-operatives & family members of NTUC members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage on combined customer and member relationship across the labour movement to increase the share of heart and share of wallet
8	Singapore Tripartism Forum	Local & foreign union leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalise & strengthen tripartism to improve quality of life for all.
9	Employment & Employability Institute	Working Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip workers with the skills and knowledge to take on highly skilled jobs created in globally oriented sectors

The labour movement is set to be all encompassing, all inclusive.

* Reference : http://www.ntuc.org.sg/documents/020207_2.pdf



FOREIGN MEMBERS REAPING THE BENEFITS OF SMS



One and half years ago, a scheme was launched to provide basic healthcare to SOS Filipino members. Many applauded the bold and ingenious Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) that touches the lives of these members and their family.

Now, one and half years on, the Scheme has eased the financial burden of a sizable group of grateful and appreciative members. In a

move to create awareness to more Filipino members, SOS organised a SMS seminar on 15 December 2006 in Manila, Philippines. The seminar provided a good opportunity for the Union to seek feedback and suggestions from the Filipino members, representatives from shipping companies and manning agents. Union officials including Mr Tan Jing Bock, SOS President, Mr Kam Soon Huat, SOS

Executive Secretary and SMS Manager, Ms Mariana Amad made the trip to Manila to touch base with the members.

Said Mr Kam, "When SMS was first launched, we focused on raising the awareness and ensuring that members understood how they could benefit from it. It is still our objective that members maximise usage and reap abundantly from SMS. Hence it is necessary that we gather their reviews, evaluate the system and re-assess how we can fine-tune it."

At the seminar, the benefits and procedures were explained to some 130 members, after which they were taken through the steps on how to utilise this scheme.

The SMS enables members and their dependents to have their basic medical examinations covered through appointed clinics in the Philippines – two in Manila and one in Cebu.

SMS has three other appointed clinics in Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.



YET TO UTILISE YOUR BENEFIT?

Are you...

...a qualified SOS Local Member, who has not utilise your free health screening and/or eye examination?

Please be reminded that the health screening and eye examination benefit for current term of office will expire in end March 2008.

Please note that these benefits are not transferable and cannot be carried forward to the next term. So be sure to make your appointment today by calling Welfare Division at 6379 5670





MANILA FIESTA!



What better way to end the year than to throw a party and have a big celebration!

SOS brought the party to our members in Manila for the first time and it certainly did much to hype the jubilant moods of those who were there.

On 15 December 2006, SOS leaders, members and shipping associates descended at the Hyatt Hotel ballroom for a spectacular evening. The mood was relaxed and under the cosy settings in the ballroom, the spontaneous crowd took the opportunity to mingle around and enjoy the good food and great fun. The main thrill of course, was the programme lined up. With the DJ spinning songs, participants soon took to the floor and danced to their hearts' delight. A live band also fired up the atmosphere with their performance, jamming and entertaining the crowd. Games, activities and the lucky draw were the various appetisers that spiced up the event.

SOS President Mr Tan Jing Bock, Executive Secretary Mr Kam Soon Huat, Membership Committee Chairman Mr David Sim, IR Division Assistant Manager Mr Daniel Tan, Manager in charge of SMS Ms Mariana Angel and Welfare Division Executive Ms Adila Juman were present to touch base and to get to know the members better.

Said SOS President, "We just wanted to spread some Christmas and New Year cheer to the members and celebrate as a SOS family. It warmed our hearts to see and to know that our Filipino members enjoyed themselves, because the dinner is for them and all about them."



REVISION OF SOS TRAINING SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE 2

– SEAFARING RELATED COURSES

A) DELETION

- None

B) ADDITION

- None -

SCHEDULE 3

– NON-SEAFARING RELATED COURSES

A) DELETION

1. Training provider: MOM-OSH

Course title:

1. Industrial First Aid Course
2. Industrial First Aid Course (Refresher)

The above 2 courses are no longer conducted by MOM-OSH and also has been renamed to Occupational First Aid Course

2. Training provider: St John Ambulance Singapore (Beach Road HQ)

Course title:

1. Elementary First Aid

3. Training provider: ITE

Part-time Training in NITEC

Course title:

1. Mechanical-Electrical Drafting

4. Training provider: PSA INSTITUTE

Course title:

1. PSA Shipping Delivery and Warehousing Procedures
- All the above courses are no longer conducted by the training providers.

B) ADDITION

1. Training provider: St John Ambulance Singapore (Beach Road HQ & Jurong East Ctr)

Course title:

1. Occupational First Aid Course
Fee-\$180 Duration-24hrs
2. Occupational First Aid Course (Refresher)
Fee-\$150 Duration 18hrs

The above 2 courses are regulated by MOM-OSH and formerly known as Industrial First Aid Course.

2. Training provider: ITE

Part-time Training in Higher NITEC

Course title:

1. Integrated Logistics Management

Short Skills Courses

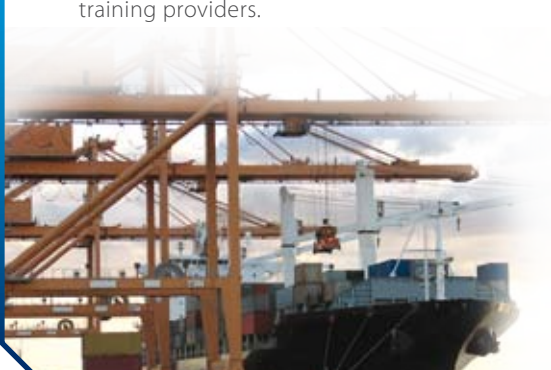
Course title:

1. Beauty & Wellness
2. Train the Trainer

3. Training provider: PSA Institute

Course title:

1. Cargo Handling Skills for Conventional Operations
Fee-\$136.50 Duration-2 days
2. Cargo Supervision
Fee-\$136.50 Duration-2 days
3. Vessel Berthing/Unberthing Course
Fee-\$94.50 Duration-2 hours



SHARING BLESSINGS, SPREADING JOY

For the first time, residents from SOS adopted home were chartered to the grounds of the Seacare Building for a day of Christmas fun filled with endless peels of laughter. They were treated to sumptuous lunch buffet and a satisfying session of Karaoke. And their enthusiastic participation was heart-warming indeed!

Organised in the spirit of Christmas sharing and joy, the event brought out the singing stars out of the residents of Asia Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) Community Home for Senior Citizens who belt out one golden hit after another. The non-singers were more than comfortable mingling and lounging at the cosy settings at Club@52, where they were 'wined and dined' by SOS/Seacare officials.

Ms Yang Geok Foong, Director of AWWA, led the group of 40 for the 22 December excursion. The previous years saw SOS/Seacare officials bringing the goodies to the residents instead.

With SOS/Seacare having 'home ground advantage', they certainly pulled out all stops to roll out more fares. SOS donated to AWWA a SHARP 20-inch Colour LCD Television,

on behalf of Mr Choo Jee Sam of ETOP Services Malaysia Sdn Bhd. Mr Choo had won the television, which was the first prize of the lucky draw, at SOS/Seacare's 35th Anniversary Dinner, but had generously donated it back. His gracious act will now benefit the elderly at AWWA.

SOS also sponsored lucky draw prizes for AWWA's New Year Reunion Dinner, which took place on 14 February 2007. The prizes ranged from electrical home appliances such as 'Takada' Rice Cookers, Multi-purpose Cookers, Hot Flasks and everyday necessities like milk powder.

TIMELY TALK ON health



With a silvering society, it is little wonder that health-related issues should warrant more attention from members.

SOS members gained a better understanding of the latest policy changes to the Medisave Account and utilising their Medisave Account for treatment of chronic diseases in a talk organised by SOS. Forty-five members signed up for the in-house talk held on 31 January 2007 at Seacare Building.

SOS deemed it necessary to raise awareness amongst members with regards to basic issues such as what constitutes as 'Chronic Diseases', the importance of keeping them under control, and the 'how' and 'where' to sign up for the Medisave Account.

Two esteemed speakers from both CPF Board and MOH were invited to clarify members' doubts. Mr Khoo Kok Tong, a Health Policy Analyst with Integrated Health Services Division, touched on this new programme under Medisave. Dr Ho Han Kwee, Deputy Director (Primary Care) from MOH explained in-depth about the necessity of having such programmes to guard the people. Dr Ho is currently overseeing the medical aspect of the implementation and review of the chronic disease management programme.

Members expressed that the talk was timely and fruitful. They benefited from the Q-and-A section and the clear explanation of the two speakers.

SOS Social Calendar

April '07



HOUSEWIVES
GATHERING SESSION

May '07

VISIT TO
WELFARE HOMES



June '07

FAMILY
OUTING
(OVERSEAS)

SOS/SEACARE
MEMBERS' NIGHT



October '07



HARI RAYA
CELEBRATION

November '07

DEEPAVALI
CELEBRATION



December '07

VISIT TO
WELFARE HOMES

SOS 36TH / SEACARE
13TH ANNIVERSARY
DINNER

YEAR END RECEPTION
FOR SOS INDONESIAN
AND FILIPINO MEMBERS



ndar FOR 2007/2008

July '07

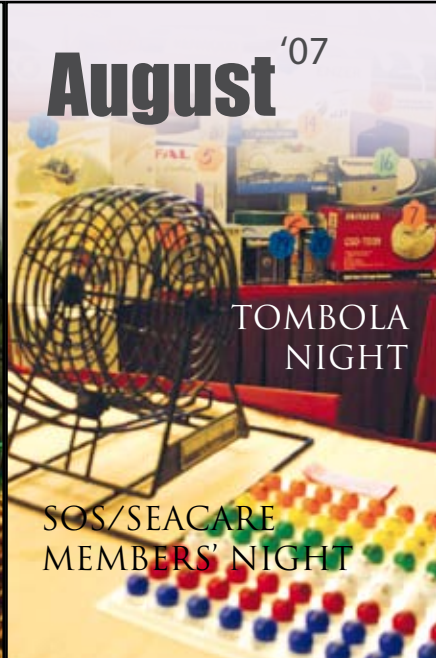
DURIAN TRIP
TO WEST MALAYSIA



August '07

TOMBOLA
NIGHT

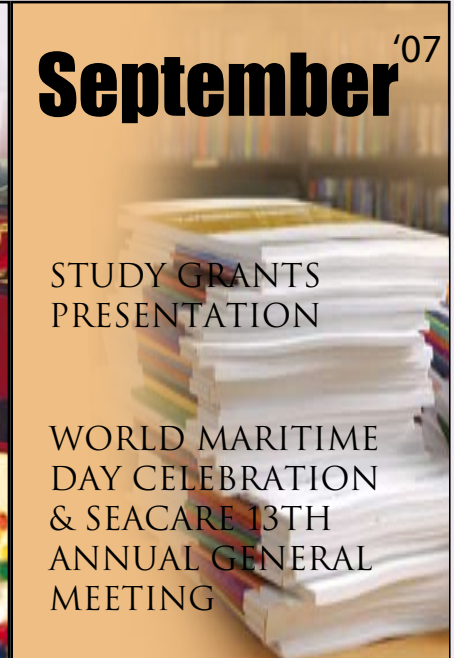
SOS/SEACARE
MEMBERS' NIGHT



September '07

STUDY GRANTS
PRESENTATION

WORLD MARITIME
DAY CELEBRATION
& SEACARE 13TH
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING



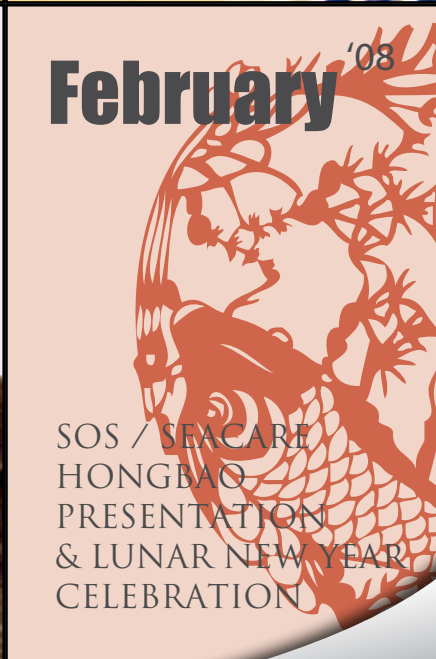
January '08

IN-HOUSE TALK



February '08

SOS / SEACARE
HONGBAO
PRESENTATION
& LUNAR NEW YEAR
CELEBRATION



March '08

DIALOGUE SESSION
WITH GENERAL
SECRETARY

SOS/SEACARE
MEMBERS' NIGHT



Member's Family Receives

PROMPT ASSISTANCE FROM SOS



It was a touching moment – Madam Gloria T. Ulita uttering a simple ‘thank you’ as a show of appreciation to the SOS officials who have rendered the necessary assistance to help the Ulita family.

Mr Samuel G Ulita's demise last September saw his closest kin going through much pain and grief. The SOS foreign member was forty-seven years of age and had passed away due to stroke and heart failure. He last served on the vessel 'Eagle Charlotte'.

As the main breadwinner in the family, Mr Samuel's death also means that the Ulita family had to make difficult adjustments in their lives while dealing with their loss.

Despite the miles between the Union in Singapore and the family in the Philippines, SOS handled the necessary paperwork and expedited the family's application for the SPF payout and Death Benefit Claim.

On 15 December 2006, the Ulita family was invited to the dinner reception for Filipino members in Manila. Madam Gloria T Ulita, wife of the late member, was accompanied by her son and daughter, Allan T Ulita and Ma Cecilia U Martin. They conveyed that the late Mr Ulita would have loved to be able to participate in the celebrations.

Mr Tan Jing Bock, SOS President and Mr Kam Soon Huat, SOS Executive Secretary presented two cheques to Madam Gloria, the beneficiary of both payouts. The Death Benefit Claim came up to S\$5,500 while the SPF Payout was S\$1,178.57.

CONDOLENCES



An NTUC Gift Plus Claim was also presented to the spouse of Mr Sairi Yahya, who passed away on 27 January 2007 at 60 years of age. Madam Nilie Dick accepted the cheque of \$5,500 and expressed her appreciation to the Union for the assistance rendered. The Union sends its condolences.

SOS NEW ALTERNATE EXCO MEMBER

Mr Daniel Tan was appointed as the new alternate member of the SOS Executive Committee with effective from December 2006. Welcome onboard!



BOUNCING BABY BOY!

"I am Baby Willy Chow, born on 6 October 2006!"

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Chow Seng Kok on the birth of their baby boy! SOS sent our best wishes with a hamper on 29 November to congratulate the Chow family.

Seacare Focus



TRIPARTITE PARTICIPATIO



He also raised the possibility of installing an education fund to help arrest the problem of shortages of seafarers.

The spontaneous spirit of bipartisanship was unmistakable at the recently held Seacare Workshop, where management staff of Seacare Group of companies met up with representatives from the Singapore Maritime Employers Federation (SMEF) to share ideas on lifting Seacare to scale even greater heights.

Twenty-seven directors and management staff of the Seacare Group of companies were at the event, which was held in Chengdu and Jiu Zhai in China over seven days. Representing 11 Seacare companies, the management staff also put forth their upcoming plans for the next two years.

To have both Seacare and SMEF deliberating on issues on a common ground certainly shed light on how to promote the welfare

and training for seafarers, and how Seacare can play a role in this, which was one of the key focuses at the Workshop. Capt Chong Chee Eng, Chairman of SMEF led the delegation, which comprised of Mr Victor Lim, Vice Chairman, Capt Joseph Francis, Treasurer and Mr Bernard Tan, member.

Mr Ake Gunnar Selander, Seacare Honorary Advisor, who being an ex-Executive Director of the International Committee on Seafarers' Welfare (ICSW), shared with the participants about what can be done, especially from the perspective of welfare agencies. Capt Chong Chee Eng, Chairman of SMEF, delivered a paper on Seacare's role, representing the views of shipping employers. He also raised the possibility of installing an education fund to help arrest the problem of shortages of seafarers.

N AT SEACARE WORKSHOP



Following the day's exchanges, Mr Kong Mun Kwong, Chairman of Seacare Holdings Pte Ltd, challenged his fellow colleagues with a 'vision' for Seacare – **be innovative and extend outreach to a wider market. The key remains to continue to synergise**

and consolidate resources, which most certainly can add value to the services that the Seacare Group is providing.

Two NTUC Directors had also made their way to the Seacare Workshop. Ms Joanne Cham,

Director of NTUC Industrial Relations and Mr Ryan Cheong, Director of NTUC Group Development were invited to speak at the event. Both touched on the issue of LM2011 and how the labour movement can do its part to reach out and hear more workers.





“LET’S WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS ALL COLLARS!”

As at year 2005, Seacare Manpower’s dedicated team of recruiters has signed up a total of 110,354 new members, since October 2001. Add to that figure is 10,953 members recruited in year 2006; and the new total standing at 121,307 is a testament of Seacare Manpower’s focus and commitment to NTUC’s call to bridge divides through LM2011.

Speaking at the Seacare Manpower Recruitment Award Presentation, Guest-of-Honour Mr Seng Han Thong, NTUC Assistant Secretary-General, commented: “There are some 476,000 union members as at December 2006, and this is a collective effort of our unions, of recruiters like you. I am heartened and encouraged to know that we have a very high chance of hitting half a million membership by August 2007. I thank you, and congratulate you on your effort and support.”

Mr Seng, MP for Yio Chu Kang Constituency, also urged everyone not to let up, but continue to build on the membership numbers. With NTUC’s five-year plan – LM2011, working towards widening the membership source by targeting the various collars will certainly see the labour movement rise up to the challenge of attaining a membership base of one million members.

Going forward, Mr Neo Gim Kian, NTUC Membership and Corporate Communications Competencies and Gold



Collar Alignment Director, pointed out that a combination of strategies has been identified and NTUC will continue to work closely with affiliates.

“Basically we have identified and are looking into a multi-pronged approach – improving processes & systems at the operation levels, so that we offer more conveniences such as on-the-spot issuance of membership cards; stepping up communication with members so that they understand NTUC better, what our role is and that we are here to help them. The other approach is to put forth more benefits for members, such as organising clubs for like-minded members and stretching the dollar for members through benefits and services.”

Mr Seng emphasised, “We aim to forge a better understanding of the labour movement and to build a more inclusive society.”



HIS HARD WORK HAS PAID OFF!



A year after being recruited to be a union member, Mr Mohd Darin Ibrahim became a recruiter himself. And for year 2006, he is the top recruiter at Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd.

Three years ago, he was in sales before becoming a recruiter. Mr Darin tried his hand at being a recruiter and found that he enjoyed the job, and it wasn't long before he turned full time.

It has not been easy for the first-time winner. He had to stop his recruiting work for about six months in 2005 due to health problems. But the determined man did not let this get him down. In fact, it was full steam ahead as he gave it his all after he recovered.

Flushed with pride as he went on stage to collect his award from Mr Seng Han Thong, Mr Darin has indeed come a long way. He said that he is spurred on to better his recruitment this year.

With three years of recruiting experience, Mr Darin knows what makes people tick. A tried-and-tested strategy? "My priority is to be honest about what I'm selling them, and the ultimate selling point is the fact that they have all to gain and nothing to lose by being a union member!"

These top three recruiters walked away with a Bohemia Crystal Trophy and digital camera each.

Four other individuals were also honoured for rendering their recruitment services to Seacare Manpower. These two-year long services award recipients are Mr Francis Khoo, Mr Leong Siew Cheong, Mr Cheah Seng Hin and Ms Sally Tan.

"I was third best recruiter in 2004; and this year I came in second. I'm happy with my performance, but I know I can do better. The satisfaction of knowing that members benefit from being a union member is a motivating force...but of course, the digital camera helps too!"

- Ms Anne Wee, the first runner-up.
She recruited 1,253 members for 2006.

"It's about persevering and being patient. I think having been in this line for about four years, it comes with the experience of knowing what caters to members' needs. I hope to do even better this year ahead!"

- Ms Sung Seoh Ing recruited 1,248 members in 2006, coming in a close third.

Indonesia Delegation

SEEKS TIE-UPS



Seacare Co-operative played host to a delegation from the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN), which is the sole apex organisation of the co-operative movement in Indonesia, on 25 January 2007.

Mr Benny A Kusbini, Vice President of DEKOPIN (International Relations), Mr Aip Sjarifuddin, Vice President of DEKOPIN (Trade Facilitation) and Mr Yuzri Suhud, Director of LAPENKOP NATIONAL (Training Centre) visited Seacare Co-operative Limited in a bid to explore business opportunities and possible tie-ups.

Also known as the Indonesian Co-operative Council, DEKOPIN boasts of a membership of 30 provincial chapters and 54 national federations of co-operatives in Indonesia. LAPENKOP is the training arm for the cooperative movement in Indonesia and showcases a big campus in Bandung.

The three-member delegation from DEKOPIN was given a warm welcome by Mr Leow Ching Chuan, Chairman of Seacare Co-operative, Mr Lee Van Chong, Director of Seacare Co-operative, Mr Tan Jing Bock, President of SOS and Ms Mariana Amad, Manager of Seacare Foundation.

Representatives of both sides kicked off a day of meaningful dialogues that saw both parties furthering their understanding and firming friendships.

The DEKOPIN delegation was given an explanation of the Seacare structure and led through an in-depth introduction of the various business activities that the Seacare Group undertakes. Seacare's role in promoting the welfare of SOS Indonesian members was also explained at length to the delegates.

At the session, Mr Yuzri, Director of LAPENKOP, indicated his keen interest in seeking tie-ups, just as DEKOPIN expressed their desire to collaborate with co-operatives in Singapore, especially in exploring business opportunities, such as in education industry, in Indonesia.

The host also brought the guests around the Seacare Building after the meeting, giving them an overview of the everyday operations at Seacare.



Seacare Education

OPENS MORE DOORS WITH NEW JV

The new year certainly bore good tidings for Seacare Education Pte Ltd as they welcome the new year with a new Joint Venture agreement with Hua Lan Education Investment Pte Ltd.

This JV will see both Seacare Education and Hua Lan Education Investment establishing an education management company focusing on managing bilingual and international schools in China. Hua Lan Education Investment is a company incorporated in China, involved in the fields of education, commerce and finance.

Seacare Education holds a 40% stake in the business while the remaining 60% will be held by Hua Lan Education Investment.

Mr Leow Ching Chuan, Chairman of Seacare, and Mr Yin Kuan of Hua Lan Education Investment sealed the JV on 5 January 2007, during which both parties expressed their enthusiasm for the upcoming projects, which are already in the pipeline.

Mr Goh Yeow Tin, CEO of Seacare Education and Ms Chua Lay Mui, General Manager of Xinnet Education Centre Pte Ltd were present at the signing of the JV too.

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