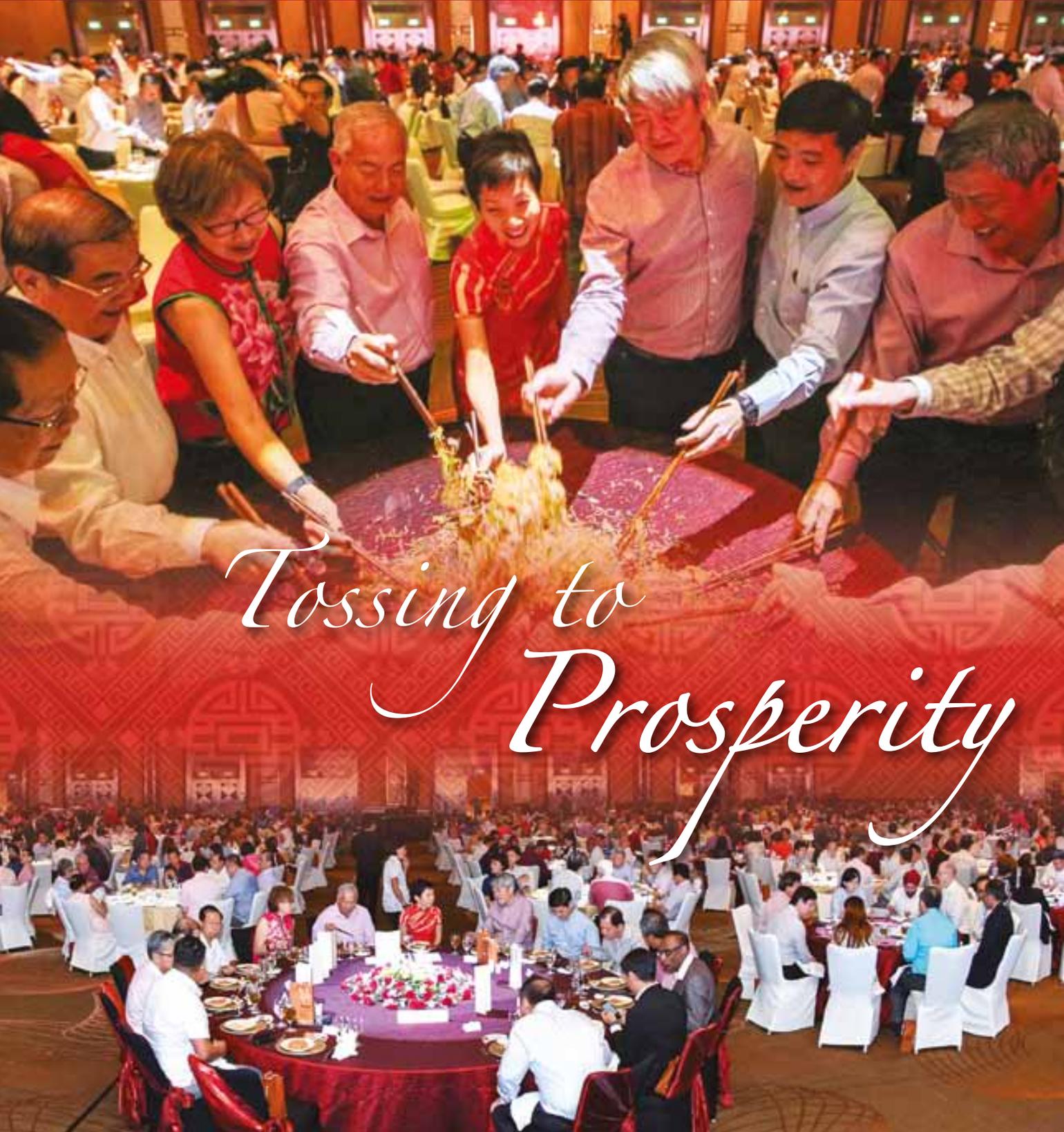


Issue 5  
17/18

# SAMUDRA

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

MCI (P) 016/06/2017



*Tossing to  
Prosperity*

Issue 5  
17/18



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SOS Seacare



## CELEBRATING AS ONE

In the spirit of unity, SOS and Seacare brought together the maritime community, government agencies, union members and their spouses and more for the auspicious Hong Bao Presentation and Lunar New Year Celebration.

Held at the Fairmont Ballroom at Raffles City Convention Centre on 23 February 2018, the event was filled with camaraderie and joys of the festivity as the two long, auspicious dragons and the team of nine God of Fortune mascots awed the guests with their spectacular presence.





Welcome note by President of SOS Mohamad Abu Bakar



Guest-of-Honour Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & SOS Advisor

Among the guests were residents from AWWA Community Home for Senior Citizens, Sree Narayana Mission Home for the Aged Sick, Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens and Jamiyah Home for the Aged (Darul Takrim) who were enthralled by the generosity of the hosts who not only invited them to the event but also presented them with hongbao.

Guest-of-Honour Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & SOS Advisor, took the opportunity to bring home an important message – the Singapore Budget





2018 is one that is geared towards helping Singaporeans to raise their skills level; and enhancing the well-being of the fast greying population. She went on to thank SOS for all the good work in reaching out to the needy.

Highlights of the event included the presentation of the SOS Long Membership Awards to Brother Mohamed Mahadir Ismail from the 15-year Membership category; and Brother Abdul Latib Talib and Brother Woon Tian Song Alex from the 30-year Membership category. They represented six other recipients who hit their 15-year membership in receiving the awards.





I would have gotten the 30 year membership award if I have joined SOS earlier. That's my regret for missing out all those years of enjoying the benefits of being a member since I started sailing as early as 1979.

– **Brother Mohamed Mahadir Ismail**



Though I am no longer sailing, SOS still supports and takes care of me. The seafarers are grateful for the care we receive. Thank you very much.

– **Brother Woon Tian Song Alex**

SOS really takes care of us. From the training subsidies to the children's study grants, we have all enjoyed the welfare benefits.

– **Brother Abdul Latib Talib**



**15 Years**  
Long Membership Award  
Recipients:

1. Mohamed Mahadir Ismail
2. Tan Chye Heng

**30 Years**  
Long Membership Award  
Recipients:

1. Abdul Latib Talib
2. Chan Chng Tau
3. Sadon Osman
4. Saidi Sidik
5. Abdul Rahim Adam
6. Tan Kay Joo
7. Woon Tian Song Alex

# ABOUT THE SURVEY ON FOOD QUALITY AND TRANSPORT EXPECTATION

SOS officers routinely conduct interviews and surveys onboard vessels to understand the concerns of seafarers and to identify ways to assist in resolving them. In January this year, SOS initiated a survey on food safety and hygiene as part of our union's efforts to study the effectiveness of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 and its long-term effects on seafarers.

The survey - which stems from observations made during ship visits as well as the recent hype in food safety and quality onboard - aims to identify the best practices and challenges encountered by ships' cooks in the galley.

These findings, to be shared to shipowners, would also be shared with the shipping community at large to help improve their daily operations onboard vessels.

Our officers are also conducting a transportation

satisfaction survey to explore ways to improve access to shore-based welfare facilities and amenities around the city.

We hope the findings can improve existing port facilities, including transportation services and timeliness, to allow visiting seafarers to commute within and beyond the port when their vessels call in Singapore.

We appreciate the integral role seafarers play in keeping the economy moving and that ports have a duty of care in ensuring their well-being is looked into.

So far, shipping companies have expressed their support for the survey, with many partaking in the initiative by offering to distribute survey forms to their crew. "It is a good initiative. We are looking forward to getting the results," said Mr Giancarlo Brosolo, Managing Director, CMA-CGM.

## SHIP VISITS AND GIFTS FOR SEAFARERS

SOS President Mohamad Abu Bakar, Industrial Relations Officers Maximilian Theodore, Alan Kor and Eugene Guo brought onboard gifts and SOS souvenirs for the seafarers during their weekly ship visits in December 2017. The items included SOS towels, copies of Samudra, WIFI posters and boxes of log cakes together with swiss rolls. The seafarers were delighted to receive the 2018 wall calendar that the Union had exclusively designed and printed for all Samudra readers.



# JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF POU



The learning journey to Port Officers Union (POU) provided an eye-opening opportunity for the SOS delegation to appreciate the work of like-minded unionists.

The edifying visit on 19 January 2018 saw the 16-member team from SOS Membership, Welfare and Training Committee, SOS Executive Committee members and staff heading to POU's office at Tanjong Pagar Complex for a fruitful time of learning. Like SOS, POU is an affiliate of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), representing the senior officers of PSA Corporation.

Highlights of the trip included a presentation by POU President Brother Benjamin Tang and a dialogue session where both parties' union officials share their challenges and the action their Unions are taking to stay relevant.

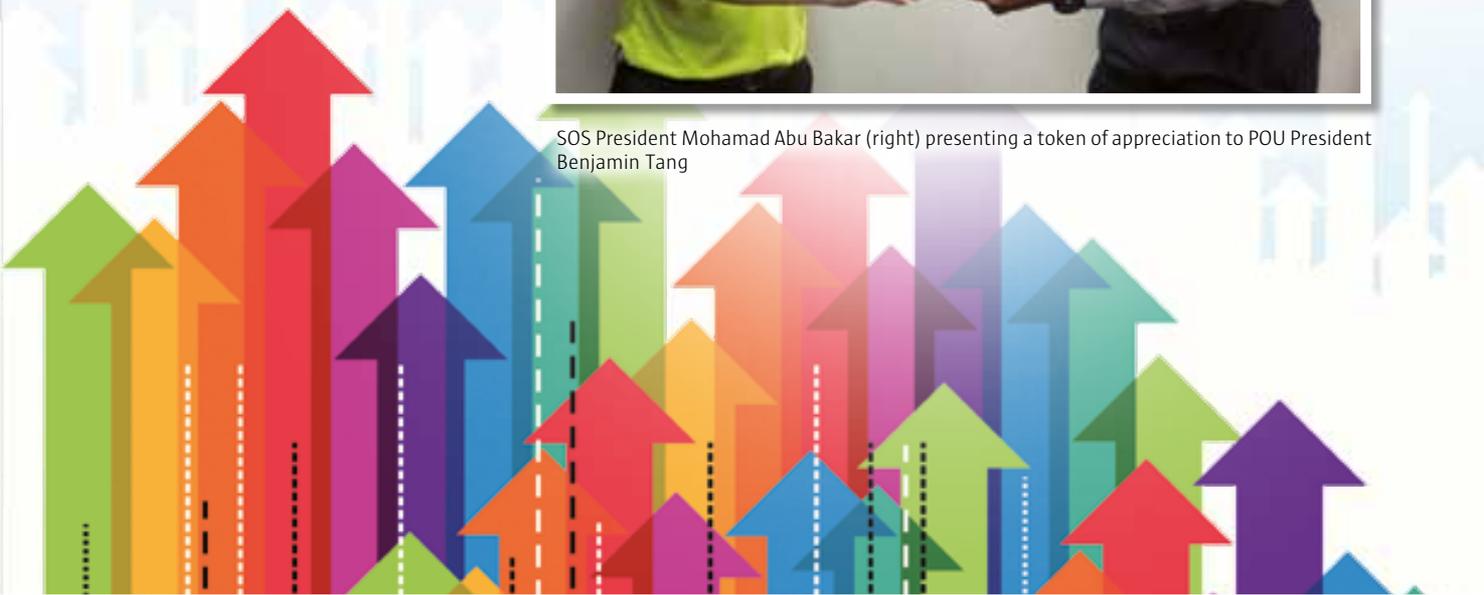




The session enabled the SOS visitors to gain a better understanding of the schemes and benefits of the POU membership, the union structure as well as social events organised by the POU. More than that, the learning ended with both Unions cultivating an even deeper respect and relationship with each other.



SOS President Mohamad Abu Bakar (right) presenting a token of appreciation to POU President Benjamin Tang





## SOS FAMILY FIESTA IN MANILA



SOS GS presenting gifts to the children from the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul orphanange

The mega SOS New Year and Family Funday attracted a turnout of more than 750 members and their families to The Blue Leaf Filipinas located near the Manila Bay for a night of all-out fun.

Wowed by the appearance of a group of cosplayers, dressed as Kylo Ren, Optimus Prime, Wonder Woman and Captain America, who greeted them upon their arrival, the partygoers were keyed up for more colourful entertainment to come, such as the Tron Light Dancers, Drum & Lyre Band and appearances of celebrities Candy Pangilinan and Rochelle Pangilinan.





SOS members with their family



AMOSUP senior management team; Capt Francis Joseph, Chairman, Singapore Maritime Employers' Federation; Mr Marianito Aguisanda, President, LSA Consultancy & Management Services Inc and fellow SOS Executive Committee Members

In his welcome note, SOS Assistant Secretary David Shoo said, "The Filipino seafarers form the largest group of seafarers in the world. In SOS, our Filipino seafarers likewise form the majority of our membership strength. This is why we have always placed strong emphasis to continually enhance the lives of our Filipino members, including hosting grand celebrations, family day, members' night and dinners year after year in Manila."

The celebration was not only grand, it was also heartwarming with the performance of the children's choir from the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul, an orphanage located in mainland Philippines. To support the good work, Mr David Sim, Treasurer of SOS, represented the Union to present a cheque to the orphanage.



SOS Assistant Secretary David Shoo giving his welcome note



Guest-of-Honour Dr Conrado F Oca

Among those present at the event were Guest-of-Honour Dr Conrado F Oca, President of Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP); AMOSUP senior management team; representatives from the All Philippines Seafarers' Union (PSU); Capt Francis Joseph, Chairman, Singapore Maritime Employers' Federation (SMEF); Mr Marianito Aguisanda, President, LSA Consultancy & Management Services Inc and fellow SOS Executive Committee members and staff.





On the relationship between AMOSUP and SOS, Mr Shoo highlighted that SOS former leaders and the late Capt Gregorio S Oca were “longtime friends and have worked very closely at the union level. This relationship was further strengthened under the leadership of Dr Conrado F Oca and SOS General Secretary, Mr Kam Soon Huat.”

“The SOS has always admired how well AMOSUP looks after the welfare of its members through its comprehensive range of benefits that are available in many parts of the Philippines.

As a trade union, we share the common mission, values and objectives of serving our members; protecting their rights and looking after their social and welfare interests,” Mr Shoo added.

“We certainly wish to work even closer with AMOSUP through bilateral arrangements, for the benefit of our Filipino members and international seafarers.”



Presentation of memento, a painting by a young Singaporean artist, to Guest-of-Honour Dr Conrado F Oca, by SOS President Mohamad Abu Bakar



The night was made complete with a wide buffet spread of Filipino, Western and Chinese cuisines and 30 lucky draw prizes which included an all-expense-paid trip to Puerto Princesa (Palawan Island) Tour for two persons, LED TV, laptop, home audio system and mobile phones. The audience waited with bated breath for the first prize winner to be announced. A lucky member went home with an all-expense-paid trip to Macau for two.

Everyone is a winner, having had a memorable time building rapport with seafarers, employers and manning agencies; bonding with their family members and going home with Nike Polo T-shirt as door gifts.

As part of their annual visit to Manila, our officers visited the children and the Missionaries of Charity for Elderly People, Tayuman. The officers presented items of daily necessities as donations to the beneficiaries of these two homes.



The AMOSUP senior management team gracing the event





## A NIGHT OF FESTIVE DELIGHT AND CHEER

SOS members swung to the tunes of delightful Christmas music performed 'live' by three-piece band Pianistar, with emcee Kevin O Hara leading the participants in a hearty session of song and dance. The joys of laughter and smiles spread across their faces showed what a good time the members had at the SOS Christmas party held on 16 December 2017.

Aside from grooving to the rhythms of upbeat Christmas songs and a stand-up comedy act, everyone was kept entertained with bonding games such as Christmas Trivia, Dancing in the Dark and the Best Dressed contest. The 'Guess The Tune' quiz brought the participants down memory lane as they reminisced the nostalgic tunes of songs that were popular in the 1960s and 1980s.



The night culminated on a high note with a Lucky Draw that saw 20 members walking away with the Avengers 2-in-1 tablet, Marks and Spencers Christmas hampers, dining and shopping vouchers and more.

As for the feasting, the participants were more than pleased with the three Live Stations offering Carved Roast Turkey, Roast Lamb on Spit and Fish and Chips. The buffet spread also had Christmas-inspired dishes and members' all-time favourite Oxtail.

It being a night of joyous feasting, entertaining games and good company, the party was befitting of a heartwarming and memorable Christmas celebration.



# OUR NEW WELFARE MANAGER



**Ivy Tang**  
SOS Welfare Manager

**M**s Ivy Tang has been appointed as Welfare Manager to promote the Seacare Medical Schemes (SMS), Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS), Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme (SSS) and other SOS's new welfare schemes to shipping companies which have collective agreements with the Union.

The schemes form part of the SOS's collective agreements with shipping companies and cover the accommodation, medical and training needs of members and shipping companies.

I find it my privilege to be given the task to promote the welfare schemes that SOS and Seacare offer. The shipping companies and seafarers have much to gain from these schemes. I hope to make known these benefits that improve the lives of the seafarers.

– Ivy Tang, SOS Welfare Manager

## SMS BENEFITS FOR LOCAL MEMBERS GETS BETTER

To book an appointment for the health screening, kindly call

**Ms Halimah**  
at 63795671,

**Ms Evelyn**  
at 63795672 or

**Ms Mariana**  
at 63795689

from the SOS Membership & Welfare Services Division.



The Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) for local members covers more. Come **1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019**, qualified local members can look forward to:

- **New reimbursement benefit up to S\$100** per member. The benefit is for the cost of eye examination, eye check-up, consultation, medication, treatment and related costs obtained from any eye centre, clinic and/or hospital.

- **Superior health screening package** at Seacare Maritime Medical Centre. Package includes chest X-ray and tests for lung function and cancer markers. Free health screening benefit will continue to be extended to parent/spouse of the member.



SEACAREFOCUS

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SEACAREFOCUS



# A TOGETHER WE CARE TEA PARTY@JALAN KUKOH



An informal 'Together We Care Tea Party@Jalan Kukoh' on 27 December 2017 brought joy and laughter to 35 elderly residents who learned how to whip up a quick and nutritious meal using common electrical appliances and simple ingredients. The elderly residents at the event were each presented with a rice cooker and an electric kettle.

A first-of-its-kind initiative by volunteers from the SOS Women & Youth committee, the session saw the elderly paying close attention to a 'live' cooking demonstration by the volunteers as they prepared healthy tomato rice and herbal tea with easy-to-cook recipes.

The volunteers diligently demonstrated the safety usage of a rice



cooker and electric kettle – part of the new year’s gifts sponsored by the Seacare Co-operative.

“The elderly were in need of new rice cookers and electric kettles to prevent electrical hazards from taking place at home. We felt it was both practical and symbolic to give them a new replacement to kickstart the new year,” said Ms Shena Foo, Chairperson of the committee.

Throughout the session held at the Jalan Kukoh Residents’ Committee Activity Centre, the volunteers chatted with the residents, played games with them and guided them in a quiz that tested their understanding of the safety aspects of using electrical appliances.





The volunteers also took the opportunity to serve the rice and drinks which they had prepared during the demonstration.

According to volunteer Jullienne Low, many of the elderly went for a second serving and gave the volunteers a two thumbs-up as appreciation of their efforts. "They thoroughly enjoyed the meal that we had prepared. It's heartwarming to see them having fun throughout the session," she said.



The elderly had fun posing with volunteers at the instant photo booth and went home with the photos and their new electrical appliances as souvenirs.



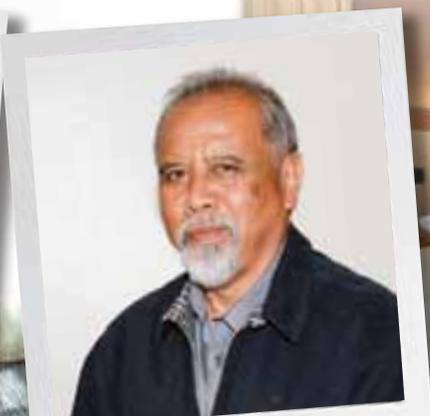
SOS Women & Youth Committee with volunteers from the Jalan Kukoh Residents' Committee

# NEW SEACARE DIRECTORS APPOINTED

With effect from 19 December 2017, Ms Neo Chui Hoon, Mr Norani Mohamad Rais and Mr Lim Thizi Chee were appointed as Seacare Directors.



**Neo Chui Hoon (Miko)**  
Director, Seacare Inverness Limited  
Columba Hotel, Inverness



**Norani Mohamad Rais**  
Director, Scorpio Hotel Management Limited  
Best Western Plus Milford Hotel, Leeds



**Lim Thizi Chee**  
Director, Chariet Limited  
Crown Spa Hotel, Scarborough

# NEW SEACARE ENVIRONMENTAL OPS MANAGER

Seacare says goodbye to Mr Alan Toh who retired on 31 December 2017. Alan first joined Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd in 1995 and rose through the ranks from Operations Manager to General Manager.

On the occasion of his retirement, we would like to thank him for his dedication and contributions towards the growth of the company.

We welcome Mr Jimmy Tay as the Operations Manager of Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd.



**Alan Toh**  
We wish Alan Toh a happy retirement



**Jimmy Tay**  
Operations Manager  
Seacare Environmental Pte Ltd



# SEACARE UK HOTEL MANAGEMENT TEAM



Best Western Plus Milford Hotel



Columba Hotel



Victoria Hotel



Crown Spa Hotel



Best Western Queen's Hotel



To have a focused and dedicated team to manage the investments abroad, the UK Hotel Management team comprising Mr Lim Chye Teen, Ms Shena Foo, Ms Sia Ai Ngoh and Mr Ong Zhiwei was formed in July 2016. The team not only scouted for and reviewed new investments, but also monitored and steered the investments to ensure that the hotels are operating optimally and observing business conduct.

As Seacare Hospitality steadily grows in its UK investment portfolio -- with the new addition of Crown Spa Hotel, Scarborough (one of Seacare's largest investments till date) and Best Western Queen's Hotel in Dundee, both in 2017 -- the UK Hotel Management team has likewise expanded to include seasoned and experienced hotel management staff, Mr Francis Choo and Mr Jimmy Tay.

The UK Hotel Management team is well-able to look into the investment, finance, corporate, marketing, sales and operations in UK. It is consolidating the business and at the same time, growing further where opportunities may lie. The team seeks to expand Seacare Hospitality's portfolio to 1,000 rooms in UK.



**Lim Chye Teen**  
Head, Hospitality / Property & Environmental Cluster



**Shena Foo**  
Group Deputy Chief Executive Officer



**Sia Ai Ngoh**  
Group Chief Financial Officer



**Ong Zhiwei**  
Assistant Head, Hospitality / Property & Environmental Cluster



**Jimmy Tay**  
Deputy General Manager, Seacare Properties Pte Ltd



**Francis Choo**  
Deputy Head, Hospitality Cluster



OKIKI DNA  
非凡 Anything but Ordinary

我们的使命  
成为“孩子和欢乐家庭”最有  
价值、最感荣耀的世界级服  
务伙伴。  
We want to be the most  
valuable and honorable  
world-class service  
provider of “Kids and  
Happy Families”



Founder and CEO Mr Forest Yuan

# OKIKI CHINA CELEBRATES 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



China's leading early childhood education institute, OKiKi China, celebrated its 12th anniversary on 20 January 2018.

The celebration kicked off with a symbolic OKiKi 'family' photograph with some 500 teachers, staff and directors followed by the company's annual luncheon at Marriot Hotel in Downtown Shanghai.



Forest Yuan (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Director of Seacare OKiKi Serene Lee (extreme right) with special guests for the celebration



In his welcome address, Founder and CEO, Mr Forest Yuan recapped OKiKi's stellar performance since 2006, highlighting each milestone with noteworthy photos and impressive financial figures. This includes Seacare's 10 per cent stake acquisition of OKiKi China in June 2015.



He explained the growth of China's preschool market in the past decade -- in tandem with the country's economic growth and prosperity, identified OKiKi's current market position in Shanghai, and outlined strategies to make the school 'Anything but Ordinary' for the decades to come.

"The rapid increase of social capital flowing into the education sector has seen more parents seeking OKiKi schools and our enrolment figures climbing. But we cannot be complacent, we must strive ahead and improve our service quality and training syllabus," he said.

"The preschool education market today is saturated with new entrants. There used to be five players in the market, but there are now 20 or more vying for the same piece of the pie and offering a much lower rate."

"At the same time, China's economic growth has dropped from 10 per cent a decade ago to the current 6 per cent, which means the growth of our education market is correspondingly slowing," he added.

"With more highly-educated parents demanding better education for their kids, and with the stiff competition, would we still use yesterday's syllabus and learning concepts to teach our students?"

Receiving applause and nods of approval from the floor, Mr Yuan laid out a 10-year masterplan to place OKiKi at the forefront of the industry and to transform it into a respectable, world-class organisation.

"We have to be the leader, not the follower. We have to run faster, it will be more taxing, there will be rapid growth, we will keep developing staff and strengthen corporate culture..." he said, taking a leaf from IBM's book to recognise, reward and retain dedicated employees, who are paramount to the success of the organisation.

He expounded on OKiKi's mission to be 'the most valuable and honorable world-class service provider of Kids and Happy Families' and emphasised the need to always observe OKiKi's core values: a winning mindset, strong team

spirit, enterprising attitude, intense commitment and honorable ethics.

Mr Yuan or 'Teacher Yuan' as he is affectionately addressed, also empowered everyone to take massive actions - to make a big difference to the lives of preschoolers, every day.

"The philosophy of Learning with Laughter forms an essential and natural part of the learning process, one which is deeply embedded in our culture and a cornerstone of our success."



# NEW CAMPUS IN ZHANGJIANG HI-TECH PARK



OKiKi's fourth and latest campus in Pudong, Shanghai

Earlier in November 2017, OKiKi officially opened its fourth and biggest campus in Pudong, Shanghai.

The 10,000-square metre campus in Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park - known to be China's very own Silicon Valley - is fringed by the city's top-rated academic and research institutes, start-ups and a multitude of global establishments.

It now joins the three other OKiKi campuses to be awarded a Level-One (First-Class) grading by the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission, boosting a bilingual (English and Chinese) and multi-cultural curriculum to nurture preschoolers with a world-class education.

14 – 20  
October 2018

Suntec Singapore  
Convention &  
Exhibition Centre

# ITF 44<sup>th</sup> Congress is Coming to Singapore!

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Congress is a place where thousands of our members join forces to form one collective voice. It's a stage where words can be turned into real actions with meaningful outcomes. It's where members come with a pledge, a manifesto, a spirit to combine their efforts behind programmes that can make a difference.

We make a difference. We are the difference – in this Congress year, leading up to these important decisions and going forward, not only for all of those transport workers, but working men and women in their communities and their families all over the world.

– Paddy Crumlin, ITF President

Fringe activities include:

- **Informal talks**, interactive discussions, sharing success stories or lessons that facilitate learning from each other;
- **Learning journeys** – tours to workplaces where innovative technological solutions are put into practice in warehousing, public transport, maritime and civil aviation training centres, and other transport venues;
- **Social nights** introducing cultural traditions of several Asian countries hosted by our affiliates from these countries.

The ITF Singapore National Coordinating Committee (SNCC) comprises five unions.



Paddy Crumlin, ITF President

**Register for Congress 2018**

[www.itfcongress2018.org](http://www.itfcongress2018.org)

*Let's Countdown to ITF Congress Singapore!*

Register **NOW!**

Date : **24 April 2018, Tuesday**  
Venue: **Westin Hotel Singapore**  
12 Marina View, Asia Square  
Tower 2  
Singapore 018961

.....  
<http://www.capitallink.com>

# CAPITAL LINK SINGAPORE MARITIME FORUM

Capital Link will host the Singapore Maritime Forum on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at the Westin Hotel in Singapore.

The Forum, to be held in conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week, will highlight Singapore's role as the gateway to Asia and global shipping markets and its competitive positioning and advantages as a maritime hub.

It will discuss the developments and trends in the energy, commodities, the various shipping sectors, the global financial and capital markets, as well as issues pertaining to regulatory developments, technical and commercial fleet management.

The invited speakers and panelists are experts and decision makers from global organisations. They will share with participants the challenges and opportunities in the industry and provide rich insights into various sectors of the maritime industry such as shipping, shipbuilding and finance communities.

.....  
**Moderator:**

**Mr. Terence Zhao**, President - Singhai Marine Services  
.....



One of the sessions include:

## Singapore as an International Maritime Hub

Private & Public Partnership Moving Shipping Forward



Mr Stephen Cotton, General Secretary, ITF, will be part of the panelist for the session.

*Singapore has become a major hub for the global shipping industry, a gateway to the Asian and world markets for shipping, commodities and finance.*

*A partnership and close co-operation among government, unions, shipowners and shipmanagers moves the industry forward. The panel will discuss the factors behind this success and what lies ahead.*

.....  
**Panelists:**

**Mr Stephen Cotton**, General Secretary – ITF  
**Mr Yan Xiankai**, Group Managing Director – Bilsea Group  
**Mr Venkatraman Sheshashayee**, CEO – Miclyn Express Offshore  
**Mrs Tan Beng Tee**, Assistant Chief Executive (Development) – MPA  
**Mrs Lisa Teo**, GM Corporate – Pacific International Lines (PTE) Ltd