

Issue 4
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SAMUDRA

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

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*New Year
New Heights*

2018



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SAMUDRA

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52 Chin Swee Road, #09-00, Seacare Building, Singapore 169875
Tel: (65) 6379 5666 · Fax: (65) 6734 5525 · Email: sosea@seacare.com.sg



TOGETHER, ADVANCING STEADILY TOWARDS 2019



SOS is right on track. At the Union Ordinary General Meeting held on 4 November 2017, General Secretary Kam Soon Huat addressed the audience, comprising cadre and ordinary members, with the good news that despite the gloomy outlook in the maritime sector, the Union is meeting the goals it set out to achieve by 2019.

Speaking on the OGM theme on 'Together Advancing Steadily Towards 2019', the year which complete the four-year term for the Excors of both SOS and NTUC, Mr Kam reported that SOS membership strength is growing.

To the delight of the stakeholders, Mr Kam reported that the number of vessels covered by SOS Collective Bargaining Agreement has also increased.

He went on to highlight that even though APL was acquired by CMA CGM in 2016, SOS have ensured that all the Singaporean crew onboard APL ships continue to be employed.

"In addition, with the transition to CMA, Singaporeans still enjoy the same benefits as they did before," he pointed out.

The glowing record card also showed SOS enlarging the scope of its training, accommodation and medical coverage for sea-going and foreign members via different schemes covered by the union's CBA with shipping companies.

The launch of SOS's enhanced welfare schemes in 2017 made available \$3 million to be used over a 2-year period to help shipping companies defray some of their operational expenses.



(L-R) SOS Treasurer David Sim, General Secretary Kam Soon Huat, President Mohamad Abu Bakar, and Executive Secretary Daniel Tan



“The enhancements are well-received and welcomed by the shipping companies,” Mr Kam said.

Members also appreciated the union’s decision to enhance the quality and quantity of the benefits, such as the amount of payout for the SOS/Seacare Study Grant and the number of hotels and room nights for members to enjoy.

Turning to the international front, Mr Kam spoke about the multilateral collaborations with global maritime unions aimed at improving the lives of seafarers. In January, SOS, together with 12 other ITF affiliates under the Nautilus Federation, launched JASON (Joint Assistance and Support Network) to combat the criminalisation of seafarers.

He added: “We continue to strengthen our relations with regional maritime unions and the ITF through our active engagement and participation in regional and international meetings.”

In his review, Mr Kam also gave a forecast for the next two years and what needs to be done.

He stressed the need to continue enhancing the skills of seamen in order for them to stay competitive, adaptable and employable, which is why SOS is actively collaborating with training institutes and employment agencies to raise the training capacity and skills of its members.





He also elaborated on joint efforts with MPA and e2i to boost the intake of Singaporeans in the harbor craft sector through the Maritime Apprenticeship Scheme (MAS).

Mr Kam also recapped the significant events of Seacare in the past two years, which included the expansion of Seacare Hospitality's hotel portfolio and Seacare OKiKi P-Hub's joint venture with Phil Brew Golf Academy to conduct study tours and golf training in Singapore and Australia.

A secret ballot was conducted where members voted to carry out the motion to contribute to the NTUC Education and Training Fund (NETF) and the subscription to additional shares in Seacare Co-operative Ltd.

All in all, I am confident that SOS will continue to grow as a relevant trade union representing the voices of seafarers as we advance steadily together towards 2019.

– SOS General Secretary Kam Soon Huat



STRONG, REPRESENTATIVE AND RELEVANT LABOUR MOVEMENT



A delegation of SOS officials was part of the 700-strong turnout at the NTUC Ordinary Delegates' Conference (ODC) on 15 October. Held at the Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre, the conference saw union representatives and partners and associates of the Labour Movement (LM) supporting the vision to be a "Strong, Representative and Relevant Labour Movement" together.

There was a strong show of solidarity when 97 per cent of voters agreed to updating NTUC's constitution to expand its network to serve all working people in Singapore. The constitutional amendment demonstrates the determination of the LM to represent all sectors and workers.

In their speeches, NTUC Secretary-General Chan Chun Sing and President

Mary Liew also highlighted the need for the LM to leverage tripartite ties in order to meet the people's changing needs amid technological disruptions.

As part of the agenda, the participants took stock of the LM's achievements since 2015 and endorsed a set of nine papers which were the culmination of months of deliberation by union leaders. The papers – the LM Compass; Representation of Rank-and-File Workers; Professionals, Managers and Executives (PMEs); Working People in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs); Freelancers and Self-Employed (FSE); and Migrant workers; Social Enterprises; U Career Network; and Stewardship and Governance – had also been discussed at NTUC's Pre-ODC on 12 October 2017.

A special LM Conversations with Minister of Manpower Lim Swee Say, Minister for Health Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Education (Schools) and Second Minister for Transport Ng Chee Meng, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence Ong Ye Kung, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Manpower Josephine Teo and Singapore National Employers Federation President Dr Robert Yap took place immediately after the ODC.

Almost 1,000 union leaders and delegates from unionised companies, NTUC Social Enterprises, LM partners from U Associate, U SME and U FSE partners engaged the ministers and tripartite partners on topics that matter to workers, such as lifelong learning and national manpower policies.



Photos credit: NTUC

SINGAPORE MARITIME WEEK 2018

The leading maritime event in Singapore, driven by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), returns in April 2018 and will bring the international maritime community together for an eventful and insightful week of

conferences, dialogues, exhibitions and social events.

Put your finger on the pulse of the dynamic maritime industry and participate in the Singapore Maritime Week.

EVENT CALENDAR FOR SMW 2018

	21 APR SAT	22 APR SUN	23 APR MON	24 APR TUES	25 APR WED	26 APR THURS	27 APR FRI
Industry Events			SMW Industry Panel	Singapore Maritime Institute Seminar	Opening for SMTC	Singapore Maritime Lecture	
				Maritime Cyber Security Seminar	Singapore Maritime Technology Conference & Exhibition (SMTC)		
				LNG Shipping & Clean Energy Forum	Maritime Administrators Forum	Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Maritime Conference	
				TOC Asia 2018			
				GIA-IUMI Asia Forum 2018			
				Capital Link Singapore Maritime Forum		Boh CDC (Special Limit) Graduation Ceremony	
Networking Events			SMW Opening Reception		Seatrade Maritime Awards Asia	Lloyd's List Business Briefing & Drinks	MPA Charity Golf
						IBIA (Asia) Gala Dinner 2018	
Public Outreach Events	SMW Exhibition						
		Opening of SMW 2018					
		Amazing Maritime Challenge					
			International Sportswave for Seafarers				

Last updated on 11 January 2018

Legends:

- Industry and Market Developments
- Building a Comprehensive Infrastructure
- Developing a Vibrant Maritime Innovation Ecosystem
- Developing a Future Ready Workforce

- Main Events
- MPA Events
- Co-located Events

- By Invitation Only
- By Registration
- Free Admission



SINGAPORE UNIONS HOST 36TH ASSM



Strong unity among the Asian Seafarers' Summit Meeting (ASSM) members will be the cornerstone of ASSM's success and sustainability. SOS General Secretary Kam Soon Huat made the call for ASSM members to focus on unity at the 36th ASSM held in Singapore.

The meeting, which took place on 5 October 2017 at Mandarin Orchard Hotel, was hosted by SOS and SMOU and attended by 79 participants from 22 trade unions in Asia, including Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan. Observers from China, Russia and Thailand were also present.

"As our global maritime and port activity shift from the west to east – and with the increase in the number of Asian seafarers globally – we play an important role in ensuring that the well-being of seafarers is not overlooked," Mr Kam underscored in his opening address.

He also highlighted that in recent years, the number of piracy cases in international waters has gradually dropped as a result of concerted efforts on the global front. The focus now is shifting to the training, skills-upgrading and sustainability aspects of seafaring – areas that are crucial in today's evolving global economies.

The unionists in one heart and voice agreed to form a working group to look into the implementation of a support system for the abandonment of seafarers and maritime incidents. Term of Reference for abandonment of seafarers and maritime accidents using the Emergency Communication System and the Support System were covered.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the sharing by trade unions from each country on their efforts to promote a sea-going career for young workers - ranging from the mapping out of multiple career paths to offering scholarships and career guidance in the maritime industry.

Other pertinent issues on disruptive technology and how it affects the maritime industry were also discussed at the meeting.

Representing SOS at the meeting included Executive Secretary Daniel Tan, Assistant Secretary David Shoo, and IROs Eugene Guo, Chen Chuanyi and Alan Kor.



MARITIME APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME TAKES IN SECOND BATCH



The second batch of harbour craft trainees under the Maritime Apprenticeship Scheme (MAS) began their journey to prepare for work by taking part in the Maritime Familiarisation Course from 6 to 8 November 2017.

The trainees, who had been selected by seven participating shipping companies at a job fair organised by e2i (Employment and Employability Institute) on 26 October 2017, underwent the three-day foundational maritime training course which was conducted by ST Electronics (Training & Simulation Systems) Pte Ltd.

Launched this year by SOS in conjunction with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), e2i and Workforce Singapore (WSG), the MAS aims to train and retain

sufficient local workers to be job-ready in the harbour craft sector. Upon completion of the foundational course and a month-long shipboard work trial with local harbour craft employers, eligible candidates can be formally employed and may be sent for further training to become steersmen, engine drivers, tug masters, and even CoC Special Limit Officers.



SNIMI - ACCREDITED MARITIME TRAINING PROVIDER IN CHINA

The Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute (SNIMI) is now a certified maritime training centre in China, having been accredited by the China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) earlier this year.

Located within the Nantong Shipping College (NSC) campus, the SNIMI is a joint establishment of SOS, NSC and Singhai Marine Services. Making good on its mission to provide quality maritime education and training for international and local shipping companies, it ensures the competencies of seafaring officers and ratings onboard vessels by offering customised courses. These include the Seacare Quality Rating Training Course; Maritime English Training for Ratings; and the Bridge Resource Management Course.



SEASON'S GREETINGS TO SEAFARERS ONBOARD

What better way to show appreciation to seafarers and let them know they are not alone, than by conducting ship visits during the holiday season?

That was what SOS did at the end of 2017. Bearing towels, Christmas log cakes and Samudra copies, SOS President Mohamad Abu Bakar and Industrial Relations officers Maximilian Theodore, Alan Kor, Chen Chuanyi, Eugene Guo and Sarah Chen boarded vessels to distribute the gifts and also ensure that the health and welfare of the crews were taken care of. The seafarers were delighted to be remembered by SOS.



INFUSING SEACARE DROP-IN CENTRE WITH THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



The festive season came early for mariners at the Seacare Drop-In Centre for International Seafarers at the Pasir Panjang Terminal, courtesy of SOS.

On 20 December 2017, the union organised a Christmas celebration for seafarers whose ships had called at the terminal that day. Led by SOS President Mohamad Abu Bakar, the team comprising officers Maximilian Theodore, Alan Kor, Halimahtul Saa'diah Mohamed Sadon, Mariana Amad, Miko Neo, Peggy Neo and Rachel Chew brought various dishes such as fried chicken, pizza and log cakes.



NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE SEAFARERS' PROVIDENT FUND – SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION (“SPF – SOA”)

In consideration for the benefit and in the interest of the participants of the SPF – SOA, the SOS ExCo decided to extend the expiry of the SPF – SOA for a further two years, from 30 September 2019 to 30 September 2021.

As such, pursuant to Regulations 12 & 13 of the SOA, the following regulation is amended:

REGULATION 9 – PERIOD OF SCHEME

(1) This Scheme to effect the distribution of the SPF moneys to the Participants or the proper claimant of the Participants will terminate on 30 September 2021.

In view of the amendments, the SOS ExCo would also like to take this opportunity to inform all participants that the last date of submission for the SPF Balance withdrawal is **31 August 2021**.

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For more information, please refer to the full revised Seafarers' Provident Fund – Scheme of Administration which is available for downloading at www.sosea.org.sg or contact the SOS SPF Administrator at thrift@seacare.com.sg.



It was an excellent time to catch up with one another over the scrumptious spread. The union representatives shared about updates in the maritime industry and elaborated on SOS's schemes for members, while the seafarers spoke about their sailing experiences.





LEARNING JOURNEY TO AMOSUP



An insightful learning visit to the Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP) opened the eyes of a group of SOS and Seacare officers to the union's rich history, resilience and development.

Organised by the SOS Leadership Development Committee, the trip from 24 to 29 November 2017 attracted the participation of 15 ExCo, Standing Committee and Seacare Seafarers' Club Management Committee members. The visit covered the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP), a maritime education and training arm of AMOSUP established in 1998.

As first-time visitors to MAAP, the guests were given an orientation around the academy, where they learned about its background, training facilities and academic programs. There, they had the opportunity to experience its 360-degree full motion ship's Bridge Simulator - one of the only three available in the world.





Highlights of the trip included an informative visit to the AMOSUP administrative office to understand its history, welfare benefit programs and service units. They also engaged in an interactive dialogue session with AMOSUP officers before visiting the AMOSUP seamen's hospital, sailors' hostel, supermarket and Provident Fund Office.

The six-day visit kicked off with the Singapore delegation joining the local seamen in having a fun time at the SOS Members' Night for Filipino members on 24 November. The visit was made complete with a trip to the Seacare representative office and the Seacare Medical Scheme appointed clinics in Manila.

It was a good exchange and experience for SOS and its committee members to know more about AMOSUP and its officials, as well as a great opportunity for SOS to forge closer ties with AMOSUP.

– **Daniel Tan, SOS Executive Secretary**

I'm very impressed by AMOSUP's wide range of benefits not only for members, but also for their families. It allows members to focus on their job onboard without having to worry about their family back at home.

– **Peggie Neo, SOS youth member**



SOS MEMBERS CELEBRATE 'SHORE LEAVE' IN MANILA



The year came to a well-deserved climax as union members in the Philippines were treated to a 'shore leave' party at SOS Members' Night. Held in Manila on 24 November, this is the first time that SOS organised a Members' Night in Manila specially for Filipino members. For the past 10 years, the union's Filipino members and their families had a Year End Dinner & New Year Reception.

Bonds were reaffirmed during the eventful evening, which brought together more than 400 SOS members, ExCo and staff, manning agent representatives and associates of SOS and Seacare.

SOS Assistant Secretary David Shoo gave the audience a hearty welcome and thanked them for their support and contributions to the union's growth. He spoke about how SOS





does its part for the shipping community through initiatives such as the Seacare Maritime Training Scheme (SMTS) and Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS), which fulfill seafarers' training and healthcare needs respectively. Mr Shoo also emphasised the union's heart for the people, citing its visit to the Missionaries of Charities (Home of Joy for the Sick Children) in Tondo.

Fringe activities and entertainment ranged from an instant photo booth and temporary skin tattoo booth to song and dance performances by various well-known artistes from the Philippines. Emcees Maui Taylor and Jennifer Lee ensured that the event programme went off without a hitch, while live band Kool Jack stirred up the crowd by providing a steady stream of popular Filipino songs and performing mini stunts.

A tantalising feast of local, Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisine, complemented by free flow of beer and liquor, kept the crowd energised.

Twenty lucky draw winners received prizes like a laptop, Samsung phone, and even a four-day-three-night vacation to Bangkok, Thailand. The first 10 prizes were given out by SOS General Secretary Kam Soon Huat and Executive Secretary



Daniel Tan, with the remaining prizes being presented by Assistant Secretary Shena Foo. There was something for everyone as door gifts of Nike bags in Ecobags were presented to all participants.



SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION OF MEMBERS' CHILDREN



Giving out study grants to defray the schooling expenses of members' children is just one of the many ways that SOS shows it cares.

This year's SOS/Seacare Study Grant Presentation Ceremony, held at the Joyden Hall at Bugis+ Mall on 14 October, saw Special Guest SOS Advisor Arthur Fong presenting 94 students with study grants that amounted to S\$32,850 in total. On top of the study grant, nine students across various education categories also received SOS Best Awards totalling S\$1,900 for their outstanding academic performances.

The significant moment was witnessed by some 400 attendees comprising the union's ExCo members, SOS and Seacare staff, directors of Seacare Group of companies, and the recipients' family members.





SOS Executive Secretary and Seacare Foundation Pte Ltd Director Daniel Tan, in his welcome note, highlighted the importance of cognitive development and encouraged parents to actively support their children's learning journey. He called for them to check out the activity booth on the NeuroLAT programme – a programme designed to address students' needs and enhance their learning capabilities.

Other interactive booths on 3D printing, robotics and clay modelling, which were co-funded by the NTUC U-Care LIFT-Up (Low-Income Families Transitioning-Up) programme, offered a hands-on way for attendees to find out more about technology advancement.

At age 9, Muhammad Riz can say that he's not a first time recipient of the SOS Study Grant. Receiving the award for the third time, and also the SOS Best Awards for academic excellence, Muhammad Riz was quick to express his aspirations.

I want to be a pilot when I grow up.



I've been receiving the study awards for the past few years. The money goes towards buying my textbooks, and it motivates me to continue giving my best in everything I do.

– Ho Zhi Qi, Secondary 4 student from Raffles Girls School



First time recipient Muhammad Hilmi was at his last 7 weeks of studies at ITE studying Aerospace Avionics.

I'm currently studying Business Administration, so I'm grateful to receive the study grant. My family came all the way from Johor Bahru to support me.

– Muhammad Effendy, university student from Technical University of Malaysia Malacca

The Study Grant Presentation Ceremony was a whole day affair for the family of Muhammad Effendy, who came all the way from Johor Bahru. His father Jamhar Yacob, who has been an SOS member for more than 30 years shared how grateful he is to the union, for offering this study grant to members' children.



As I'm aiming to pursue further studies in polytechnic, this study grant comes in handy. I would like to thank SOS for this incentive, which I will put in my savings, a portion of which is for my parents.

– Muhammad Hilmi, ITE student



HAPPY RETIREMENT, BROTHER IDRIS

We wish our former president, Mohamed Idris Mohamed Ibrahim, a happy and healthy retirement, effective 1 November 2017.

Brother Idris is a valuable asset to the union and has brought much cheer, encouragement and support to the SOS family. We thank him for his wisdom and expert advice and wish him the best.

SMS REMINDER: FREE HEALTH SCREENING & EYE EXAM

Take note, SOS members! The complimentary health screening and comprehensive eye examination offered under the Seacare Medical Scheme (SMS) are only valid up to 31 March 2018.

Eligible local members and their dependants can continue enjoying the health screening and eye examination. They are encouraged to get themselves screened to identify and prevent potential health risks, even if they feel perfectly well.



Schedule your appointment today with the SOS Membership Services Division at **63795671 (Ms Halimah) / 672 (Ms Evelyn) / 689 (Ms Mariana)**.

Booking is on a first-come-first-served basis, subject to a maximum of four members and dependants per day.



COLLECTION OF SOS YEAR END GIFT 2017

SOS paid-up members can now collect their Year End Gift, a HappyCall induction cooker, from our office at **Level 5, Seacare Building**, at the following timing:

9.00 am to 5.30 pm (Mon to Fri)
9.00 am to 12.30 pm (Sat)

A family member may collect the gift on the member's behalf by producing a valid identification card upon collection.

All gifts must
be collected by
31 March 2018
or while
stocks last.



HAPPYCALL

For queries, please contact

Ms Mariana at 6379 5689, Ms Evelyn at 6379 5672 or Ms Halimah at 6379 5671.



VERY HAPPY DEEPAVALI

The pulsating hip hop Indian modern dance performance befittingly kicked off the colourful deepavali celebration at Club@52, Seacare Building.

With some encouragement from Emcee Kannan, the audience of 120, consisting of members and their spouses, were all ready to party. The fun stage games and entertaining comedy show "Mustapha" had everyone in stitches while the wide spread of delicious Indian cuisines, such as Boneless Mutton Masala, Sambal Prawn, Butter Chicken, Papadam, Briyani, Live Stations offering Indian Rojak, Charcoal Tandoor and Mee Siam, brought about a belly good time.

The festival would not be complete without the symbolic lighting of the three-foot-tall brass kuthuvilakku (or Indian oil lamp) by President Mohamad Abu Bakar, Vice President Raj Moham, Executive Secretary Daniel Tan, Treasurer David Sim and Committee Member Ramjeet Jadoh.

Warming the hearts was Vice President of SOS and Director of Seacare Scarborough Ltd Raj Moham who spoke about how SOS shares the social togetherness with its members through the events held.

Other highlights of the night included Tarot Card reading, and the all time favourite: instant photo print booth. As the night wore on, members were treated to some soulful and familiar songs by their all-time favourite band, Pianistar.



Twenty lucky draw winners went home with attractive prizes and one very lucky member won ASUS Notebook and \$100 worth of CapitalLand vouchers. All who turned up received a mini foldable chair and Muruku as door gifts.





FORGING STRONGER TIES AT YOUNG NTUC YOUTH CAMPUS

The Young NTUC Youth Campus on 22 October 2017 involved a getaway to Pulau Hantu, where some 50 youth activists sharpened their leadership and teamwork abilities by roughing it in nature and working together to erect their own shelters and fireplaces. Among the participants were SOS Women and Youth Committee members Peggie Neo, Shirley Lai, Jullienne Low, Chen Chuanyi and Eugene Guo.

Through an Amazing Race-styled segment facilitated by coordinators from the Ong Teng Cheong Labour Leadership Institute, the youths learnt more about the significance of tripartism and the Labour Movement's (LM) initiatives and progressive approaches to care for the working people and their families. They also built camaraderie and forged new friendships over icebreakers and a BBQ dinner.

As Young NTUC Executive Secretary Desmond Choo pointed out in his speech, the event activities aid in creating a strong group of young unionists and grooming them to be the LM's future leaders.

Although the youth campus is traditionally an orientation to the Labour Movement for new unionists, this year's event included the participation of young leaders from Young NTUC's extensive network.



I am happy to be given this opportunity to know more young union members from other industries. It's been an eye-opener!

– Peggie Neo

It was a good break from the bustling city life in Singapore. The game stations were meticulously planned, with each activity being associated with certain elements of the Labour Movement. We got to have fun and learn about the LM at the same time.

– Shirley Lai

This year's youth campus is geared towards survival through teamwork. We walked away with a deeper appreciation and understanding of the power of unity.

– Jullienne Low



SEACAREFOCUS

SEACAREFOCUS

SEACAREFOCUS

SEACAREFOCUS



UNITY IS SEACARE'S STRENGTH



Unity, fortified during challenging times, is Seacare's strength. It is the integral part of the co-operative's identity and a cornerstone of success.

Seacare Chairman Leow Ching Chuan attributed many of Seacare's achievements in the review year to the co-operative members and stakeholders' cohesiveness.

"This cohesiveness has allowed us to execute decisive actions swiftly and seize opportunities to avoid pitfalls," he highlighted in his report at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

"Seacare would not be where it is today without the staunch esprit de corps cultivated from the onset."

At the AGM held on 20 October 2017, some 120 Seacare shareholders were



briefed on Seacare's development at the group and co-operative levels. Highlights include the commencement of new projects and joint ventures within Seacare's business clusters.

Members were also updated on the enhancement of the Seacare Sailors' Home Scheme (SSS), which now boasts a wider selection of hotels as part of the complimentary 8-nights hotel stays offered by SSS.

The members were delighted to know that they now have 13 hotels to choose for their complimentary stays – five more than the previous year.





The addition comprises:

1. Crown Spa Hotel in Scarborough, United Kingdom;
2. Best Western Queens Hotel in Dundee, Scotland;
3. KSL Hotel & Resort in Johor Bahru, Malaysia;
4. Hatten Hotel in Melaka, Malaysia; and
5. Nagoya Hill Hotel in Batam, Indonesia.

In his report, Mr Leow also highlighted Seacare's community outreach efforts in the Jalan Kukoh community. This included the delivery of rice cookers to the doorsteps of 56 selected households in Jalan Kukoh in December 2016.

"It was a much-anticipated gift for the less-privileged recipients, who live on government subsidies and social assistance," he pointed out.

During the Lunar New Year 2017 celebrations, Seacare also presented red packets, mandarin oranges and goodie bags to 20 bedridden and wheelchair-bound senior residents at their doorsteps. Selected Muslim families had also received 100 grocery-filled shopping trolleys during Hari Raya Puasa.

"The success of Seacare and the community in which we operate are largely symbiotic as I believe our unity would not have been possible without the strong faith placed in us by the very community in which we inhabit," Mr Leow said.

After the AGM, members celebrated the World Maritime Day at Club@52.



BEST WESTERN QUEENS HOTEL COMES UNDER SEACARE



The successful acquisition of Best Western Queens Hotel on 28 November 2017 by Seacare Compass Dundee Ltd, a joint venture company formed between Seacare Hospitality (UK) Ltd and CH Holdings Ltd, brought the total number of Seacare-owned hotels in the United Kingdom to eight.

Through this latest acquisition, Seacare has further strengthened its hotel portfolio in the United Kingdom.

Constructed in 1878, the six-storey hotel with 53 bedrooms is prominently located on Nethergate, right in the heart of Dundee's vibrant West End Cultural Quarter. It houses the main University of Dundee campus, St Andrew's Cathedral and other chic shops, bars and restaurants.

In addition to offering convenient access to the railway station and being a short 10-minute drive from Dundee Airport, the Best Western Queens Hotel is situated an hour south of Aberdeen and 90-minutes drive north of Edinburgh via the Forth and Tay road bridges.

Boasting a range of function suites, a restaurant and the Q Bar, a bar lounge on the ground floor, the hotel is the venue of choice for some 200 weddings and other functions yearly.



The Best Western Queens Hotel has also served as a base for Winston Churchill during his 14 years as Member of Parliament for Dundee from 1908 to 1922. Best-selling musical artiste Frank Sinatra also stayed at the hotel during his only visit to the city in 1947.

With the ambitious \$1 billion redevelopment of Dundee's waterfront and the V&A Museum of Design – the only other V&A Museum in the world outside London – scheduled to be opened in 2018, Dundee has been placed on the map as an exciting new visitor destination.

"We have various properties in the UK but only one in Scotland. Acquiring Best Western Queens Hotel provides an opportunity to increase our foothold in Scotland. Tourism is a strong driver of Dundee's economic growth and development, so the transformation and revamping of the city is something worthwhile to bet on," Seacare Hospitality CEO Lim Chye Teen said.



\$200

GIFT VOUCHER

Terms and Conditions:

- This gift voucher is only good for a single transaction; any remaining amount is not exchangeable with cash or another voucher and will be automatically forfeited.
- Any additional cost exceeding the value of this voucher will be paid by the redeemer.
- This gift voucher will be considered null and void without the Expiry Date and Authorized Signature being filled up, seal and other authentication signs or if tampered.
- This gift voucher will not be replaced when lost, damaged or stolen.
- This voucher is valid only for A.I. Programs of Seacare NeuroLAT Pte Ltd.
- This voucher cannot be used in conjunction with other prevailing promotions and cashback policies.
- In the event of any dispute, the decision of Seacare NeuroLAT Pte Ltd is final.
- Seacare NeuroLAT Pte Ltd reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions without prior notice.

NeuroLAT

POWERED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

\$200 VOUCHER



ACCELERATED LEARNING THROUGH NEUROLAT



Acceleration in learning is what every parent would want for their children, including those with special needs. Parents looking for an accelerated learning approach, as well as industry experts from institutions and associations, made up the audience at the Seacare-organised seminar on the NeuroLAT programme.

The seminar, held on 18 November 2017 at the Seacare Building, gave participants the chance to find out more about NeuroLAT's modules and its full range of benefits, including enhanced communication and problem-solving skills.

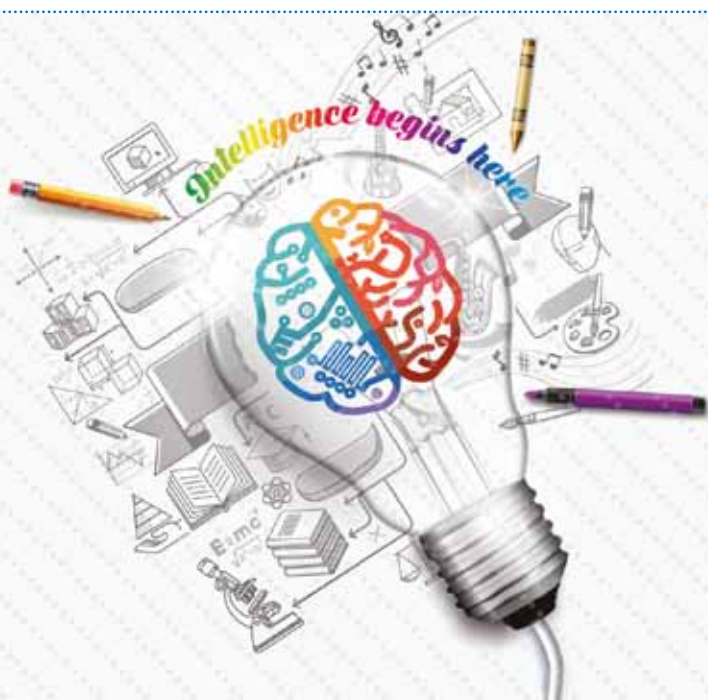
Dr Ng Meng Lek, renowned educational psychologist, founder and brainchild of NeuroLAT, was present to explain how the accelerated learning programme, designed for children and people with special needs, helps them achieve better cognitive skills and improve learning abilities. Dr Ng also touched on the connection between one's cognitive and learning abilities by sharing his observations from coaching autistic children.

The talk included testimonials from parents about how NeuroLAT worked for their children. Mr Philip Moo, Mr Anthony Chua and Mr KK Ho shared with parents how their autistic children excelled after using NeuroLAT. Mr Chua recounted, "I received a call from the school principal and was told that my son is going to win the Bishop's prize, given to only one student in the entire school for making the best progress. I realised then that NeuroLAT has indeed changed my child."

The half-day event at the Seacare Building saw participants inquiring about NeuroLAT and its full range of benefits, including enhanced communication and problem-solving skills.

"In a society where academic excellence is valued, I believe NeuroLAT can contribute to children by giving them the effective learning tools to be successful in life and give them future and hope," said parent, Rebecca Aw, Principal of YWCA kindergarten.

Parent Juliana agreed, saying: "My greatest takeaway from today's seminar is that there is hope and the message is never to give up especially on children who have special needs."



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GIFT VOUCHER

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\$200 VOUCHER

PENETRATING SINGAPORE'S SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD MARKET



Mr Dennis Ng, the new Director for Seacare TradePlus Pte Ltd, shares his visions for the co-operative-owned importer: To sell only seafood harvested sustainably from aquafarms and fishlines; and to have them conveniently available in NTUC FairPrice outlets, nationwide.

“We have reached a critical stage where 85 per cent of global fishing grounds are exhausted. We must harvest responsibly, replenish the fish supply and keep our ecosystems in balance,” he urged.

Dennis said demands for sustainable alternatives remain low despite the nation’s high consumption of seafood.



Dennis Ng, director of Seacare TradePlus



“Most importers are reluctant to lower the costs of sustainable seafood due to lower import volume. Penetrating this market will not be easy. We will keep the price low. It may hurt our bottom line... but someone has to start first.”

Dennis’ experience in the industry will allow Seacare TradePlus to readily tap on reliable fisheries, shorten its learning curve and compete with the big boys.

Seacare TradePlus will be collaborating actively with Fairprice and NGOs, such as WWF to champion the sustainable fishing movement from within the co-operative sphere.

Meanwhile, works are in the pipeline to roll out sustainable catch from Europe and the North Sea - namely, Haddock, Red Fish, Atlantic Cod and Plaice - in FairPrice by Q2 2018. The four entrants will be labelled Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certified - the global standards for sustainable fishing and aquaculture.





The company will tap on reputable and socially-responsible suppliers to offer Singaporeans a wider variety of wild-caught and aqua-cultured fish from Norway, Iceland and the North Sea.

Responding to consumers' sentiment that sustainable and chemical-free seafood from responsible farming practices should be available and affordable not only to the wealthy, but also to the mass market, Dennis added that sustainable produce is gradually gaining interest among our discerning consumers.

"Many are asking about certain fish species - whether they are endangered, wild or sustainably farmed. If I present to my customers two fishes of identical quality and price, one from a sustainable source and the other not, there is simply no reason they will reject the sustainably harvested one," he said

"The scale will tip, we just don't know when. But we are in the right direction and will take it as an investment into the future."



RENDERING JOB-HUNTING HELP



Singaporeans and PRs looking to enter the workforce got a boost in their career search at two recruitment drives in which Seacare Manpower Services participated.

Close to 250 members of the public registered their interest at the organisation's booth during Project Success, a job fair held at Pasir Ris Elias Community Club on 8 November 2017.

Seacare Manpower Services's booth at another job fair organised by e2i (Employment and Employability Institute) at the Bishan Community Club on 31 October 2017 generated an equally positive reception, with some 150 candidates signing up on the spot.

ALIGNING SERVICES PROMISES

On 24 November 2017, 15 Seacare Manpower Services employees gained insight into the importance of building a customer-centric company culture during a training session entitled "Aligning Your Services Promises" at the Meeting Suite.

The SkillsFuture Singapore-Approved competency-based training course was specially organised for the Seacare Manpower Services labour pool who was working in various positions involving customer contact. Under the expertise and guidance of trainer Nancy Yoong from Impact Management Seminar Pte Ltd, the participants analysed their work behaviours and brushed up on their customer service skills through role-playing scenarios.



Participants who have completed the workshop:

Beatty Sec Sch	Chan Mei Mei
Bedok View Sec Sch	Tonah Binte Haron
Cantonment Pri Sch	Lissy Kozhikottu
CHIJ (Katong) Primary	Farhanna Mohd Zin
Crescent Girls' Sch	Ong Siew Har
Edgefield Sec Sch	Kerina Lynette Koh Lee Kheng
Marymount Convent Sch	Lim Siok Eng
MOM	Cheng Siew Leng
Northland Pri Sch	Noraine Binti Md Amin
Presbyterian High Sch	Ng Hwee Huat
Singapore Prison Service	Sharifa Mastura Syed M
Tampines Sec Sch	Sum Kwai Ling
Victoria JC	Fauziah Binte Mohd Zin
	Rosnah Binte Abdul Rahman
Yio Chu Kang Sec Sch	Meenakshi Sundaram Srisundha

**ATTENTION**

ALL SOS Seafarers' Provident Fund (SPF) Members!

With the termination of the SPF Scheme, all SOS SPF members can come forward to apply for withdrawal from their SPF account. Deadline for submission of Withdrawal Form and Supporting Documents are to reach SOS Singapore Office by:

31 AUGUST 2021

All applications received after the above date WILL NOT BE PROCESSED NOR ENTERTAINED.

Withdrawal Application Form is available at www.ispf.org.sg
You may also contact us at:

Singapore

Seacare Thrift Pte Ltd
52 Chin Swee Road
#08-00 Seacare Building
Singapore 169875
Tel: +65 6379 5666
Fax: +65 6836 3976
Email: thrift@seacare.com.sg

Philippines

Seacare International Phils. Inc.
Unit 515 5th floor, S&L Building 1
1500 Roxas Boulevard
Ermita, Manila 1000, Philippines
Tel: +63 2 521 6839
Fax: +63 2 521 7170
Email: phils@seacare.com.sg

China

**Singhai Marine Services
(Shanghai) Co. Ltd**
Building 4, 600 Min Sheng Road
Pudong District,
Shanghai, China 200135
Tel: +86 21 5885 9799
Fax: +86 21 6855 4760
Email: sunjiajia@singhai.com

Indonesia

c/o Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia (KPI)
Jalan Cikini Raya No. 58 AA/BB
Jakarta Pusat 10330
Tel: +62 21 314 1495
Fax: +62 21 314 1491
Email: psonny@kpiunion.org
ppkpi@indosat.net.id

China

**Singhai Marine Services
(Wuhan) Co. Ltd**
HePing Avenue, Wuchang District
#19-01, KanJiang Building,
Shui An International,
Wuhan, China 430000
Email: sunjiajia@singhai.com



**SPREAD THIS MESSAGE TO ALL YOUR SEAFARING
FRIENDS WHO HAVE SAILED ON SOS CBA VESSELS**

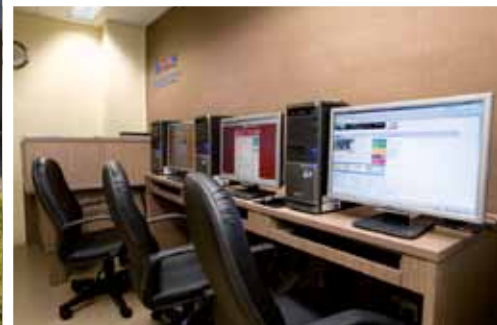
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