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# SAMIUDRA

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**“Our  
island-story  
has many  
more bright  
chapters  
to unfold.”**

PM LEE HSIEN LOONG



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# BUILDING TOMORROW'S SINGAPORE



Credit: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong Facebook.

**M**ore Singaporeans are living longer, and they should get the support to stay active and work longer, if they wish to do so.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said this in his National Day Rally speech on 18 August 2019 at the Institute of Technical Education College.

In his speech, PM Lee announced that the Government will raise the retirement age from 62 to 63 in 2022, and eventually to 65 by 2030.

The re-employment age will also go from 67 to 68, also in 2022, and eventually to 70, also by 2030.

These recommendations from the Ministry of Manpower's Tripartite Workgroup on Older Workers were accepted by the Government. Another recommendation that the Government accepted is to raise the Central Provident Fund (CPF) contribution rate for older workers.

The CPF contribution rates for workers above 55 years old will be raised gradually over the next 10 years, depending on overall economic conditions. The process will start from 2021. The change will enable those 60 years old and below to enjoy full CPF rates for more years, said PM Lee.



Screen shot of PM Lee from CNA.

Current CPF withdrawal policies or withdrawal ages will remain the same. Singaporeans will still be able to take out some of their money at 55 years old, and they can still start their CPF payouts from age 65.

PM Lee highlighted that Singaporean's life expectancy at birth is now the longest in the world - nearly 85 years.

"We are healthy for longer and living longer, but we do not want to spend more years idle in retirement. We want to stay active and engaged, to feel a sense of worth and purpose. Also, many of us want to build up a bigger nest egg for when we eventually retire. Therefore, many of us have multiple careers in a lifetime," he said.

“We hope as you near retirement age, you can keep improving even in your 60s. And of course, the Government will fully support both employers and employees in this endeavour.”

Besides helping its people remain in the workforce for longer, PM Lee also spoke about investing in education and protecting the environment from the effects of climate change.

In his National Day message recorded at Jewel Changi Airport and telecast on 8 August 2019, PM Lee said: “To stay in front of the pack, we must constantly come up with fresh ideas, always be ready to break new ground. What limits our possibilities is not the physical size of our island, but the ingenuity of our people and the boldness of our spirit.”



Credit: NTUC SecGen Ng Chee Meng's Facebook



### Labour Movement Celebrates Singapore

The Labour Movement got together on 8 August to celebrate the nation's 54th birthday. “The highlight had to be the special appearance by our NTUC Singapore National Day Parade Marching Contingent showing off the marching skills that they have picked up and practised over the past five months!” NTUC Secretary-General Ng Chee Meng posted this on his facebook page.

Three Youths from SOS, Catherine Lim, Rachel Chew and Jullienne Low, joined in the fun held on 8 August at the NTUC Centre.

“I felt very patriotic when we sang the national day theme song “Home” and “Stand up for Singapore”. Not forgetting the fringe activities where we played old school games: Five stones, Chapteh and marbles games as it brought back childhood memories.”

Rachel



“The Modernisation of the Labour Movement has come a long way. It felt special this year to join the trade union family to not only celebrate Singapore's 54th birthday but also its Bicentennial year. There is a strong sense of unity when everyone from all walks of life recite the National pledge and sing National Day classics together.”

Jullienne

“I felt honoured to be invited to attend the Labour Movement National Day Observance Ceremony 2019. This year being the Bicentennial year was especially touching when we sang the National Day song “Home” together as it is not an easy journey for Singapore to come this far.”

Catherine



# MOU SIGNING CEREMONY FORMATION OF INDUSTRY COLLABORATION TRAINING COMMITTEE FOR THE SEAFARING SECTOR



Photo credit: SMOU

## INDUSTRY COLLABORATION TRAINING COMMITTEE (CTC) TO IMPROVE SEAFARING SECTOR

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, SOS, Singapore Maritime Officers' Union and Singapore Maritime Employers Federation came together to form an industry Collaboration Training Committee (CTC) for the seafaring sector.

The CTC will be supported by NTUC's Employment and Employability Institute (e2i) and will develop a sustainable training system that focus on helping seafarers to acquire new skills needed in the future of the maritime industry.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the formation of the CTC was witnessed by Minister for Education Ong Ye Kung and NTUC President Mary Liew, on 18 June 2019. SOS General Secretary Daniel Tan represented the Union to endorse this initiative.

**“It is timely that the seafaring sector now has this CTC to focus on the retraining and upskilling of the maritime workforce. With relevant skills, seafarers can truly become future ready,”** said Brother Daniel.

This initiative is expected to benefit 17 companies under SMEF.



## STRONG ENDORSEMENT FOR GROWTH AT SOS EOGM

In his first Extraordinary General Meeting (EOGM) as SOS General Secretary Daniel Tan received strong support from SOS members to see the Union move forward with the motions presented.

The motions on anniversaries celebrations, leadership renewal and union constitution which were presented for approval secured overwhelming support at the EOGM.

**“Thank you for your support. The Union will continue to shape the next generation of union leaders to take the Union forward,” assured Brother Daniel** at the meeting held on 27 July 2019 at the Furama City Centre.

In his address, Brother Daniel highlighted that SOS will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2021; and Seacare’s 27th Anniversary. To commemorate the significant milestone, a host of activities, events and dinners involving SOS members, tripartite partners, local and foreign associates will be organised in Singapore and the region. The celebration will reach its finale in a grand dinner to be held in Singapore.



Brother Daniel's call for the celebration of the “strong bond forged over half a century with its international members and partners” was given the thumbs up by the SOS members at the EOGM.

To support the NTUC 3-Flow Resolution, the SOS members also also said yes to pass the motions on leadership renewal and union constitution.

In unison, the SOS members gave their full support to see the Union go the next lap with confidence.









## SOS IS “ON BOARD” ON DAY OF SEAFARER

Though the welfare of seafarers figures on SOS's radar every season of the year, conveying the union's appreciation to the seafarers for their work and sacrifice on the Day of the Seafarer on 25 June 2019 is especially poignant.

It is the time where SOS, in solidarity, joins the rest of the world to support International Maritime Organization's call to make the maritime world a better place. This year, the campaign theme of gender equality promotes the message, "#IamOnBoard".

It was celebration time and a fortuitous one too to drop anchor in Singapore waters during the Day of the Seafarer. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, in partnership with Jurong Port, PSA, SOS, SMOU, and the seafarer missions in Singapore had organised a hamper give away to celebrate the occasion.







“It is very meaningful, stepping onboard to meet the crew members in person. Seafarers’ contributions are immense; so too are their sacrifices. They sail the high seas to transport everything that societies need – food, fuel, construction materials, consumer goods and so many more. They deserve a big thank you from everyone.”

**SOS President Mohamad Abu Bakar**

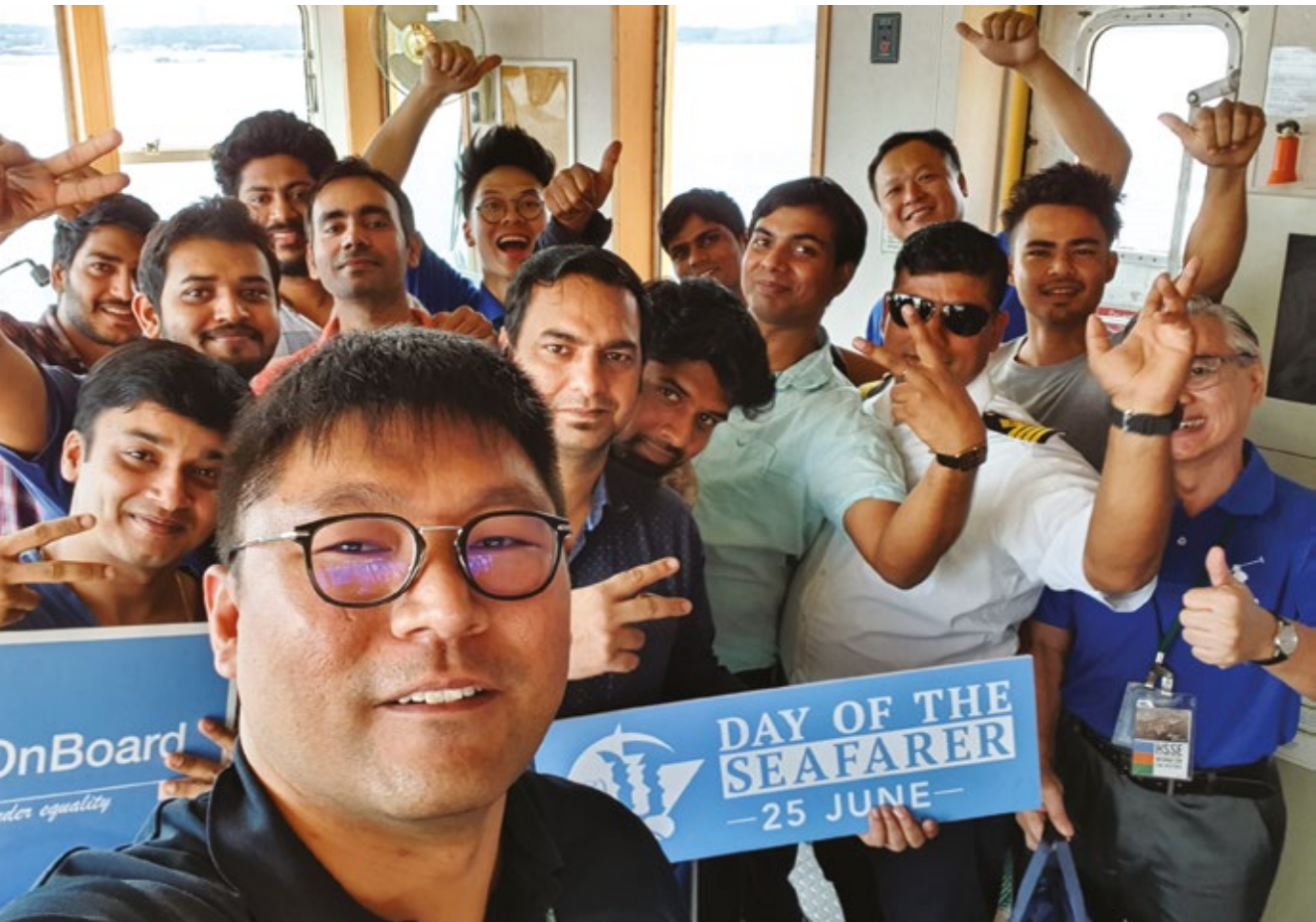
Six hundred food and gift hampers had been given to crew on board ships visiting the Port of Singapore during this period to encourage bonding and better shipboard working culture and wellbeing of seafarers.

From 25 June to 3 July 2019, SOS IR team spread joy to the crew members onboard 37 vessels calling at the Singapore port, many of whom are grateful for the visit and goodies.

Through the visits made, SOS President Mohamad Abu Bakar, SOS External & Industrial Relations Manager Eugene Guo, SOS Assistant Manager Max Theodore, and SOS External and IR Executive Alan Kor conveyed the Union’s assuring presence at all times.

“I experienced first hand the joy of giving. Crew members were delighted to see us and to receive the hampers. They were all smiles. I felt a great sense of satisfaction, being able to give my time to make their day.”

**IR Executive Alan Kor**



## USD207,000 WAGES RECOVERED FOR FOLK BEAUTY CREW

**S**ingapore Seafarers' Unions got into the thick of action in assisting abandoned seafarers in the Port of Singapore.

The seafarers were left stranded after their ship was abandoned on Singapore waters on 17 March 2019. The ship was hauled to safety to the Sembawang Shipyard but the crew members, 19 of them, were in a precarious state. The shipping company had not paid them wages for months; some were even owed eight months of wages.

As soon as permission was granted to enter the ship, on 17 May 2019, the Industrial Relations team from SOS and SMOU visited the crew and helped them file their claims for the unpaid wages totaling USD207,000.

On 28 June 2019, SOS and SMOU IR team returned to see to it that full outstanding wages were paid to each crew member, and assisted in the sign-off and repatriation procedures.

The work progressed without a hitch. All crew members received their wages and by the following day, 29 June 2019, they were all heading home, to India, to Bangladesh, where emotional reunions await.

It has been a stressful time for the crew. They have not remitted money back for some time and wondered how their families back home were coping. With all the uncertainties ahead, the help rendered by the SOS, SMOU and Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore was a welcomed relief.





**“I wish to thank SOS, SMOU and the Singapore Government for acting swiftly and efficiently to our call for help. We have suffered a lot. And now, we are going home and happy!”** said Bosun Thapa Rahul.



Bosun Thapa Rahul and Oiler Manoj Sharma both highlighted their appreciation for the assistance rendered, and would continue to sail on other vessels despite the unpleasant experience.

The crew was grateful that the crew was provided with provisions and allowed to go on shore leave during the ordeal.



**“With this unpleasant incident behind us, in future, we have to be careful in choosing who we sail with. There are still many good ship owners out there,”** Manoj Sharma commented.



## SUMMIT AND FORUM IN UKRAINE OFFER “GOLDMINE OF INFORMATION”

On special invitation by the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU), SOS General Secretary Daniel Tan was in Odessa from 2 to 5 June 2019 to participate in two maritime conferences. The world's maritime leaders and experts had all converged at this maritime capital of Ukraine, turning it into a great platform for networking and exchanges.

The Europe-Asia Maritime Summit 2019 featured a host of issues revolving around the Ukrainian maritime industry: the promotion of its seafarers, the local maritime labour market as viewed from shipowners' perspective, opportunities for Ukrainian seafarers and the criminalisation of seafarers.

The International Forum on Seafarers' Education, Training and Crewing (ETC) was attended by 180 delegates from 25 countries who represented some 100 organisations. The spotlight was on maritime manpower, ship management, maritime HR and the equipping of seafarers to be part of a multicultural crew.

“Both the Summit and Forum offer a goldmine of information. There was a host of maritime industry experts sharing insights and best practices from their respective fields. Many of them came from regions with rich seafaring heritage, such as Scandinavia and the Nordic countries. The two themes that left the greatest impression on me are HR practices that put crew ahead of profit, and the innovations in learning technology.”

**Mr Daniel Tan, SOS General Secretary**

While in Odessa, he also visited MTWTU and the Maritime Union Centre & Facilities. Upon his return, he had shared key takeaways with the SOS team with a view to explore the adaptation of the new found knowledge for implementation in the Union and the Singapore context.





The 7th Working Group on Asian Seafarers' Summit Meeting  
17th July 2019  
JR tower hotel nikko sapporo



## GEARING UP FOR ASSM 2019

**A**head of the Asian Seafarers' Summit Meeting 2019 (ASSM) in Hanoi, Vietnam, 38 union representatives from Asia got together on 17 July 2019 in Sapporo, Japan, to prepare for the meeting. Representing SOS in the pre-meeting working group were Emeritus General Secretary Kam Soon Huat, Assistant Secretary Chen Chuanyi and External & Industrial Relations Manager Eugene Guo.

The issues of focus were the challenges faced by seafarers in the Asian region, for instance, skills upgrading and retraining, safeguarding their emotional health, attracting women into the maritime workforce, and assisting seamen abandoned at sea.

The SOS team shared with the working group the Singapore experience, one that showcases the strength of collaboration. The various partnerships, with seafarer missions and the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore, enable both unions (SOS and SMOU) to deliver more benefits to members.

Comfort and convenience, a friendly welcome and connection with loved ones - the working group noted how seafarers arriving in Singapore get a dose of these in various forms. These include on-demand shuttle service from Pasir Panjang Terminal to the Seacare Drop-in



Centre for International Seafarers - a thoughtful arrangement which enables seafarers to maximise their shore time for rest and recreation; well-equipped drop-in centres replete with wireless broadband connectivity, among other amenities; 4G broadband onboard ships, and wireless broadband too (if the ships are anchored within 15 km from Singapore's shoreline).

On top of these, SOS team visits seafarers onboard or at the drop-in centres to distribute posters and information on mental health concerns. Counseling and pastoral care by staff from seafarer mission organisations are also available.

On the subject of ships abandonment, the SOS team related the joint effort with SMOU to assist the crew of three abandoned vessels to recover wages and return home. The issue of ships abandonment will be discussed in depth at the ASSM. On the jobs front, the Singapore delegation shared how members could be supported, in acquiring new skills and sharpening current ones to get ready for future jobs onboard and ashore.

With the conclusion of the pre-meeting, the working group paves the way for the ASSM to discuss the issues raised, among other business. In the meantime, it is Goodbye Sapporo, and Countdown to Hanoi!

# 全国海船船员统考适任评估莆田考点



## FIRST SEACARE QUALITY RATING TRAINING IN PUTIAN

The 61<sup>st</sup> cohort of the Seacare Maritime Training Scheme - Seacare Quality Rating Training (SQRT) is a special lot. For the first time, the SOS sponsored maritime training programme is conducted in Putian, located in the Fujian province in China.

The training of 20 ratings from 10 June to 5 July 2019 took place in Fujian Putian Maritime Vocational of Technical School; an institution known for its excellent pool of maritime expertise. The school is also well equipped with up-to-date ship handling simulator, engine simulator, mock-up engine room and seamanship workshop.

The location of the institution is a natural choice for ratings to be trained, as about 10 percent of Chinese seafarers are from Fujian. And more than 75 percent of them are working for shipowners and managers in Hong Kong, Panama and Singapore.

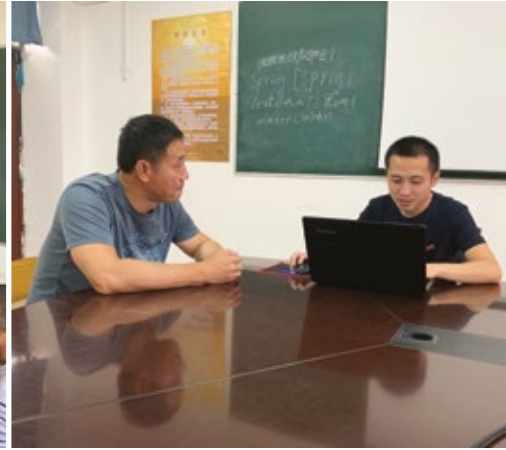
“We strive to serve our Singapore CBA companies better by conducting quality training in a location where most of their ratings come from,” said Mr Mike Kee, Executive Director of Singapore (Nantong) International Maritime Institute (SNIMI).

The ratings who had undergone the training are more than pleased with their new found confidence in speaking English and working onboard with an international crew.





▲ Group practice session to master the language.



▲ One-on-one coaching and assessment.



▲ Maintaining physical fitness while on course.

### Maritime Training Continues at Nantong

During the same period over at Nantong, China, 15 experienced ratings were also getting their English proficiency and maritime knowledge upgraded. All thanks to the SMTS SQRT, they are now in a better position to communicate and work onboard.



# CHINA SEAFARERS SHOW THEIR SKILLS

China maritime community showcased its seafarers' skills biennially through friendly competition. The 5th China Seafarer Skills Competition was held in Zhoushan City, Zhejiang Province to commemorate the International Day of the Seafarer.

The competition held from 24 - 28 June 2019 featured nine games, testing the skills of seafarers. For five days, spectators watched teams pit against each other in challenges such as bridge resource management, passage planning, re-floating of dead ships, removing of dynamic pipe system, seafarers triathlon, boat manoeuvring, line heaving, metal work and knowledge contest.

Competition was fierce among the nearly 500 participants from shipping companies and maritime institutions across the country. For the first time, Singapore showed solidarity in the seafarers skills sports meet. Other union delegates from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan were also in attendance.

SOS General Secretary Daniel Tan was also there to discuss how the Union can strengthen fraternal and bilateral relationship with its Chinese counterparts - All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) and China Seafarer and Construction Workers' Union (CSU).







**“The competition not only help everyone improve their theoretical knowledge, but also greatly improve their quality and skills through practical operation,”** said Zhang Jingyi, China Seafarer and Construction Workers' Union (CSU).

The event was hosted by All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), CSU and China Maritime Safety Administration.





## GATHERING OF WOMEN LEADERS TO BOND, LEARN, GROW

▲ Field trip to the First Commercial Bank.

**M**ore than 60 women leaders from some 40 unions got together to chart the action plans to enhance the Labour Movement's relevance and representation of working women.

For four days from 11 to 14 June 2019 in Taipei, Taiwan, the participants at the Women's Committee Taiwan Workplan Seminar did a stock-take of the Labour Movement's efforts in supporting working women as well as identify the needs and propose new solutions to women's workplace concerns.

The women leaders bonded over shared reflections, dances and skits; and learned together through insightful brainstorming sessions and field trips to Ministry of Labour, Chinese Federation of Labour, Taiwan Petroleum Workers' Union and First Commercial Bank.

At the seminar, the women drew upon their unique strengths and perspectives and highlighted that they are "not only women leaders but union leaders who are women". The participants voiced their sentiment that the "women leaders represent all workers, not only women, and their opinions matter."

Another seminar takeaway is the reiteration that tripartism is the way forward to ensure that workers can have better wages, welfare and work prospects.





**“We saw the importance of embracing transformation through company training committees set up by NTUC to help workers upgrade skills. The only way to deal with the economic disruption is not to resist change,”** said Sister Halimah, NTUC Women’s Committee member and SOS Membership, Welfare and Training Assistant Manager.

▲ SOS Assistant Manager Halimah, participated in the workplan seminar, in her capacity as member of NTUC Women’s Committee.



◀ ▼ Visit to the Taiwan Ministry of Labour.

The seminar was organised by the all women team from the NTUC Women and Family Unit for women participation. The only man in the workplan trip was Mr Ang Hin Kee, NTUC Assistant Director-General and Division Director for Operations and Mobilisation.



## I LOVE DATA

To get everyone up-to-speed with training and development for the digital workplace, SOS signed up for its staff, the Data Appreciation to Extract Business Value course, organised by NTUC LearningHub, at the NTUC Trade Union House.

The two-day course, held in 2 batches on 13 to 14 May and 30 to 31 May 2019 respectively, was pitched to participants who are at intermediate level. SOS staff attending the course already had knowledge of Microsoft Windows operating system and its core functionality; and an advanced working knowledge of Excel spreadsheets.

The course delved deeper into Data Intelligence using other platforms such as Qlik Sense, Tableau and Microsoft Power BI and equipped the participants to apply their new found knowledge.



For the two days, learners familiarised themselves with terms such as Big Data, Data collection, ETL, Relationship, Data Visualisation, using features such as Data Validation, Power Query and Pivot Table.

Through the Data Appreciation to Extract Business Value course, SOS staff felt digitally empowered and confident to apply their knowledge in their respective work.

## MISSING MAX TO THE MAX

Maximillian Theodore Francis has always been a familiar face representing SOS at ship visits and in cooks training programmes.

During his tenure as Assistant Manager in SOS, Max or Pak Max, as he was fondly called, was responsible for the development of the Seacare Quality Cooks Training Programme and Cooks Enhancement Training. As a certified chef with past experience working in a cruise ship, Max was able to bring value into the training programmes, using his area of expertise.



When he first came on board SOS

seven years ago in 2012, he aspired to serve, support and share knowledge with fellow seafarers in every aspect within the scope of the Union.

He kept to his word. Among his achievements was the creation of SOS's own hygiene book, which was produced in accordance to MLC requirements. The book was developed and only given out by SOS at the cooks training programmes.

Most fulfilling for Max is that he was able to impart valuable knowledge and experience with regards to cooking and hygiene in ships. Not only did the cooks learn new cuisine, they were taught how to be more creative in their menu planning even with limited store provisions. The crew were often delighted to get more varied cuisine that are hygienically prepared.

Max retired officially on 30 June 2019, but his interest to serve seafarers' continues to burn on. Pak Max will really be missed to the max!





**SEACARE**Focus

**SEACARE**Focus



## GETTING TO KNOW SUITES HOTEL KNOWSLEY, LIVERPOOL

Think of Liverpool and most likely one thinks of the Liverpool Football Club, and their famous Anfield stadium (one of the country's largest). But Liverpool is more than just that. Liverpool is famous as the birthplace of The Beatles. The city also has many beautiful historic buildings as well as numerous gardens and parks, museums, and recreational facilities. Some of the main attractions are the Walker Art Gallery and the Philharmonic Hall, the latter regarded as one of the best concert halls in Europe. Liverpool also has the honour of being named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a designation that covers six sites in the center of Liverpool including Pier Head, Albert Dock, and William Brown Street. The city is

also a popular shopping destination, particularly around trendy Liverpool One.

If you're visiting Liverpool, the best location to stay is at Suites Hotel & Spa Knowsley. The hotel adjoins Knowsley Business Park, and only 6.8 miles from central Liverpool with good transportation links to many cities and towns and direct highway to Liverpool City Centre and Manchester.

**Suites Hotel & Spa Knowsley** is a privately owned hotel situated in Merseyside. The only four-star hotel in the North West where everyone gets a luxurious suite, hence its name!







The hotel has 98 suites. For the last 19 years, this family owned and run hotel is proud to boast that their unique hotel offers excellent standards in facilities and outstanding quality of comfort within each suite, to leisure visitors and business travellers alike. All its suites feature high technology communications areas equipped with free Wi-Fi and Freeview channels. There are also new EV Charging points.

Even if you're here on business or holding a function, it's good to know that their meeting and banqueting rooms can accommodate up to 300 delegates. They are beautifully designed with unique surroundings and provide delegates and guests with the perfect environment, along with a dedicated team who provide the highest level of customer service.

Handley's Brasserie and Bollinger Bar is renowned for its warm welcome and delicious cuisine with a wide choice of menus whether you are looking for breakfast, lunch, Afternoon Tea or a special celebratory dinner.

The hotel also boasts of leisure facilities – 18m heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room

and jacuzzi for guests to enjoy during their stay. The Studio is the hotel's new boutique training facility offering hot and cold classes; yoga, pilates, spin and high intensity interval training classes.

The hotel is also home to The Spa @ Suites Hotel Knowsley Liverpool. In October 2018, The Suites Hotel and Spa was awarded a '5 Bubble' rating for the fourth year, for its state-of-the art Spa by The Good Spa Guide. It was the first spa on Merseyside to receive this accolade, and for good reasons. There are an array of luxury treatments to indulge in, where therapists work their magic with the finest products and over 90 treatments from their exclusive collections and signature range.

With such premium accommodation in the North West of UK, Seacare has indicated interest in Suites Hotel & Spa Knowsley.

"An offer has been made and it's looking promising. We hope to elevate and add this four-star hotel where all its rooms are suites, into our portfolio of hotels in UK," says Mr Lim Chye Teen, CEO, Seacare Hospitality Pte Ltd.



## COMING TOGETHER AS ONE THROUGH ART



The Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) has found an ingenious way to raise awareness about co-operatives and their contributions to Singapore's nation-building efforts.

Through a series of pop-up art events, anchored on "Coming Together as One Through Art", the good work of the Co-operatives is made known in a fun and instagrammable way.

On 12 July 2019, the NTUC Co-operatives Pop-Art event was launched outside Ang Mo Kio Hub Shopping Mall by NTUC Secretary-General Ng Chee Meng.

Joining in the event which was held in conjunction with Singapore's bicentennial celebration were Ms Shena Foo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Seacare Co-operative, and Chairperson, SNCF Service Sector; and Mr Ong Zhiwei, Assistant Head, Seacare Hospitality / Property & Environmental Clusters.

What was particularly significant about this event was that SNCF also commemorated the International Day of Co-operatives, by showcasing how co-operative enterprises do business which puts people before profit.

Themed "Stretch Your Dollar", the third pop-up art event showcased how NTUC established co-operatives in the 1970s, as a follow-up to the 1969 NTUC Modernization Seminar, to combat profiteering and to provide affordable goods and services for workers.

At the launch, SG Ng recounted how he would excitedly help his mother carry sacks of rice from one of the first branch of NTUC Fairprice (then called NTUC Welcome) at Leng Kee Road. He was six years old then.





“The impact of co-operatives all through our nationhood has been central. It made us a more inclusive society before the word was even invented because it made real impact to middle class families,” Mr Ng said.

Today, NTUC co-operatives deliver an integrated suite of services to meet specific needs of people in Singapore at every stage of their lifecycle - from healthcare to eldercare and childcare; from providing quality training to daily essentials, food and financial services.

In his speech, Mr Ng highlighted that the co-operative movement in Singapore predates the birth of Singapore as a nation, with its first co-op formed in 1925.

He affirmed that SNCF, together with all co-operatives will “chart society forward, to build ourselves to be more inclusive, to make sure that our services in Singapore are accessible and affordable to the common man and woman on the street, so that we will build a successful Singapore for all Singaporeans, regardless of class and background.”

The first two instalments of the Coming Together as One Through Art initiative featured the Credit and Service Co-operatives. The fourth and final event will take place in September. To close the Finale, a three-day carnival will be held from 18 to 20 October 2019 and will be graced by President Halimah Yacob.

▼ Pop-up art installation that creatively displays the history of the NTUC Co-operatives.





## SLOANE RESIDENCES – THE LEGACY UNFOLDS

A legacy which makes a powerful statement and leaves a lasting impression is what Sloane Residences embodies. The limited edition residence in District 10 is about to be revealed.

An exclusive private event was held on 28 June 2019 to showcase Sloane Residences to shareholders of TSky Balmoral Pte Ltd. It was an exciting milestone when the development was unveiled to various partners including Seacare Property Development Pte Ltd, and various business associates.

Subsequently, property agency Orange Tee held a series of VVIP show round by private invitation from 29 June to 1 July 2019 to a selected group of investors and buyers.

So, what can one expect from Sloane Residences?

In essence, Sloane Residences projects itself as a trendy, savvy and contemporary lifestyle pad with great emphasis and opportunities for quality living. Designed by Ong & Ong Architects, an award-winning, multi-disciplinary consultancy firm, the design of Sloane Residences delivers a series of dramatic sky terraces, landscaped courts, gardens and balconies in a unique and visually stunning manner.

Reaching 12 storeys, Sloane Residences is an exclusive collection of 52 unique apartments, each intricately designed and crafted, nestled in an impeccable neighbourhood of distinction. Nestled right in the heart of Balmoral Road, it gives residents convenient access to a wealth of amenities and leisure pursuits at every turn. A highly desirable address to call home, its freehold status is a lasting legacy for generations to enjoy. It recaptures the prestige and catchet





of Balmoral's illustrious past, which was once the residential estate of the wealthiest and most prominent members of society in the mid-19th century.

Occupying a linear site, Sloane Residences defies design conventions by interlocking a vertical tower (Skyscraper) and a horizontal block (Groundscraper) to achieve a spatial concept of interconnected living.

The Skyscraper accommodates the larger units – 3 & 4 Bedrooms unit types, which enjoy spectacular views towards a vista of landscape and trees. This slender tower block is lined with a frame of concrete gable fin walls with a patina of raw texture finish. All the units here are designed with protruding balconies to create a functional yet highly expressive elevation.

The Groundscraper has a more “extroverted” façade and a series of vertical gardens in the air. It houses ten unique 2-Bedroom Garden Suites which feature a double volume loft space in each unit and a panoramic view of the lush greenery outside the units. The Garden Suites are nested within a series of connected sky terraces and gardens with a wide array of recreational facilities such as gymnasium, spa, dining pavilions and cabanas. It brings a new meaning to Villa Living in the air.

Despite a lukewarm climate in the private residential market, Sloane Residences have so far received a steady stream of interest amidst a challenging environment. And so, with an optimistic outlook, T Sky Balmoral Pte Ltd hopes to expect a favourable response at the public launch.



## CONNECT CENTRE EXPANDS ITS CALL FOOTPRINT

**C**onnect Centre Pte Ltd is expanding its professional contact centre services in multiple ways and beyond Singapore.

Firstly, Connect Centre goes across the border to its neighbour Malaysia. Located in Mid Valley Southkey Shopping Mall in Johor Bahru, Connect Centre Sdn Bhd was set up to support Singapore clients and any new Malaysian clients. It hires and trains local Malaysians to provide contact centre services, with a sitting capacity of 30 seats. The Johor site is Connect Centre's first offshore centre.

Back at home, Connect Centre has continued growing in terms of staff strength from last year. The rapid growth in numbers has seen the need to build a new extension wing. The new wing will house some 40 agent seats bringing the total number of seats in Henderson up to above 100. It will also house the company's first fully digital team who will handle non-voice enquiries only (from emails, social media chats, webchats, WhatsApp etc.). About 50% of Connect Centre's staff resources will relocate to the new wing, which is targeted for operations by end September 2019.





Additionally, Connect Centre has expanded its services through a new business entity. While Connect Centre works with Singapore Prison Services and SCORE (Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises) to tap on a diversified pool of talents in the men's prison to serve as call centre agents, this new entity will instead hire staff directly from the general public with no criminal records.

The new setup will cater for projects where our agents are required to be subjected to stringent security requirements. This move will allow the contact centre to be able to serve a wider pool of clients ranging from government agencies, companies and financial institutions where sensitive consumer information is required to be handled by the staff.

Connect Centre and its group of companies have over the past years clinched several major clients and is continuing their efforts to deliver excellent quality services for their clients and to fulfill its social enterprise role. It hopes to establish itself as a 'Go-To' brand when it comes to professional contact centre services.







## CELEBRATING PARENTS' DAY –

The culture of honour was well displayed at the SOS/Seacare Parents' Day Celebration for the 140 Jalan Kukoh senior citizens.

For the comfort and delight of the guests, a sit-down 8-course dinner was executed with care and warmth by the hosts. Held at Club@52 on 20 June 2019, the event saw some 40 leaders and staff of SOS and Seacare group of companies reaching out in big and small ways to ensure that the senior citizens felt right at home.

▼ Leaders and staff of SOS and Seacare delighted to serve.







▲ Mr David Sim, Chairman of Event Organising Committee, welcoming the guests.



▲ Entertainment in full gear.

## THE SOS/SEACARE WAY

Acting on the feedback to be more inclusive following a successful Mother's Day Celebration held at the Club in May last year, the Parents' Day Celebration included the participation of the male senior citizens in the neighborhood.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr Yuan Min, Chairman of Seacare OKiKi p-Hub (S) Pte Ltd, the guests went home with a double stainless steel hot and cold retention mug. They were also presented with a wallet from SOS and Seacare.



◀ Mr Leow Ching Chuan, Seacare Executive Chairman, shows the way to care.



## MARITIME COMMUNITY CONVERGE FOR “SEA, PORT, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT”



There were compelling reasons why Seacare Maritime Medical Centre Pte Ltd (SMMC) was at the 15th International Symposium on Maritime Health, held in HafenCity University, Hamburg, from 12 to 15 June 2019.

For one, the symposium boasted of a top-notch scientific programme that covered the latest updates in maritime medicine and related field. It featured speakers from all over the world as well as a social programme, including a visit to the famous Duckdalben International Seafarers Club, which in 2011 was named the best in the world and a boat trip through the historical city channels.

For four days, Dr Chia Yih Woei, Head of Seacare’s Medical and Maritime Cluster participated in the symposium programmes and benefited greatly from the debates, educational talks and networking opportunities.

“Participation in international symposiums such as this, opens up avenue for networking and knowledge of advancement in maritime medicine, take for example a new technology that merges the reality of a caretaker (ship’s officer) at sea and a doctor on land, bringing the doctor virtually ‘next’ to the patient on a ship.”

**Dr Chia, Seacare Maritime Medical Centre**







## REWARDING HAT YAI TRIP FOR SEACARE SALES EXECUTIVES

Seacare Sales Executive Retreat is an incentive trip that Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd organises for its Silver NTUC Plus! Card recruitment team to reward them for their hard work and dedication.

**“We decided on Hat Yai this year by popular demand. When the destination was announced, our sales executives couldn’t contain their excitement and were eagerly counting down the days to the trip,”** said Director of Seacare Manpower Services, Ms Sulena Supaat.

From 24 to 26 June 2019, 12 staff from Seacare Manpower Services’ Silver NTUC Plus! Card recruitment team headed off to Hat Yai, famous for its huge night markets, breathtaking scenery and hip cafes.

The centrally located accommodation at Centara Hotel meant that they could do more shopping, massage and clubbing around the town. Through the incentive travel programme, strong memories were forged over good food and company.

Seacare Manpower Services has previously organised retreats for Seacare Sales Executives to Melaka, Batam and Hat Yai.



**“We enjoyed all the inexpensive and fun activities - massage, clubbing and eating. We had a good time of bonding and getting to know each other better.”**

**George Lim, 10 years in service with Seacare.**

**“I enjoyed the Thai food immensely and the visit to the Hat Yai Municipal Park Temple.”**

**Christopher Tan, first time to Hat Yai with Seacare.**



## HELPING JOBSEEKERS FIND SUCCESS

▼ E2i Mini JobFair @ e2i Central, 28 June 2019.

Seacare Manpower Services Pte Ltd is always on the go, recruiting jobseekers to be recommended to their clients. During the month of June and July 2019, more than 200 members of the public showed interest at E2i Mini JobFair @ e2i Central and Project SUCCESS Walk-In-Interview at Rivervale Plaza.



### Jobseekers find placement thanks to Seacare Manpower Services

Fresh graduate Nur Syahirah Suratino, was successfully placed after 1 month from her registration with Seacare Manpower Services, during the Careers Connect On-the-Go (CCOTG) event on 6 May 2019. She is currently working as an Admin Assistant in the Health sector. The successful jobseeker says she loves her peaceful working environment and that her supervisors are approachable.

Quah Bee Lay has been a caregiver for the past seven years. So finding a job after a hiatus can be challenging. However, at the e2i Jobfair in Bishan, Seacare Manpower Services interviewed her, and she was successfully placed a month later. She currently works as a temporary assistant executive in a tertiary education sector.

Tan Cher Hwee used to work as an ICT Executive / ICT Trainer in a primary school. After his contract ended, he once again was looking for contract work. Seacare Manpower Services found him a placement in the same industry, after he registered at the Project Success Jobfair at Pasir Ris East CC.



▲ Project SUCCESS Walk-In-Interview at Rivervale Plaza, 18 July 2019.



# UTILISE YOUR SMS BENEFITS TODAY



The health and wellbeing of members are very important to SOS.

It is with the awareness of the importance of members' health that the SMS Benefits for FY2019/2020 has included more benefits. We encourage members to utilise these benefits that have been specially arranged, as we continue to improve and add value to your membership benefits.

From **1 April 2019** to **31 March 2020**, qualified SOS local members are eligible for:

- **Reimbursement Benefit of up to S\$100 per member**

This is for cost relating to eye examination, medication and/or treatment from any Singapore licensed healthcare establishment such as eye centre, clinic or hospital.

- **One Complimentary Superior Health Screening Package per member**

This includes test for lung function and cancer markers, at Seacare Maritime Medical Centre (SMMC).

**The complimentary health screening package** is extended to a parent/ spouse of the qualified local member.

For terms and conditions, details of benefits, reimbursement procedure, and updating of membership payment status, kindly contact SOS Membership & Welfare Services Division (level 5).

Book your appointment for the health screening at **63795666**.

S O A N E  
RESIDENCES

## A SPECIAL PLACE TO CALL HOME



For Sales  
Enquiries  
**6100-0167**

The Balmoral enclave occupies a very special place in Singapore's rich history. Once the residential estate of the wealthiest and most prominent members of society in the mid-19th century, Sloane Residences brings an unprecedented level of style to this enviable location for which Balmoral was once known.

Envisioned for those who aspire a life of luxury and style, Sloane Residences is an epitome of exclusivity.

Reaching 12 storeys, Sloane Residences is an exclusive collection of 52 select 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom apartments. This is an abode of urban chic and resort inspired sophistication.

The high life awaits with a curated suite of facilities such as sky terrace pool, dining pavilion, cabana, playground, spa, gym, generous landscaped lawns and terraces.

Make this your pride of place.



Developer: TSKY Balmoral Pte. Ltd. • Company registration no.: 201726687H • Housing Developer's Licence no.: C1264 •  
Location: Lots 138C & 99899P of Town Subdivision 26 at 17 Balmoral Road • Tenure of Land: Estate in fee simple.  
Encumbrances on the Land: Mortgage(s) in favour of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited •  
Expected date of Vacant Possession: 31 July 2022 • Expected date of Legal Completion: 31 July 2025