

# SV

SeavoiceS

Bi-Monthly Publication of the  
Singapore Maritime Officers' Union  
and Wavelink Co-operative

MCI (P) 051/11/2017

OCT  
NOV  
2018



ALL HANDS ON  
DECK FOR ITF  
CONGRESS

04

TNTA 15 ON  
FIRST SHIPBOARD  
LEARNING  
JOURNEY

10

FUTURE  
MARITIME  
TALENTS  
SHINE BRIGHT

26

# CONTENTS

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2018



Find us on



Young SMOU Members



SMOUnews



Smousg



Smou Sg

**Wavelink Building**  
**75 Jellicoe Road #02-01**  
**Singapore 208738**  
Tel : [65] 6396 0123  
Fax : [65] 6339 5436  
Website : www.smou.org.sg

**Operating Hours:**

Mon to Fri : 9am to 6pm  
(till 8pm on first Friday of every month)

**Lighthouse Bistro Operating Hours:**

Mon to Sat : 12pm to 10.30pm

**NATIONAL DAY SPECIAL**

**03** NTUC Celebrates Workers' Success

**PATHWAY TO CONGRESS**

**04** All Hands on Deck

**OUR GLOBAL REACH**

**05** First ITF Asia Pacific Inspectorate Meeting  
SMOU Contributes to AMOSUP Seamen's Hospital

**06** Local IBF Agreement with Enhanced Welfare Support  
Implementation of ILO MLC, 2006 for ASEAN

**07** WMI Making Waves in Asia

**09** WMI CadetsPlus Reached New Heights

**OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE**

**10** TNTA 15 on First Shipboard Learning Journey

**13** Team Bonding over Archery Tag

**14** Touching Hearts and Lives – YSMOU Shows the Way

**16** Empowered by a Charitable Experience

**MEMBERS OUTREACH**

**17** Strengthening Bipartism

**18** Largest Turnout for SMOU's Family Connection

**20** The Gift that Changes Lives

**22** Understanding Life Onboard

**24** Remembering Our Late Members

**25** SPF – Living Up to Its Purpose

**SINGAPORE CORE**

**26** Future Maritime Talents Shine Bright

**28** ITM Workshop Series 'Future-readies' Our Youth

**29** A Glimpse into the Future of Port Operations  
Appreciating Safe Navigation in Singapore Waters

**30** Lighthouse Bistro – Its Mission is to Make a Difference

**32** Chart Your Life Course with a Maritime Career

# NTUC Celebrates Workers' Success

**“W**ith rapid technological advancements and geopolitical shifts, economies and jobs around the world are being disrupted. The way we live and work are being reshaped. How fast and how well we adapt, innovate and transform will decide Singapore’s fortunes and Singaporeans’ living standards. For this reason, we have no option. We must succeed!”

In NTUC Secretary-General (SG) Ng Chee Meng’s maiden National Day message, he highlighted that the workers are “the core of our success” and listed five areas the Labour Movement will focus on to support our workers:

- Push for better wages, better welfare and better work prospects for our workers
- Roll out Progressive Wage Models and better working conditions for lift technicians as the immediate next sector, and explore the uplifting of other sectors as well
- Review the retirement age and strengthen re-employment guidelines for mature workers
- Make the Industry Transformation Maps (ITMs) real for our workers by improving training programmes so as to help them upskill and reskill for better job and wage prospects in the future
- Alleviate the impact of cost of living by helping workers stretch their hard-earned dollars through NTUC Social Enterprises



NTUC SG Ng Chee Meng, together with President Mary Liew, serving teh tarik to the workers.



SMOU Secretary Gwee Guo Duan was among the August birthday babies who celebrated their birthdays together with Singapore's.

“The Labour Movement will do all we can to help. We ask our workers to press on and gear up their skills. We need to train up to keep up, skill up to move up,” he said.

## NTUC National Day Observance Ceremony

On 10 August, the National Day was celebrated with a fun family carnival at the NTUC Centre. SG Ng and NTUC President Mary Liew were seen serving teh tarik (milk tea) to the union leaders, staff and family members.

Other highlights included a birthday celebration surprise for all August babies.



Photo Credit: NTUC



# PATHWAY TO CONGRESS

ITF Congress gets highlighted on Suntec's mega full HD LED digital wall which stands at more than three storeys high and 60 meters wide.



SNCC Chairperson Mary Liew's interview.



**“The ITF Congress in Singapore is very much a youth-led congress in many ways. I believe our fellow youth affiliates will rise up to the occasion to do our part and fully participate in the upcoming Congress.”**

– Dominic Yong, Young SMOU Chairman



Cadets get airtime in the congress collaterals.

## All Hands on Deck

The momentum is building. The final preparation for the first ever International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Congress to be held in Singapore, the first to take place in a Southeast Asian country after 122 years since 1896, is now in full force.

The Congress, which will take place 14 to 20 October 2018 at Suntec City, is ITF's core decision-making event. The ITF affiliates, representing 19.7 million transport workers in the ITF family from 150 countries, will be making their way to the Lion City to "take the ITF vision forward and help transport workers to build power".

Meanwhile, the ITF working committee group is making final touches to welcome the affiliates. In its final lap of preparation, the ITF UK team met up with the SMOU team from 16 to 20 July. One of the highlights of the visit included the venue familiarisation walkaround.

The ITF Singapore National Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has been assisting the working committee in ensuring that the Congress runs smoothly, right from the beginning.

ITF-SMOU Communications team meeting.



Celebrating Jo Dunmall (from ITF's birthday in Singapore amidst congress preparations.



## First ITF Asia Pacific Inspectorate Meeting

Some 30 Inspectors and Coordinators from seafarer unions across Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Singapore, gathered under one roof for the first ever International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Asia Pacific (AP) Inspectorate meeting held on 26 to 27 July in Manila, Philippines.

The AP Inspectorate discussed matters on Port State Control, Maritime Labour Convention, presentation of regional reports from coordinators, discussions on Medical Cases, Shore Leave, ITF Seafarers Education, ITF Seafarers Trust and Inspectorate Resources.

**“ It was an excellent platform for the Asia Pacific inspectors to highlight issues and best practices, moving the whole inspectorate up to another new level. It also gave us an opportunity to meet the newer inspectors and strengthen our working relationship. Special thanks to brother Steve Trowsdale, ITF Inspectorate Coordinator and Dr Conrado Oca, AMOSUP President for making this first AP Inspectorate meeting a success.**

■ SMOU Secretary Gwee Guo Duan

## SMOU Contributes to AMOSUP Seamen’s Hospital

In support of Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP)'s continuous effort to provide quality healthcare to Filipino seafarers and dependents, SMOU contributed to the building of the New South Wing of the AMOSUP Seamen’s Hospital.

**“ We commend AMOSUP for their excellent work in providing quality healthcare to the Filipino seafarers and their families. It is our privilege to play a part in improving the capabilities of its Seamen’s Hospital.**

■ SMOU General Secretary Mary Liew

This will provide medical and hospitalisation services to Filipino seafarers with bigger surgery rooms, dialysis and intensive care units as well as a clinical laboratory. This gesture will also further strengthen the bilateral ties and build good relations between SMOU and AMOSUP.



At the cheque presentation AMOSUP President Dr Conrado Oca thanked SMOU for its partnership and generous support in making a difference to the lives of the Filipino seafarers and their dependents.

# Local IBF Agreement with Enhanced Welfare Support

An increase in wages and compensation rates, inclusion of the general data protection regulation and changes to various contractual clauses including a revision to the non-seafarers work – these were the main points covered in the newly concluded International Bargaining Forum (IBF) agreement.

The agreement will be applied to all Singapore IBF agreements with effect from 1 January 2019 and will be valid for 2 years before it will be reviewed again.

The conclusion was reached after a full day of negotiation between the International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC), International Transport Workers' Federation, SMOU and the Singapore Organisation of Seamen.



**“ A decade of IBF process in Singapore has greatly enhanced the welfare of seafarers on beneficially owned foreign flag vessels under the umbrella of SMOU/SOS CBAs. What started as a small step in 2007 is now a matured process providing an excellent tripartite relationship in a complex world of shipping.**

■ Capt Belal Ahmed, IMEC Vice-Chairman, Western Shipping Managing Director



## Implementation of ILO MLC, 2006 for ASEAN

To address the challenges that arise from the implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006, a sub-regional workshop was held in Singapore for the first time for the tripartite delegations from ratifying ASEAN members and Mongolia.

SMOU President Capt Robin Foo, First Vice President Rahim Jaffar and Industrial Relations Officer Kelvin Lin were among 30 delegates who attended the workshop that was organised by the International Labour Organization in collaboration with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).

Held from 10 to 13 July at the MPA Academy, the workshop promoted a good application of the MLC, 2006 at the national level, with emphasis on strengthening the capacity of the competent authorities, shipowners

and seafarer organisations. The workshop provided a platform for regional cooperation and networking to be strengthened and for the sharing of best practices in the region.

**“ The workshop has given me a good understanding on the mechanism of the MLC and its background. During the course of the workshop, each of the different nationality groups shared their experiences and obstacles which they faced during implementation and how they overcame it. I would like to thank the ILO for the amazing learning experience and MPA for hosting this workshop.**

■ Kelvin Lin, SMOU Industrial Relations Officer

# WMI Making Waves in Asia

**W**avelink Maritime Institute (WMI), the training arm of Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU), was established on 1 October 2007 with the primary mission of providing quality and cost effective maritime education and training to SMOU members and the maritime industry. WMI extends its regional training network through continually maintaining global strategic partnerships with organisations both in Singapore and across Asia including China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore,

Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, delivering an extensive range of maritime courses.

Through the establishment of the Wavelink Maritime Simulation Centre (WMSC), WMI is able to deliver better training through applied learning in a risk-free environment thereby improving safe operation of ships as well as nurturing our Singapore Core in the maritime industry.



## Top 5 Most Popular Courses



1

Senior Officer Leadership Assessment Programme (SOLAP)



2

Senior Engineer Leadership Assessment Programme (SELAP)



3

Basic Tanker Training (new)



4

IMO Model Course 3.21 – Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO)



5

Company Specific Customised Training

# S\$4 Million

## Wavelink Maritime Simulation Centre

Launched in May 2014



*Photos are for illustration purpose only*





# WMI CadetsPlus Reaches New Heights

The CadetsPlus Manila concluded its run on 8 June, with a graduation ceremony held for 103 Filipino cadets who were certified sea-ready, at the New World Manila Bay Hotel in Manila, Philippines.

There to officiate the event was Guest-of-Honour Capt Edwin Sim, Chief Operating Officer of Wavelink Maritime Institute (WMI), Capt Francis Joseph, then Chairman of Singapore Maritime Employers Federation (SMEF), officials from WMI and shipping employers. During the official ceremony, special awards were also presented to cadets who were voted as the Most Outstanding, Most Enthusiastic E-Learner, and Most Exemplary Leader.

The cadets underwent their training from 28 May to 8 June at the NYK TDG Maritime Academy. During their 10-day programme, they learned to be better seafarers through the emphasis on communication and active conversation, soft skills and personal development, legislative requirement, safety and environmental protection and shipboard integration.

WMI is proud that this pre-boarding programme has reached out to and benefitted many cadets around the Asian region, through the promotion of collective training, education and upgrading of seafarers' skills.





## TNTA 15 on First Shipboard Learning Journey

Something great happens when cadets are put in an interactive learning environment such as onboard a vessel. Young SMOU organised its third shipboard learning journey onboard the Genting Dream, from 12 to 15 August. Cadets from Tripartite Nautical Training Award (TNTA) Cohort 15 had the privilege of interacting with leaders from SMOU and Wavelink Maritime Institute (WMI) while embarking on their first learning journey. The energy level amongst the cadets going into the learning journey was an all-time high.

### Lessons Onboard

The learning journey launched with lessons taught by WMI Chief Operating Officer (COO) and lecturer Capt Edwin Sim on day and night navigation. The cadets learnt about berthing, mooring lines, pilotage, transit lines and what to look out for when approaching the port. The following day, a lesson on technology and automation was made even more exciting as Capt Sim showed videos on the possibilities in the future. Lessons on the third day covered general seafaring, including making wise financial planning and investments.



### Teambuilding Activity

Cadets and Young SMOU officials bonded over bowling.





### Bridge Tour

A visit to the ship's bridge was led by Captain Jukka Silvennoinen, who gave a guide to the daily operations, the control panel at the main bridge, pointing out some of the key functions and the bridge wing. The cadets gained a better understanding of how a huge passenger ship is run.



### Fireside Chat

The fireside chat with leaders from SMOU and WMI was an inspiring moment, where each cadet had an opportunity to share about how they came into the maritime industry. SMOU General Secretary (GS) Mary Liew, Emeritus GS Thomas Tay, President Capt Robin Foo, Secretary Gwee Guo Duan, WMI Advisor Lim Tau Kok, COO Capt Edwin Sim and Young SMOU Chairman Dominic Yong were there to speak from the heart. The floor was open for cadets to share their concerns and views about seafaring. It was truly an insightful time of open dialogue.



### Sharing Sessions

The sharing sessions by WMI Advisor Lim Tau Kok and TNTA Alumnus Punithan Manoukaran were light-hearted. While the former chief engineer was open about his seafaring experiences and gave useful advice to the young cadets about character building, Puni, who is still a cadet, having sailed two voyages, related well to the junior cadets about his recent experiences.



### Group Discussion & Presentation

Cadets had group presentations on topics from human-augmented technology, risks of full automation to the future of maritime, which were touched on and deliberated with their fellow classmates in the presence of SMOU and WMI management. Despite being new to the industry, the cadets did their research and produced well thought-out reports on their findings and views.



**“ The shipboard journey is a very unique experience that serves a bridge between theory and actuality allowing the cadets to not just partake in classroom lessons but actually see their lessons come to life. Often, it is difficult for us to visualise what the lecturers are saying when we have never been on board a vessel. This shipboard journey definitely allows cadets to have a leg up on their lessons and be much more prepared when embarking on phase 2 of their training.**

◀ Punithan Manoukaran, TNTA Alumnus from Cohort 11



**“ The bridge tour was the most enriching as we were able to hear and learn from the captain while the journey was ongoing. It is a rare opportunity for an individual to get a close-up view to the operations area.**

▼ Wong He Feng, TNTA cadet



**“ I learnt a lot from the navigation lessons, like how to recognise the stars and also had first-hand experience on seeing the ship lights and signals. I was also inspired by all the former seafarers as well as Ms Mary Liew. Their stories have spurred me to give back to the maritime community after gaining enough skill and knowledge.**

▶ Nur Afini, TNTA cadet





## Team Bonding over Archery Tag

**T**eamwork is essential when working onboard; thus a team bonding activity was aptly planned for the Young SMOU members to interact with one another.

For the 28 cadets from the Tripartite Maritime Training Award (TMTA) programmes, Archery Tag was the ideal activity for them to connect.

Held at The Cage Sports Park, the event had a series of adrenaline pumping games and challenges which tested the teams on their communication skills and teamwork.

**“ The archery tag is a great activity for the Young SMOU members to bond and get to know each other. It is important for the TMTA cadets like us to learn valuable skills in working together and communicating clearly with one another. I think it was well organised as we managed to open up to each other and it feels like we have known each other for quite a while.**

■ Wesley Maine Tay

To end off the evening, SMOU officials interacted with the cadets and shared more about the Union and the upcoming activities specially planned for them.





## Touching Hearts and Lives – YSMOU shows the way

**“T**he Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project lets me bond with the Young SMOU members and I was able to understand more about the union. At the same time, it has been meaningful for me as I was able to help the children in Batam which made me feel grateful for the things I have. I hope that I would be able to go for more community service trips in the future to help more unfortunate people out there.”

These sentiments, expressed by Young SMOU member and MaritimeONE scholar Joreen Boon, resonated with the rest of the volunteers who made their way to Batam to ‘make a difference with a caring heart and a helping hand’.

For two days from 28 to 29 July, the team of 25 Young SMOU members poured their attention on the 57 children from the Vistos Kasih Ikhlas Orphanage and what a moving and life-changing experience it was – playing, singing and enjoying meals with the kids. On behalf of Young SMOU, Chairman Dominic Yong addressed the children and led the introductions.

The purpose filled trip also got the volunteers giving a fresh coat of paint to the orphanage, cleaning the home and fixing the bookshelves and shoe racks with the bubbly children. The volunteers also interacted with the kids by singing songs, playing together with them and spending quality time which formed a bond between the volunteers and kids.



When it was time to leave the orphanage, saying good-bye did not come easy for the volunteers especially after receiving heart shaped keychains hand-made by the children. The satisfaction of seeing the children’s faces lit up as they received a variety of snacks and donated clothing, toys, books and food was priceless.

Twenty of the older children had another opportunity to bond with their Young SMOU members the second day at a batik gallery. With one volunteer paired with a child, they created their own masterpiece on the batik under the guidance of a trainer. All proudly brought their unique creations home.

For the Young SMOU volunteers, the trip to Batam was more than just a CSR project. They returned to Singapore with sweet memories of having impacted the lives of the children and of bonding with each other.



“ Every new story heard is another experience learnt. Because of the CSR project, I am more determined to participate in this volunteering project knowing organisations like SMOU are always organising such events.

▲ Muhammad Syafiq Bin Adanan, Young SMOU Committee Member

“ Seeing the children having a smile on their face when talking and helping them with their batik painting, made me see that even the smallest of acts can make a big impact on someone else. After this CSR project, I am more appreciative of every single and smallest thing that my parents have given to me.

▶ Gerald Kishen Joseph, Young SMOU Committee Member



“ This is an excellent initiative by the union. I've learnt not to take things for granted and appreciate whatever we have. The painting as a team was a good memory for me as we were able to coordinate and work well as one.

▲ Nur Farhana, Young SMOU Member



## Empowered by a Charitable Experience

Learning a new skill together was not only an empowering experience for the 22 visually impaired beneficiaries from White Cane Club, it was just as uplifting for the team of Young SMOU volunteers. Held on 11 August at Lighthouse Bistro, the event kicked off with a lunch where the volunteers built rapport with the beneficiaries. At the Clay Sculpting workshop, the beneficiaries learnt how to leverage on their sense of touch to create sculptures using clay.

With support from the NTUC U Care 'Caring, Sharing and Reaching out' (CSR) Grant, the workshop organised by SMOU saw the youth volunteers demonstrating empathy as they guided the beneficiaries to mould unique creations together.

Young SMOU member Fadhil Merlan, recalled fondly how he, together with the White Cane Club member Mr Lee, sculpted a replica of a giraffe. "It's a brand new experience for me to do things together with the visually-handicapped. The experience has contributed to my character development in appreciating things that I have taken for granted," he said.



Supported by:



► Young SMOU Member Fadhil Merlan with White Cane Club Member Mr Lee.



# Strengthening Bipartism

**T**ripartism plays an integral role in Singapore's maritime industry – with the government, shipping companies and unions working together to achieve sustainable economic progression.

With the understanding that success can only be achieved with good co-operation among the many stakeholders, SMOU works continuously to promote good industrial relations through building strong tripartite relationships with the local, regional and international maritime community.

The Union's close working relationship with shipping companies has led to various bipartite collaborations. One recent collaboration happened at the Pacific International Lines' (PIL) staff seminar from 19 to 20 July, where SMOU Assistant Secretary Joyce Lee took the opportunity to share about benefits and updates for union officers.

The staff seminar concluded with a well-received buffet dinner at Lighthouse Bistro hosted by SMOU for some 50 PIL management personnel and staff.



SMOU Assistant Secretary Joyce Lee sharing about what SMOU does for its members.



**“ A big thank you to SMOU for hosting the dinner for PIL sea staff seminar. The spirit of bipartism is at an all-time high, and we look forward to more cooperation going forward.**

■ PIL Senior Manager, Marine Personnel, Tracy Gao

**“ Our heart-felt thanks go to PIL for their enlightened approach to industrial relations. We thank PIL for giving SMOU a platform to participate in their staff seminar and for accepting our invitation to host them for dinner at Lighthouse Bistro.**

■ SMOU Secretary Gwee Guo Duan



PIL Management with SMOU officials.



# Largest Turnout for SMOU's Family Connection

This year's SMOU Family Connection – National Day Celebration attracted one of the largest turnouts.

Nine bumboats, ferrying more than 370 SMOU members and family, cruised along the Singapore River to a spot where the fireworks display was best captured. What a blast they had!

The party started with a sumptuous dinner at Kublai Khan BBQ and Peony Jade restaurant before they headed to Riverside Point Jetty for the bumboat ride which took them to Marina Bay to catch the fireworks display.

With their smartphones and cameras in hand, the participants clicked fervently during the display hoping to capture the winning shot in the SMOU Family Connection Photo Contest, to win dining vouchers from Lighthouse Bistro.

The winner of the contest, SMOU member Sung Wai Yu, commented: "I wanted to capture multiple bursts of fireworks with Marina Bay Sands in the backdrop to represent the amazing transformations Singapore has undergone since her independence. My wish is for Singapore to continue to prosper and grow."

Happy 53rd Birthday, Singapore!



The winning shot by SMOU Member Sung Wai Yu.



Winner of the photo contest, SMOU member Sung Wai Yu (far left, behind) with his family.





## The Gift that Changes Lives

**"S**MOU and Wavelink place a strong emphasis on education for our members' children and they are strong believers that a good education will open doors to better jobs, better wages and better lives."

Dr Koh Poh Koon, Deputy Secretary-General of NTUC and Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, said this at the SMOU Bursary & Scholarship Awards Presentation held at the Devan Nair Institute on 1 September.

For over 35 years, SMOU has given close to 3,400 bursary and scholarship awards to children of members, amounting to over \$1.5 million. This effort is very commendable," added Dr Koh in his speech.

To date, five students have received \$1,600 worth of bursaries in the "Bursary Assistance for Deceased Members' Children" category covered under the SMOU Care Fund. The new category was approved in 2017 by the SMOU Executive Committee as a compassionate move by the Union to help the families of late members.

"This form of help and encouragement in times of hardship demonstrates to the children that a larger family, the Labour movement, is also behind them," said Dr Koh.

This year, 42 students were acknowledged for their determination to do well in their studies and they received some 55 awards worth a total of about \$33,000 in

the presence of over 130 attendees. The awards included the Wavelink Book Awards sponsored by Wavelink Co-operative Ltd.

The bursary awards are co-funded by NTUC U Care Fund under the U Care Education Co-Funding Scheme.

**"I will buy school supplies with what I received from the award so that my parents do not have to use their money."**

▶ Tan Ying Xuan (middle), Scholarship Award recipient



**"The award serves as a reminder that it is a privilege for us to have an education which other parts of the world are struggling to have."**

◀ Shahreyll Bin Khairoullah (right), Bursary & Book Awards recipient

**"I am going to spend the money on my notes and books. By doing this, I hope that it will ease my dad's burden as he is the breadwinner of the family."**

◀ Thu Rein Win Htoo (2nd from left), Scholarship Award recipient

**"I will use the money to pay for my university fees. I will also set aside part of the money to give to charity as I believe that I must help others who are in a needier situation than I am."**

◀ Sandar Win Htoo (left most), Scholarship Award recipient





Getting a firsthand experience on flying a drone.



Finding the correct colour codes to programme the Ozobot and get it to the ending point.

### Having fun with Smart Technology

SMOU went the extra mile to transform this year's bursary and scholarship awards presentation into one that offered a valuable learning experience for the award recipients and their family members.

By setting up the future of technology interactive booths, those who turned up at the event had a go at flying drones, operating the robotic devices called Ozobots, Codey Rocky and Mbot, and steering a ship or operating a crane in the shipyard via the Virtual Reality Set. Supported by LIFT-UP, an initiative of NTUC-U Care, the activities raised awareness of future technology to another notch higher.

The opportunity to tour the Wavelink Maritime Simulation Centre and experience the state-of-the art simulators thrilled the youth and opened their eyes to the possibility of pursuing a promising maritime career.

"Society is experiencing change at a rapid pace, and to keep up, a good education is essential but it is not the only must-have knowledge. With an increasing prevalence of digitisation and automation in the world of work, one must be prepared for these changes which may well be part of the everyday lives for generations to come," Dr Koh Poh Koon, Deputy Secretary-General of NTUC and Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, said.

"Whether you are a primary school student or pre-university youth, it is good to raise awareness and instill an interest in technology."



Learning through the use of Virtual Reality.



# Understanding Life Onboard

**Kota Pekarang | 8-13 May 2018**

A five-day voyage onboard a vessel was an experiential eye-opening shipboard learning journey for three SMOU officials.

On nightfall of 8 May, SMOU officials comprising Industrial Relations Head of Agreements Unit Terence Tan, Assistant Secretary Joyce Lee and Membership Executive Shobana Balachandran, boarded Pacific International Lines (PIL) Singapore-flagged vessel Kota Pekarang, embarking on their maiden journey from Shekou Port to Singapore. Kota Pekarang is a container ship that ferries immense cargo loads of 11,923 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units) across the world.

Accompanied by Capt Nyunt Win and 4th Engineer Ding Xunbiao, the team were introduced to the Chief Officer (CO) who conducted the ship familiarisation and safety briefing. They also managed to explore various facilities around the accommodation area such as the recreation rooms, the gymnasium and the mess room, before retiring to their cabins.

At dawn the following day, the SMOU team joined the watchkeeping duty as the vessel departed from the port. During the day, the trio visited various

parts of the vessels from bridge to engine room in order to further understand the responsibilities of the crew.

On the bridge, they learned about the tasks assigned to individual crew member from lookout to navigation etc, so as to ensure the vessel adhered to the planned route. Over at the engine room, they had the opportunity to observe how engineers maintain the equipment and machinery.

During their stay onboard, besides shadowing the duty officers and observing them at work, the SMOU team had opportunities to engage with seafarers during meal times at the Officers' mess room, where they shared updates on union matters.

After having spent five days at sea, the team was able to gain an in-depth understanding on the crew's roles in the operation of the vessel.

It was also heartening for the team to learn that the two Singaporeans – Deck Cadet Muhammad Syafiq Adanan and Engine Cadet Gan Kok Wei were adjusting and working well alongside multi-national crew comprising of nationals from China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

This learning journey was made possible thanks to PIL.





Assisting the crew to update their membership details with SMOU.

“ Before this experience, I thought that the crew had to work tirelessly 24/7, whether at sea or in port. It was extremely heartening to learn that there are designated watch shifts and sufficient rest time in place, so that the crew can have a social life on board as well. While we were onboard, we also joined in a happy hour party.

► SMOU Membership Executive Shobana Balachandran (right most)



With the engine crew!



TNTA cadet Syafiq showing Terence and Joyce the bridge operations.

“ Being a seafarer is not easy. They have to stay away from home for long periods of time, and be exposed to risks at sea. They are physically away from their families, and Wi-Fi may not always be readily at their fingertips. But they get to see the best sceneries that no other job can offer and a group of good team members onboard.

◀ SMOU Industrial Relations Head of Agreements Unit Terence Tan (in red)

“ After the trip, I realised that seafarers' lives are not as boring or a dirty job as some perceive, which might be one of the reasons why females refrain from joining the industry. We should increase our efforts with the tripartite partners to create more awareness and opportunities.

▲ SMOU Assistant Secretary Joyce Lee (left most)



# Remembering Our Late Members



The late Nethiyanathan Rathakrishnan is fondly remembered as a caring father who never failed to keep in touch with his family even while onboard. The second officer from Malaysia had been a member of SMOU for six years and was sailing on board an APL container vessel. SMOU President Capt Robin Foo and Industrial Relations Officer Kelvin Lin visited the family on 27 August to offer the union's condolences and presented the NTUC Gift and Group Term Life insurance payouts.

On 12 July, Young SMOU Chairman Dominic Yong presented the NTUC Gift insurance payout to the wife of Choo Joon Ann. A long-time Singaporean member of SMOU for 41 years, Mr Choo passed away at the age of 74 due to heart disease. His wife shared that he enjoyed participating in SMOU events and loved sailing.



Late SMOU Latvian member Vladimirs Manuilovs passed away in Riga, Latvia due to arterial hypertension, leaving behind his wife and two daughters. He was a Chief Engineer, and the last vessel he was sailing on was the Maersk Tacoma before passing away. On 17 August, SMOU Secretary Gwee Guo Duan presented the NTUC Group Term Life Insurance payout letter to Mr Vasishtha Tandan, Global Compensation and Benefits and Country HR Head of Maersk Tankers who received on behalf of the late Vladimirs's family.



Our deepest condolences go out to the families of our late members.



# SPF – Living Up to Its Purpose

The SMOU Seafarers’ Provident Fund, set up in 2001, has served its purpose as a retirement saving scheme to improve the welfare of seafaring members on board ships covered by the SMOU Collective Agreements.

Though the scheme was terminated in 2012, stories of members reaping the benefits are still heard. Those who have withdrawn from their SPF account remained grateful for the initiative that has improved their lives.

“During one of the ship visits by SMOU officials, I learnt of the SPF and subsequently withdrew my funds. The SPF savings were a bonus and I decided to give to a good cause by

donating it toward the education for the poor. I am truly blessed to give.”

– PIL Chief Engineer  
U Sang Aung, from Myanmar



“With the money from the SPF, I am planning to take a trip with my family after I sign off from the ship. This money also acts as a financial back up in case of emergencies. I am grateful that there is such a fund for seafarers. The process of SPF withdrawal was very smooth, efficient and fast. As there is a deadline for the withdrawal, I strongly advise my fellow seafarers to enquire if they have this fund.”

– PIL Chief Officer Zhao GaoYang, from China

No of members claimed:

**10,500**

Amount Paid:

**S\$15,400,800**



Like & Share our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Wavelinkthrift/> with your seafaring friends who may have SPF.

Brought to you by:





Photo credits: Singapore Maritime Foundation

## Future Maritime Talents Shine Bright

**G**rooming young talents to be future leaders of the maritime industry had SMOU sponsoring four promising scholars, including two female students, pursuing a diploma in nautical studies in Singapore Maritime Academy – Singapore Polytechnic.

The family members of the scholars, distinguished guests from the maritime community and tripartite representatives were present to cheer the future maritime leaders on.

Congratulations to these deserving scholars!

Through the Singapore Maritime Training Fund, SMOU offered the MaritimeONE scholarship totaling \$40,000 to four students who have chosen “a great industry to be in,” as Mr Andreas Sohmen-Pao, Chairman of MaritimeONE and Singapore Maritime Foundation, described in his speech.

At the ceremony held on 15 August at Conrad Centennial Hotel, SMOU President Capt Robin Foo presented the awards to the scholars sponsored by the union. Since 2013, a total of 19 MaritimeONE scholars have been sponsored by the union, amounting to \$314,000. On top of this, there were 15 others who were awarded with the Tripartite Maritime Scholarship (TMSS), which is co-sponsored by SMOU, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and shipping companies.



*Benroy Sanjeev Choy (right most), the grandson of the late former SMOU Assistant General Secretary and Industrial Relations Consultant Brother Kumaran Kunjoo, was one of the 15 scholars who received the Tripartite Maritime Scholarship.*

**Brother Kumaran's grandson Benroy (right most), follows Grandpa's footsteps**



**“** Factors like being a female and the competitiveness in the industry may make it more challenging for me, but I know that with the right mindset and attitude I can excel. I also hope to influence other females to join this career.

▲ Joreen Boon

**“** My parents were initially hesitant when I wanted to join this course. They said that it is not easy for a woman to thrive in this industry because of the toughness of the job. But I managed to convince them that this is what I wanted to study. I hope that this will inspire my siblings to follow their passion as well.

▼ Jessy Chua



**“** Being a MaritimeONE scholar gives me a second chance because I used to not do well in school. I am grateful to SMOU for sponsoring me in my studies. With this new opportunity, I know that I will continue to work hard to excel in my studies and career eventually.

▲ Mohammed Noorhidayat Noorsam



**“** As an older brother, I need to set a good example to my younger siblings. By being a MaritimeONE scholar, I hope that they see that I am working hard in my studies and inspire them to do the same.

◀ Ryan Doong Yuan Hong



## ITM Workshop Series 'Future-readies' Our Youth

Valuable insights on preparing workers for the future of work were gleaned from the Sea Transport Industry Transformation Map (ITM) workshop by 35 Tripartite Nautical Training Award (TNTA) and Tripartite Engineering Training Award (TETA) cadets; and MaritimeONE scholars. In his welcome speech, Young SMOU Chairman Dominic Yong urged the participants to “listen, learn, ask and leave” the workshop, as individuals who are “confident and ready to grow with Maritime Singapore”.

The participants did just that as they not only learnt about the ITM but were also given a glimpse of the latest smart ship technologies that are being employed in the industry. They were also equipped with knowledge on the training and funding resources available for them to upskill and remain relevant in a fast changing world.

Organised by SMOU, together with the Employment and Employability Institute (e2i), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), and Ong Teng Cheong Labour Leadership Institute (OTCi), the workshop was held on 12 September at the Wavelink Maritime Institute.

The speakers, OTCi Senior Consultant Eric Chiok, MPA Assistant Director

Tay Yeow Min, Alpha Ori Technologies Chief Business Officer Sanjeev Namath and e2i SkillsFuture Advisor Ridhuan Sani inspired the cadets on how the maritime sector is set to grow with the Sea Transport ITM aiming to create S\$4.5 billion in value-add and over 5,000 jobs for the maritime sector by 2025.



“ I understand more about the need to consistently upgrade our skill sets to be ready for the transition in the Sea Transport Industry along with assistance provided by the government in place, such as U-Leap and SkillsFuture.

■ Muhammad Farhan Bin Azzhar, TNTA Alumnus

“ Attending this sharing has provided a clearer picture on how the industry is transforming with technology. One of my key takeaways is that technology advancement waits for no one and to be relevant in the future sea transport industry, we have to constantly keep our skills and knowledge up to date.

■ Chua Wei Hao, cadet of TNTA Cohort 15

“ The session gave a glimpse into the future with autonomous shipping. It further amplified the need for us to be well-rounded seafarers – who understand technology and are able to make informed decision based on data etc. I also learnt about the preparations we need for post offshore work lives.

■ Muhammad Amir, TNTA Alumnus



## A Glimpse into the Future of Port Operations

**A**mphibious drones, automated quay cranes, exoskeletons for port staff – these technologies and more piqued the interests of some 30 cadets from the Tripartite Nautical Training Award (TNTA) and Tripartite Engineering Training Award (TETA) programme.

At the insightful visit on 13 July to the Intelligent Port of the Future exhibition at Pasir Panjang Terminal Building 3, the cadets caught a glimpse of how the Tuas Container Port, when completed, will be able to handle up to 65 million standard-sized containers a year, up from 40 million today.

The mega port will operate in the future with the use of a wide range of automation, data analytics, robotics and other advanced technologies.

At the exhibition, the cadets saw how the automated guided vehicles were driverless and able to shuttle containers for loading and unloading quayside operations,



remotely operated drones that could fly autonomously through software controlled flight plans and a future command centre which acts as a one-stop command platform for coordination of automated port equipment.

The tour also included an informative presentation and dialogue where the cadets learned about PSA's plans for the Tuas port, and the skills required in the future when the port becomes operational.

## Appreciating Safe Navigation in Singapore Waters

**W**ith some 130,000 vessels docking at the Port of Singapore each year, ensuring safe navigation in Singapore waters is no mean feat.

As part of the learning journey, 30 cadets from the Tripartite Nautical Training Award (TNTA) and Tripartite Engineering Training Award (TETA) programmes gained an insight into the workings at the Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) on 13 July. The visit brought about a deep appreciation of the critical work of traffic control operators at the nerve centre responsible for the navigational safety of vessels.

Hosted by Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore's (MPA) Controller of Vessel Traffic Management Capt Lim Cheng Hai, the cadets learned about the segregated sectors in the port, the expectations of Seafaring Officers entering the port, critical areas of observations and the

importance of clear and timely communications between the vessel traffic control operators and Ship Officers.

The tour of the operational facilities driven by state-of-the-art technology provided an eye-opening experience for the cadets and also enhanced their appreciation of safety at sea.



# Lighthouse Bistro – Its Mission is to Make a Difference

**W**ith its classy interior, Lighthouse Bistro is a diner which serves great food with great service at hard-to-beat prices.

As a social arm of SMOU, Lighthouse Bistro is also a meeting place that has been serving seafaring members, distressed seafarers, the maritime community and the general public with an array of innovative fusion cuisine since 2003.

It is akin to a second home where union members are proud to call its own; a lifeline for stranded seafarers; a generous friend to seafarers who are away from home during festive seasons; and more.

The bistro was awarded the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence in 2017 for its outstanding service and quality, and it gets a five star when it comes to doing its part to serve with a good heart.



*Stranded seafarers onboard Hanjin Rome received a morale boost when SMOU brought Lighthouse Bistro food onboard to cheer them up.*



*Together with young SMOU volunteers, senior residents from Jalan Besar look forward to the Lunar New Year celebrations at the bistro.*



*Rendering humanitarian aid to seafarers of a stranded vessel.*

Dive into an authentic culinary experience at

# Lighthouse Bistro



*Sou Vide  
Australian  
Rib Eye*



*Asian Lobster Pasta*



*Panna Cotta*

*Pisang Island*



*Latte*

ITF Delegates who present their  
Congress credentials will get to  
enjoy **20% off\***!

\* Applies to ala carte menu, excluding alcohol



Follow Lighthouse Bistro



75 Jellicoe Road, Wavelink Building, #01-00, Singapore 208738 | 6390 1699

[www.lighthouse-sg.com](http://www.lighthouse-sg.com)

# Chart Your Life Course with a Maritime Career

Don't leave your life to chance. Take charge. With a maritime career, you can go far.

At Wavelink Maritime Institute, we take a keen interest in your future. We champion the makings of a skilful seafarer, and equip you with industry relevant skills and a global mindset that sets you apart.

**Explore. Discover. A Career Extraordinary.**

Check out [www.tmta.com.sg](http://www.tmta.com.sg) or  
scan the QR Code for more details.



The Tripartite Nautical Training Award (TNTA) trains Singaporeans to be Certificate of Competency (CoC) Class 3 Deck Officers, while the Tripartite Engineering Training Award (TETA) enables Singaporeans to be trained as CoC Class 5 Marine Engineers to join the dynamic maritime industry.

Both programmes are funded by SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and SMOU, with the support of the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) and shipping companies.

