PM REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO NTUC

LAST PRINT ISSUE

HEART TO HEART TALK WITH GS
TETA CLEARS FIRST MILESTONE
BEJEWELED WITH COLOURFUL MEMORIES
CONTENTS

DECEMBER – JANUARY 2020

Makewaves

03 GS Message
06 SMOU GS Mary Liew re-elected as NTUC President
   PAP reaffirms commitment to NTUC
10 SMOU Bursary and Scholarship Awards Spotlight
   the Young
13 TETA 4 clears first milestone with no one left behind
15 MOU signed for the formation of CTC

IR

16 NCSU and SMOU Exchange in Chinese Taipei
17 Hong Kong Unions Exchange in Singapore
18 SMOU Connects with PIL Officers
19 Celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival with Seafarers

YSMOU

20 Bejeweled with Colourful Memories
22 Exploring Singapore’s Maritime Legacy with
   Young Mariners

Membuzz

24 Cajon Workshop with the White Cane Club
25 Members Learn How to Get the Right Fit with Ergonomics
26 Seniors Explore Best of Bali
27 SMOU Family Connecting at The Bicentennial Experience
29 SMOU Death Benefit Payout
30 LNY Golf League
   Valentine’s Day Special
   Membership Renewal 2020

Wavelink

31 SMOU SPF
32 Laying the Ground for Training Opportunities in Myanmar
33 Marine Engineers Ready to Face Sea Challenges
   Indonesian Cadets Trained at CadetsPlus Surabaya
34 Past, Present, Future
36 Hello Digital

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SMOU is Family

It is with mixed feelings that this interview with Sister Mary Liew, SMOU General Secretary, would be the last for the final print issue of SeaVoices.

‘I liked the hard copies,’ says Sister Mary with a tinge of nostalgia. ‘But it is not about me.’

SeaVoices is going digital.

For some time, shipping companies have given the feedback that a better way to reach out to seafarers internationally is to communicate online. The Instagram generation also prefers that news gets transmitted on the social media platform.

‘Members on the ground have also given similar feedback and shown support for the decision,’ Sister Mary adds.

With digital SeaVoices, news can be delivered timely with no constraint of space. Videos can also be uploaded. It is good for environment sustainability.

For senior members who prefer reading on paper instead of on screen, a special print issue of SeaVoices will be made available on a quarterly basis at the Members Lounge on the second floor of the Wavelink Building. They can still keep abreast of the Union’s happenings and will not be left out.

‘To all the faithful readers of the print SeaVoices, thank you for growing with us and for your support. Please continue to connect with us at www.seavoices.com.sg,’ Sister Mary says.

Next year, SMOU will have its own mobile app where member and shipowner engagement will take on a brand new level of effectiveness.

‘We need to integrate the way we work and operate to maximise resources. We hope to offer a seamless solution to deliver our services to our members and the maritime industry.’

‘This is the digital era and SMOU, as a professional, global tripartite Union championing the interests of seafarers and adding value to the maritime community, will have to adapt and show the way.’

Exciting times are ahead.
In 2021, SMOU will turn 70 and hosting a milestone commemoration of the Union's past, present and future will be of utmost importance. Leading the Union into its 70th Anniversary and beyond is the team of leaders elected at the Quadrennial General Council meeting in November 2018.

"Time flies. The current cohort of Exco members has served together for one full year. The team work and support for each other for the betterment of the members has been tremendous," Sister Mary highlights.

"We are all of the same mind when it comes to leading the Union forward. We all recognise that the Union exists for the members. The set of timeless core values SMOU subscribes to acts as a moral compass. All the good work we do are measured against these values of professionalism, innovation, loyalty, team spirit and caring and sharing."

Here are some of the good, rewarding work of 2019 that displayed how the Union internalises and works out its mission to ‘champion seafarers’ interests and add value to the maritime community and beyond’ while holding tightly to our core values.

**Solidarity of the Maritime World**

SMOU has been fighting hard for the abandoned seafarers and claimed back as much as US$25 million in unpaid wages in the last 26 years. This year alone, SMOU claimed back US$1 million in unpaid wages.

"It is a happy and sad moment," expresses Sister Mary. "We are happy that SMOU played a crucial role in claiming back US$1 million of unpaid wages for the seafarers in 2019. Yet it is sad to know that there are irresponsible shipowners who could abandon the seafarers and mistreat them."

"It is the solidarity of the global maritime unions that we look out for each other’s seafarers. We will continue to do our part together with our tripartite partners, the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) and its affiliates to make the maritime world a safer and fairer place for seafarers."

To Sister Mary, who was elected as the Vice President of ITF, 2019 will also be remembered as the year that the C190 - Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) was adopted at the ILO’s Centenary International Labour Conference held in Geneva. "We were all overjoyed when the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment was adopted. It is about time. Now the work of getting countries to ratify and implement begins."

Building the Singapore Core

SMOU and Wavelink’s relentless effort to build the Singapore core was rewarded when Tripartite Nautical Training Award (TNTA) celebrated its 10th Anniversary knowing that the programme has trained over 300 cadets and minted about 60 fine, young officers.

"We are humbled to be able to touch lives and improve the social mobility of these young men and women," Sister Mary points out. TNTA would not have arrived if not for the support of Skillsfuture Singapore (SSG), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) and Singapore Maritime Employers Federation (SMEF), shipping companies as well as NTUC’s e2i (Employment and Employability Institute).

"To many countries, seeing the tripartite hand at work to build the Singapore Core is unusual."

Building the Singapore core is also very close to the heart of Ms Quah Ley Hoon who took over the helm of MPA as Chief Executive, and Ms Caroline Yang, SSA new President this year. "I am glad that we have many things in common besides being women leaders serving together as Tripartite partners in the maritime industry, we also share the same passion of building Singapore core and reaching out to our women seafarers and professionals," says Sister Mary, with a twinkle in her eye. Sister Mary was re-elected as NTUC President at the NTUC National Delegates Conference in October this year. (See page 6 for the report)

**Seafarer 4.0 in the Making**

Another meaningful milestone for the year is the setting up of the Industry Collaboration Training Committee for the Seafaring Sector, formed between SMEF, MPA, SMOU and Singapore Organisation of Seamen supported by e2i. The MOU signing ceremony was witnessed by Minister for Education, Mr Ong Ye Kung and Sister Mary as NTUC President.

SMOU has also since signed the MOU for Company Training Committee (CTC) with the first three shipping companies (PIL, POSH, Wallenius) in September 2019. The CTC is designed to prepare seafarers to be future ready in the maritime industry through a series of training programmes, courses, seminars and on-the-job training. It also aims to achieve alignment and action between shipping companies and unions to effectively support workforce transformation.

"SMOU wants to add value to the shipping companies and the seafarers. We want to drive home the message that to remain employable, we need a combination of technical, adaptive and technology skillsets. That’s Seafarer 4.0. We hope more shipping companies will come onboard."
SMOU will also continue to maintain a quality training centre, through WMI to build a pool of deeply-skilled and competent Singaporean future-ready officers.

On the future of work, Sister Mary shares that other countries are looking to Singapore to share on how we deal with it. "Our industry transformation maps and other tripartite efforts in looking out for workers’ employability have caught international attention. We are paving the way not just for our workers but also the maritime workforce who has to face the challenges that digitalisation brings."

**Extending Our Reach**

2019 is also made special with the inaugural Chennai Nite and CadetsPlus programme in Chennai, India. Sharing the knowledge across the region to enhance the quality of our seafaring members in India will benefit the maritime economy as a whole.

A delegation of SMOU Exco and shipping companies also made their way to Yangon to engage our members in Myanmar at the Yangon Nite 2019 and the inaugural Wavelink Officers Seminar. At the same time, SMOU Exco also met up with the ITF affiliated union, namely the Independent Federation of Myanmar Seafarers (IFOMS).

"Imagine the joy this brings to the children. High quality ‘edutainment’ is made accessible to those who may not be able to afford it. I am so glad that our YSMOU also extends their cheer and care to the orphanage in Batam."

SMOU also donated $300,000 to NTUC Health Nursing Home (Jurong West) this year to reach out to the less privileged elderly in the community.

**A Personal Touch**

Before the interview ended, SeaVoices had to ask this question - with so much on her plate, Sister Mary still finds time to be onboard the 3-day shipboard learning journey engaging with the TNTA and TETA cadets over fireside chats. Why?

Her answer encapsulates the heart and soul of the Union. "In a sense, we give birth to them and they are close to my heart. I want each and every cadet to succeed. They are not another cadet or trainee. They are part of the family and family looks out for each other. I always share with our cadets’ parents that if their children are out at sea, they are most welcome to join us at our SMOU events and activities. Our assurance brings them comfort that their sons and daughters are not alone."

That speaks volumes of what the Union stands for – SMOU is family.

Have a great year of learning and upgrading ahead!
SMOU GS Mary Liew re-elected as NTUC President

SMOU General Secretary Mary Liew has been re-elected to lead the labour movement as President of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) for the next four years.

The momentous National Delegates Conference (NDC) was attended by more than 400 delegates and observers from 59 NTUC affiliated unions casting their votes on 16 October to elect the new 21-member Central Committee, for a four-year term of 2019 to 2023.

Mr Ng Chee Meng, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office, returned as NTUC Secretary-General. Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Mr Koh Poh Koon was elected as Deputy Secretary-General, while Ms Cham Hui Fong and Mr Patrick Tay, MP for West Coast GRC, was elected as Assistant Secretary-General.

Other CC leaders include Mr Arasu Duraisamy as Secretary for Financial Affairs; Mr Ong Hwee Liang, Ms K. Thanaletchimi and Mr Abdul Samad Abdul Wahab as Vice-Presidents.

The central committee is the planning, policy and executive organ of NTUC.

Sister Mary highlighted: “To continue serving as NTUC President is a challenging but rewarding responsibility. It is an honour to serve the Labour Movement with Secretary-General Brother Chee Meng and the NTUC Central Committee members to lead and drive innovation and secure a future for our members.”

PAP reaffirms commitment to NTUC

“This year’s conference is special because it marks the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 Modernisation Seminar, which was a pivotal moment for both the NTUC and People’s Action Party.

Today, the PAP Government renews our commitment to you. We will always stand with workers and ensure your well-being. We will always do our best to help you and your children progress with Singapore, and have a better life. We will ensure that no Singaporean, regardless of family background or life circumstances, will ever be shut out from opportunities, or left behind.

- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong gave this assurance at the NDC 2019.
While many unions around the world are experiencing a decline in union membership and losing their relevance, Singapore is still doing well.

Looking ahead, as the economy is entering a new phase, technology is transforming many industries, and emerging businesses are disrupting established players. Workers have to be ready for change.

In many countries when workers lose their jobs and lose their relevance, many of them feel left behind by progress and they feel their own lives do not seem to be improved. Ever since the Modernisation Seminar, NTUC has been progressive, forward looking and relevant to the changing needs of workers.

“We have about 950,000 members, about 30 per cent of the workforce. Against global trends, we have grown. But we also see from the charts that the growth has tapered,” said NTUC Secretary-General Ng Chee Meng.

At the NDC, the labour movement set a new target of 1.5 million members “with an aspirational timeline of 2025 but would be happy to achieve it by 2030”.

To achieve this, Brother Chee Meng highlighted three areas that need innovation: union model, membership model and training model; with digitalisation underlining all these.

Innovating union business model
“`We need to innovate and expand our thinking, explore new possibilities, embrace new experiments and try out new ways of doing things on the ground,” he said.

One idea mooted was to set up a job security taskforce to look into protecting workers at the pre-retrenchment stage. The taskforce will propose solutions to reduce the window between retrenchment and job placements.

Innovating Membership Model
The possibility of a family membership model – providing a suite of holistic products and services tailored to meet the different lifestyles and evolving life cycle needs of the workers will be explored.

In the pipeline, a plot of land will be set aside for NTUC to build a ‘Downtown South’ resort on Pulau Brani, as was announced by PM Lee during his National Day Rally speech. It was a strong signal of appreciation from the government to all workers that ‘every worker matters’.

Brother Chee Meng also spoke about “meeting the needs of members and importantly, consolidating, strategising and leveraging our social enterprises’ strengths; clustered to bring new value to our members”. An example would be a one-stop hub that has been piloted in Kampung Admiralty, which includes childcare, eldercare, hawkers and supermarket facilities run by NTUC’s social enterprises.

Innovating Training Model
NTUC will continue to accelerate the formation of Company Training Committees (CTCs) with a view of forming 1,000 CTCs reaching 330,000 workers by 2022.

Digitalisation
In order to innovate and translate the above into tangible outcomes, NTUC will tap on digitalisation, harnessing the power of digital technology such as big data, artificial intelligence and more to meet workers’ training needs.

“`In 2019, in this NDC, may it be at this seminar that we will set a new foundation for the Labour Movement’s success forward. Let us dare, let us do,” Brother Chee Meng said.

Setting a new foundation for success

Stay united and press forward, says NTUC President

“`It is important for NTUC and workers to stay united and press forward with transformation as a team.

The labour movement must continue to offer members protection to safeguard them against possible exploitation by errant employers or displacement due to macroeconomic factors, along with privileges, training and employability help.

The labour movement must also transform and adapt as the workforce profile changes to include more professionals, managers and executives as well as older workers.

NTUC members also have changing needs - such as looking after both elderly parents and children, or looking at their career after reaching a certain level of seniority.

With union leaders on the ground who understand workers’ concerns and aspirations, the NTUC, Government and employers can help workers, companies and Singapore succeed.

This strong tripartite relationship that is based on trust must continue to be our unique hallmark.” – NTUC President Mary Liew
The 21-member NTUC Central Committee (CC) was elected and unveiled on 16 October 2019. Together, the team will lead the Labour Movement towards fulfilling NTUC’s 2023 vision.

### Newly Elected NTUC Central Committee 2019-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mary Liew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary-General</td>
<td>Ng Chee Meng</td>
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<td>Secretary for Financial Affairs</td>
<td>Arasu Duraisamy</td>
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<td>Vice Presidents</td>
<td>Ong Hwee Liang, Abdul Samad, K. Thanaletchimi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Secretaries-General</td>
<td>Heng Chee How, Koh Poh Koon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Secretaries-General</td>
<td>Cham Hui Fong, Patrick Tay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>Andy Lim, Benjamin Tang, Luke Hee, Richard Tan, Thuvinder Singh, Eileen Yeo, Raymond Chin, Lim Teck Chuan, Lim Wen Sheng, Sanjeev Kumar, Sazali Zainal, Ken Tan</td>
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“I’d like to thank all the support given to us by all our delegates. As the President, I look forward to working with the new NTUC CC team. We are forging towards the future so we can better represent our workers. Every worker matters and this is important to us. We have a lot of work to do as we move forward.”

- Sister Mary Liew
At the NDC Workshop, about 400 union leaders gathered to discuss issues surrounding the 4Ps - Protection, Placement, Progression and Privileges.

From the workshop discussions, SMOU leaders gathered that it is imperative for union leaders to be a valuable partner in the tripartite system, to mobilise the transformation of workers through Company Training Committees to keep up with the digital transformation and to upskill and reskill workers, and lastly, to be member-centric by understanding the needs of members in the family across the life stages.

SMOU representatives (from left) Assistant General Secretary Gwee Guo Duan, Secretary Terence Tan, IR Officer Kelvin Lin and YSMOU Chairman Dominic Yong presented their thoughts at the NDC Workshop discussion.
SMOU Bursary and Scholarship Awards Spotlight the Young

To celebrate Singapore Bicentennial and commemorate 50 years of the Labour Movement’s modernisation journey, SMOU held its annual Bursary and Scholarship Awards at the National Museum for the first time.

Before heading to the National Museum Gallery Theatre, award recipients, their family members and guests had an inspiring and meaningful experience visiting the “An Old New World”, an exhibition featuring Singapore’s evolution from 1299; and “The ReUnion Exhibition” by NTUC which showcased the highlights of the Modernisation Seminar that led to the birth of NTUC’s social enterprises, tripartism and more.

The SMOU Bursary and Scholarship Awards amounting to S$33,700 - 24 bursaries, 18 scholarships, 23 Wavelink Book Awards and 1 SMOU Care Fund - Bursary Assistance, were presented to 50 recipients for their exemplary academic results and encouragement. The awards were co-funded by NTUC U Care Fund under the U Care Education Co-Funding Scheme, with the Wavelink Book Awards sponsored by Wavelink Co-operative Ltd. Since 1982, SMOU has disbursed more than S$1.6 million in bursary and scholarship awards to members’ children.

Mr Rahim Jaffar, President of SMOU believes: “Our children today will make the Singapore talent of tomorrow.” He expressed his pride for the young and hardworking award recipients and encouraged the attendees, no matter their age, to develop a spirit of lifelong learning.

Guest-of-Honour, Chief Executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Ms Quah Ley Hoon was just as proud of the SMOU Bursary and Scholarship Award recipients. Having been in the same position before in her younger days as a beneficiary, she encouraged the awardees, saying - “It tells me that you are not alone in this pursuit of excellence – there are a lot of others who are also with you.”
Ms Quah encouraged the youth to work at developing meaning, people and adversity quotients in pursuit of their future courses of study and careers. “Wherever you go, whether it’s your studies, or whether it’s in the profession or work that you do, you must find meaning. And the more meaningful the job is to you, the more you’re driven without having to worry about other things.” She also shared about the advancing and evolving maritime sector, actively calling for talents of different kinds to join them to contribute to the sector.
It was triple celebration for Abdul Rahmat Mohamad Salleh, SMOU member of 28 years. He was at the presentation ceremony with his wife and eldest daughter to cheer on his daughters Amilah Khairanah (Polytechnic) and Zatu Imanah (University), and son Hibatul (Polytechnic) for receiving their respective levels’ bursary award. Since 2013, his children have been recipients of SMOU bursary grants and the Wavelink Book Award.

Scholarship awardee (A levels) Mark Tan recalls receiving his first SMOU scholarship award when he completed his PSLE. Grateful for the union’s support, Mark talked about saving the award money for his tertiary education. He had just completed his ‘A’ levels and would be pursuing a degree in NUS, majoring in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. His father, Daryl Tan, SMOU member for 40 years, and his family felt really at home at the presentation ceremony, because they were amongst SMOU family.

First recipient of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Studies Scholarship Award, Huey Min has been passionate about medicine from as young as 13 years old. Currently in her gap year, she is in an internship programme with Changi General Hospital in the research department. “Because studying medicine is a long-term commitment – I know that it’s a lifetime commitment, so I want to be very sure of my goals before I really start to pursue it,” says Huey Min, explaining her reasons for taking a gap year. Her father, Mr Ng Kean Seng, SMOU member for 32 years, was grateful that SMOU offered this new scholarship category for IB studies.

A recipient since her primary school days, Sim See received the University Bursary Award for the last time. She expressed her deep appreciation to the union - “It’s always very heartening to know that there’s a union that will support me,” says Sim See, daughter of Danny Sim, an SMOU member for 39 years. She was also thankful for SMOU’s efforts in organising member events, quoting Annual Family Gathering as an event that encourages the family to get together.

Not only did the students treasure the moment, but so did their parents. Mr Rehan Ahmad, SMOU member of 6 years, said that he was very proud of his son, Muhammad Affan. Observing the presentation with his wife and youngest son, both parents shared how it was challenging in the past to raise their three children while Mr Ahmad was at sea. But moments like these make them proud and blessed, as they are able to witness their child grow up and achieve great things.
“Remember the first time when you’re here? Expressing your interest? Making the first steps of your dreams a reality. Look where we are now,” TETA Cohort 4 class President Na’im Rashid reminisced the thoughts of his fellow comrades, during their graduation at e2i on 20 September. For the TETA cadets, their graduation marks a milestone where they receive their Certificate in Marine Engineering. Thereafter, they will begin the second phase of their training onboard their employers’ ships for at least 15 months as Engineering Cadets.

At the 4th TETA Graduation and 17th TNTA Investiture Ceremony, graced by Guest-of-Honour Capt Lim Swee Aun, Chairman, Singapore Maritime Employers Federation, the focus was on the six cadets from TETA Cohort 4 and also 12 cadets from TNTA Cohort 17.

TETA cadets received their certificates to the applause of family members, distinguished guests from the maritime community, tripartite and shipping representatives.

It was also a special day for TNTA Cohort 17 cadets as they received epaulettes from their respective shipping employers. The TNTA cadets will then embark on a six-month pre-sea deck cadet training programme to attain their Certificate in Nautical Studies at Wavelink Maritime Institute (WMI).

In his welcome address, Capt Lee Sang Chiat, WMI General Manager, applauded the presence and support of SkillsFuture Singapore, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, SMOU, maritime companies, NTUC’s Employment and Employability Institute, and family members of TMTA cadets. He highlighted that, “To date, we have more than 50 graduates holding at least a CoC Class 3. Among them is one CoC 2 and one CoC 1 holder. At the same time, we have more than 80 cadets undergoing Phase 3 of the programme, the last phase before they become certified as full-fledged officers. We look forward to training more cadets/officers in the near future.”

Since 20 August 2009, WMI has trained 16 cohorts of 335 cadets, involving over 30 shipping companies which have offered the cadets shipboard placements, training allowances and long-term jobs.
When asked what were his thoughts having just graduated, Class President Na’im Rashid shared with excitement, **“There’s a journey ahead I am so looking forward to. I know I will have to embark on a ship for my sea-training, complete my Phase 3 to attain my CoC 5. I am looking forward to meeting all these milestones in my journey with TETA.”**

Among the notable award winners was Faris Aqil Abdul Razak who was named outstanding cadet. He feels excited and anxious because he will be moving on to the sea-going phase. In the past eight months, one of the best moments was the BOSST training at Batam with our peers.”

One of the most common questions people would ask cadets who sign up for the TNTA programme is – ‘Why do you want to join the seafaring industry?’ Cadet Teo Hui Ying of TNTA Cohort 17 admitted that – **“I wanted a more unconventional and adventurous career. It excites me to know that I am able to travel to a lot of places. And now that I am in this course, I feel great! I feel like I’m officially part of the TNTA family!”**

Cadet Dominic Prasanth Josephth comes from a family of seafarers. He first heard about the TNTA programme through his father and his brother. **“I came to find out about the course through my father as he is a member of SMOU and also my brother, who was in TETA Cohort 3. He shared the prospects about the course and he got me hooked on sea life. I feel great knowing that there is a future in the maritime industry!”**
The first of its kind in the seafaring sector and supported by NTUC’s Employment and Employability Institute (e2i), the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sealed a commitment made between SMOU and Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) with Pacific International Lines Pte Ltd (PIL), POSH Fleet Services Pte Ltd and Wallenius Marine Singapore Pte Ltd, to form respective Company Training Committees (CTC).

The CTC is designed to prepare seafarers to be future-ready in the maritime industry through a series of training programmes, courses, seminars and on-the-job training. It also aims to achieve alignment and action between shipping companies and unions to effectively support workforce transformation. The vision is for seafarers to be more productive, to increase in value to businesses and to have better working environment. The skillsets will pave the way for a competent and sustainable future-ready maritime workforce - future version of ‘seafarer 4.0’.

The MOU was signed at the 4th Tripartite Engineering Training Award (TETA) Graduation and 17th Tripartite Nautical Training Award (TNTA) Investiture Ceremony, held at e2i on 20 September.

Both TMTA programmes and CTC are training tools for the tripartite working partners to work together to strengthen the Singapore core. While the TMTA programmes aim to attract talent and create good jobs in the maritime industry, the CTC develops a culture of retraining and upskilling. These enable our seafarers to transit into new or reconstructed jobs that would emerge as the workforce become future-ready so that our seafarers can have better wages, welfare and work prospect.

Ms Mary Liew, NTUC President and SMOU General Secretary.
A bilateral exchange between SMOU and the National Chinese Seamen’s Union (NCSU) allowed the two unions to reinforce their relationship when they met at NCSU’s home ground for four days. SMOU General Secretary Mary Liew, Emeritus General Secretary Thomas Tay and Assistant General Secretary Gwee Guo Duan, were welcomed by NCSU President James Chen and NCSU officials, where they shared on NCSU’s work in the country and current issues the union faces with regards to Taiwanese seafarers. PACC Offshore Services Holdings, Wan Hai Lines and U-Ming Marine also joined in the exchange.

While in Taiwan, SMOU also took the opportunity to engage with its CBA partners PACC Offshore Services Holdings, Wan Hai Lines and U-Ming Marine. Among the discussions with CBA partners was the subject of seafarers training. SMOU explored with them what the union and Wavelink Maritime Institute (WMI) could do to meet the training needs of the companies.
It was all about fostering deeper connections between the unions in Hong Kong and Singapore. A 23-member Hong Kong delegation, consisting of Executive Committee members from Merchant Navy Officers’ Guild, Hong Kong (MNOG-HK) led by Capt Chung Tung Tong, General Secretary MNOG-HK, members from the Amalgamated Union of Seafarers, Hong Kong (AUSHK), staff from MNOG-HK and Hong Kong ITF FOC Office were in Singapore from 26-28 September to forge stronger ties and especially to introduce MNOG-HK’s new Executive Committee members.

During their visit, the unions learned from each other as they exchanged views on union work in their respective countries and what initiatives have worked. The unions affirmed solidarity for the betterment of seafarers.
SMOU’s close working relationship with shipping companies has led to various bipartite collaborations that help strengthen relations with its CBA partners. One recent collaboration happened at the Pacific International Lines’ (PIL) sea staff seminar, where officers were invited to Lighthouse Bistro.

It was an opportunity for SMOU to catch up with its sea going Singaporean members, who are sailing with PIL to share about benefits and updates for union officers, and to also hear them out and understand their needs.
Celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival with Seafarers

Mid-Autumn Festival, is a time of family gathering over meals, lighting of lanterns and eating mooncakes. Not forgetting to remind its seafarer members that they are family wherever they are, SMOU boarded the MV Maersk Huacho and APL Merlion on 18 September.

SMOU team consisting of Kelvin Lin, Dominic Yong, Queenette Chen and Mohamad Asraf, met with the captain and officers of MV Maersk Huacho, a newly built 15,000 TEU container vessel and APL Merlion, a 17,000 TEU container vessel.

On both occasions, the union shared about the various schemes members could benefit from. SMOU kept the ship’s crew up to speed with the Seafarers’ Provident Fund withdrawal period which has been extended to December 2021, and urged them to spread the word around among their shipmates. Adding a special Mid-Autumn Festival touch to the visit, the SMOU team also presented mooncakes, gifts and the latest ITF and SeaVoices publication.
Bejeweled with Colourful Memories

What’s the latest crown jewel of Singapore? Young SMOU (YSMOU) decided to bring the senior citizens from Henderson Home to Jewel Changi Airport, to show them the success of Singapore and its latest development, on 23 October.

YSMOU in collaboration with NTUC’s U Heart project provided the volunteers with opportunity to give back to the community through acts of caring and sharing. Some 21 volunteers paired up with the seniors and accompanied them through the commute to show them Singapore’s crown jewel.

Among the highlights for the seniors was a view of the 40-metre tall HSBC Rain Vortex, the world’s tallest indoor waterfall. After lunch, the seniors and volunteers walked through the Canopy Park which included the Topiary Walk and Petal Garden, both wowing seniors with its spectacular shaped plants and blooms on display. Apart from capturing memorable photos as a memento of their day, seniors had the chance to catch up with the volunteers in the cool and relaxing environment.

Rounding-off a day well spent, the seniors were accompanied by SMOU volunteers back to the Henderson Home, where goodie bags were waiting to be presented to each senior. It was a fulfilling day out for both the seniors and volunteers. One could say that they all had a ‘dazzling’ day!
Through this volunteering experience, I am grateful for the opportunity to give the seniors a sense of importance as part of the society and to express my gratitude for their contribution they had made in their prime. It is very endearing to see the senior folks expressing their fondness of me even though there was a language barrier. From this experience, I learned that things change around from one generation but the compassion of human stays constant throughout the ages.

 Wei Loon, YSMOU Volunteer

I had an enjoyable time volunteering together with my wife, Fwee Fwee, for this meaningful initiative. When we brought the senior folks from Henderson Home around Jewel Changi Airport, we could see that they are beaming with joy and they feel amazed by how much Singapore has changed. Truly a wonderful day bringing joy and laughter to the senior folks.

 Yong Seng, SMOU Volunteer

I genuinely had a great time interacting with the seniors, they were intrigued by my sailing stories and we had an amazing time exploring Jewel Changi Airport together. I look forward to more volunteering events organised by YSMOU.

 Luthfi, YSMOU Volunteer

I am very grateful to YSMOU for organising such a wonderful outing together with the friendly volunteers. I hope to go on more outings and build more fond memories together.

 Mdm Leong Kum Fong, senior from Henderson Home
Co-organised by Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Young SMOU (YSMOU), the Young Mariners’ Networking provides a platform for the youth in the maritime industry to broaden their network and learn from one another through the interactions.

On 20 November, some 100 students from Wavelink Maritime Institute (WMI), Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) and Institute of Technological Education (ITE) embarked on the Singapore Maritime Trail 3 – Our Legacy, the third trail in MPA’s Singapore Maritime Trail initiative to bring Singapore’s maritime story alive to the public. The 2.5-hour trail led participants on a journey to discover the links that connect Singapore’s rich maritime trade activities to the country’s colourful culture, specifically how maritime influenced and shaped Singapore’s way of life. The trail focused on two locations: Telok Ayer and Kampong Glam - two key areas of maritime trade and business where early migrants arrived via the sea route, set up their own communities and established their way of life in Singapore. The trail encouraged the maritime youths to think about the impact that past maritime activities had on Singapore.
The Young Mariners’ Networking event was very interesting and insightful. I enjoyed learning about the maritime landscape with my peers. The maritime industry is imperative for Singapore’s economy and personally coming from a family of seafarers, this industry is special to me.

Sean Amrish Lin Xusheng, SMA, Diploma in Marine Engineering

The Singapore Maritime Trail 3 is very beneficial and educational because we learned so much about how the maritime landscape evolved from that of a British trading post in the mid-1800s to a premier global hub port and international maritime centre.

Nur Syafiqah Binte Sazali, SMA, Diploma in Nautical Studies

The Young Mariners’ Networking event serves as a good platform for me to interact with the representatives from MPA, the students from SMA and ITE CC, knowing that all of us have a common interest in pursuing a career in the maritime industry.

Mohammad Shafiq Bin Had, WMI, TNTA Cohort 17
Cajon Workshop with the White Cane Club

Everyone can tap to the rhythm of music. This was how SMOU was inspired to engage the visually impaired in a lesson on the cajon.

With the support from the NTUC’s U Care Caring Sharing Reaching out (U Care CSR) grant, SMOU organised a cajon workshop for the beneficiaries of White Cane Club. Held on 14 September, SMOU hosted 17 visually impaired members and three helpers from White Cane Club, to lunch at the Lighthouse Bistro followed by a lesson on how to play the cajon at the Mariners’ Lounge.

The high-energy and exciting cajon class helped participants to synergise with each other each strike on the cajon. The beneficiaries had fun creating their own rhythm to familiar tunes and pop songs.

“\textit{It was a very enriching and gratifying experience. It was so wonderful to be able to befriend them and share the day with them. I would certainly want to do it again. Thank you SMOU for the experience.}”

\textbf{\textit{Mr Edward Sebastian John}}

“\textit{A well organised and heart-warming session. I am thankful to SMOU and all members for the opportunity to participate in such acts of kindness that is truly rewarding. Looking forward to volunteer with the SMOU team again!}”

\textbf{\textit{Ms Tan Bee Hong}}
Ergonomics is all about fit – the fit between people, the things they do, the objects they use and the environments they work, travel and play in.

As part of its efforts to enhance the health and wellbeing of its members, SMOU saw it ‘fitting’ to educate its members about ergonomics. Held at the Mariners’ Lounge on 4 October, the workshop provided some 30 SMOU members with practical tips to manage ergonomic risks. Facilitated by Mr John Tan, a senior physiotherapist from Singapore General Hospital, members were introduced to the concept of good ergonomics, how to avoid injuries and the ideal workplace setup.

Members were also taught some stretching and strengthening exercises that they could practise. The insightful talk gave members a better understanding of maintaining a good posture.
Seniors Explore Best of Bali

A trip to Bali was the perfect short getaway for a group of SMOU senior citizen members. On 9 October, some 38 of them flew to Bali for some sightseeing, networking and shopping.

For the next four days, the entourage immersed themselves in Balinese culture, cuisine and nature. Among the must-visit spots, itinerary included Tegenungan waterfall; the most photographed iconic Tanah Lot temple; and the majestic Ulun Danu Temple, which sits atop a plateau on Lake Beratan.

Members found time to bond together as they experienced the sights, the sounds and smells of Bali. They had such a good time together that they were already talking about the next senior citizen trip.
SMOU members and their families had a Bicentennial Experience in a uniquely SMOU way. On 19 October, SMOU organised for 100 of its members, a ticketed access to the Singapore Bicentennial Experience – From Singapore to Singaporean at the Fort Canning Centre.

As the centrepiece event of the Singapore Bicentennial, the Time Traveller multimedia sensory experience brought SMOU members back in time to witness key moments in Singapore’s transformation from 1299, shaped by wider regional and global shifts. Members enjoyed a front-row view of Singapore’s 700-year history with five multimedia shows and experienced first-hand sights, sounds and drama of formative events throughout Singapore’s evolution. The final act had participants grab an umbrella before entering the room. It was remembered in history that it poured on the first national day parade in 1966. A powerful climax to the show, everyone present was visibly awed and moved.
The Bicentennial Experience continued as SMOU members and their families headed back to Lighthouse Bistro for a high tea buffet of local delights such as laksa and putu piring.

Entertainment, games and a sing-along session had members on their feet once again. To round up the Family Connection, a lucky draw segment sent many of the members home with gifts and the satisfaction of a Bicentennial Experience that can never be replicated.
A long-time member of SMOU for 38 years, the late Pangkat Kostan Samosir passed away at the age of 96 due to Pneumonia. In remembrance of the late Mr Samosir, SMOU President Rahim Jaffar visited the family of the deceased member to offer condolences and to present the SMOU Death Benefit Payout.

The family shared that he was an avid seafarer, working until the rank of Chief Officer in the 1960s. He was also an active member in SMOU, participating in the union’s activities and events.
Valentine’s Day Special

Here’s how to show that special someone in your life how deep your love is. Bring your loved one and celebrate this special night at Lighthouse Bistro!

**Date**  
14 February 2020, Friday

**Time**  
6.30pm

**Venue**  
Lighthouse Bistro

Programmes are subject to change without prior notice. For the latest information on SMOU events, please visit us closer to the date at [www.smou.org.sg](http://www.smou.org.sg)

To enjoy earlier convenience, uninterrupted SMOU benefits, privileges and latest events or happenings in SMOU, update your email address on your online portal on the Members e-Services page at [www.smou.org.sg](http://www.smou.org.sg). Don’t forget to sign up as an e-Service user!

Membership Renewal 2020

Renew your SMOU Membership for 2020 and receive either a Corelle 4-piece Dinnerware set (Sakura design) or GO Travel Backpack (Xtra).

- Collection period starts now at SMOU One Stop Service Centre.
- Online payment is available.
- Please activate your online account if you have not done so.

Photos are for illustration purposes only. First-come, first-served and while stocks last. SMOU reserves the right to substitute any item without prior notice.
SINGAPORE MARITIME OFFICERS’ UNION (SMOU) SEAFARERS’ PROVIDENT FUND (SPF)

To all officers who served on board vessels covered by SMOU Collective Agreement before 2012.

The SPF has been terminated since 30th June 2012.

**Act now and submit your SPF withdrawal application before 1st December 2021!**

*Download the SPF withdrawal application form @ www.ispf.org.sg*

Contact us at spf@wavelink.com.sg for SPF enquiries and withdrawal submission.

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Like & Share our facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Wavelinkthrift/ with your seafaring friends who may have SPF.
Laying the Ground for Training Opportunities in Myanmar

WaveLink Maritime Institute (WMI) General Manager Capt Lee Sang Chiat and Senior Manager Wilfred Thiang visited key stakeholders in Myanmar to lay the ground for future training opportunities of cadets and officers in Myanmar.

An official visit to the Department of Marine Administration (DMA), hosted by the Director General, allowed WMI to appreciate the industry environment and developments of seafarers from Myanmar. DMA is one of the Departments of Ministry of Transport and Communications in Myanmar, and has nine divisions under its administration.

A visit to Myanmar Mercantile Marine College (MMMC), a tertiary maritime college that offers Diploma in Nautical Studies and Diploma in Maritime Technology, allowed WMI to look at their learning environment and training facilities such as simulators, laboratories and workshops.

Part of the itinerary included a stopover at Myanmar Maritime University (MMU) which offers degrees and diplomas, ranging from Naval Architecture, Marine Engineering, Port and Harbour Engineering, River and Coastal Engineering, Marine Electrical Systems and Electronics, Marine Mechanical, Nautical Science to Shipping Management and Port Management.

The visits to both MMU and MMMC laid the foundations for WMI to explore training possibilities and partnerships in Myanmar for future programmes encompassing member cadets and officers engaged by SMOU shipping partners.
Some eight young marine engineers successfully completed a recently conducted Engineer Officer Promotion In Ranks (EPIR) programme at Wavelink Maritime Institute (WMI). The four-day programme is offered to junior marine engineers serving onboard vessels covered by SMOU Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), where the course fees are subsidised through the Singapore Maritime Training Fund (SMTF) Officers Skills Development Initiative. The cost-effective training for the junior engineers helped improve their employability, competitive edge and boosted their confidence to face new challenges at sea as marine engineering officers.

Some 21 cadets, sponsored by SMOU CBA partners, underwent their CadetsPlus Indonesia 2019 training from 19 August to 6 September. The sea-preparatory course by WMI supported by SMOU was held at Politeknik Pelayaran (POLTEKPEL) Surabaya. During their programme, cadets 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 continues to improve itself by staying relevant and current with the times. This benefits cadets around the Asian region, by equipping them with the necessary skills for work in a globalised shipping environment onboard Singapore’s commercial ships.
For 40 years, SMOU has reached out to its members and the shipping community locally and abroad, through its magazine.
Starting as Maritime Voices in the 1980s, the magazine became known as Sea Voices in 1985 and has been the ‘voice’ of the union until today.

Here we pay tribute to the development of our union publication as it moves on to its online version.
GOODBYE PRINT,
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