



WELCOME ADDRESS BY CAPTAIN ROBIN FOO, PRESIDENT OF THE SINGAPORE MARITIME OFFICERS' UNION (SMOU) AT THE 55th ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL FAMILY GATHERING 2006, HELD AT SENTOSA, ON 11 JUNE 2006.

SMOU members, families, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning.

On behalf of the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) and Wavelink, a very warm welcome to all of you to our 55th Anniversary – Family Rendezvous here in Sentosa.

SMOU has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1951. The 55th Anniversary is certainly another milestone in our lustrous history and we are privileged to be sharing the celebrations this year with our members here on this beach along the sea.

As part of our 55th Anniversary we have adopted the theme **Together, We Make a Difference**. SMOU is a caring union and we hope that on this occasion, we have presented an opportunity for all our members here to not only have fun, but to interact and also spend quality time together with your families, friends and fellow members.

The Ministry of Community Development for Youth and Sports is celebrating the National Family Week this June, to encourage the nurturing and building of vibrant families and strong family relationships.

In line with this national emphasis on family bonding, SMOU is pleased to organise this yearly family get-together for our members and families. Joining us on this beach today, are more than 1,600 members with their families and also many of our friends from the shipping companies, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore; and some overseas

guests from the International Transport Workers' Federation. We warmly welcomed them.

Today's event is an annual tradition which SMOU has been organising for the past 30 years for our members, families and friends. We are glad that you've all been and continue to be part of it.

This morning, we have a series of activities and games lined up for all ages from colouring competitions to tele-matches and not forgetting, the grand lucky draw. Do also join in the fun at the Fancy Beach Dress Competition and the Family Look Alike Competition. Remember, there're lots of attractive prizes to be won.

On this note, I would like to wish everyone great fun and an enjoyable day with your loved ones and fellow members.

Thank you.

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