



SPEECH BY MS MARY LIEW, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SINGAPORE MARITIME OFFICERS' UNION (SMOU) AT THE SMOU 55th ANNIVERSARY DINNER CELEBRATIONS, HELD AT RAFFLES THE PLAZA BALLROOM, ON 22 NOVEMBER 2006.

Salutations:

Our Guest of Honour, NTUC Deputy Secretary General, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Mr Lim Swee Say

NTUC President, Mr John De Payva

NTUC Deputy Secretary General and Minister of State for Health, Mr Heng Chee How

Minister of State for the Ministry of National Development and Advisor of SMOU, Ms Grace Fu

Mayor of South East District, Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Advisor of SMOU, Mr Matthias Yao

Members of Parliament

MPA Chief Executive, BG Tay Lim Heng

SMEF Chairman, Captain Chong Chee Eng

Chairman of the EU Sectorial Dialogue Committee on Maritime Transport, Mr Tomas Abrahamsson

ITF Deputy Regional Secretary, Asia Pacific Region, Mr Mahendra Sharma

Overseas Union Leaders and guests

NTUC Central Committee Members, NTUC Unions Leaders,

SMOU Executive Committee, Members, Distinguished Guests from Shipping Community, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good evening and welcome to SMOU 55th Anniversary and Wavelink 6th Anniversary Dinner.

DSG Lim Swee Say said during the Labour Movement 2011 seminar that :

"WE MUST NOT KEEP DOING MORE OF THE SAME, BUT MORE OF THE DIFFERENT."

Tonight we would like to thank all of you for taking time off to spend this evening to celebrate with us this special occasion which means a lot of us. We have over 1,100 guests and members with us, about 60 of our guests are come from afar such Norway, Sweden, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, India, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia.

SMOU has come a long way but where do we go from here. It was with all these questions in mind that SMOU started on the Corporate Planning exercise in the beginning of this year, when NTUC announced the LM2011, we welcome and embraced the idea and felt that it was very timely for SMOU.

We will be adopting a few dragon boats, one of the Dragon boat will include the Gold Collar – where we would like to attract more Executive and Professionals to join us. Tonight, we have many from the Shipping Community and I would like to add that if you are still not an SMOU member yet, please do not hesitate to approach my colleagues, they have come prepared with our membership application form.

In line with the LM2011, SMOU target to increase our membership from 14,000 to 20,000 and we know that it is possible with the support from all of you.

Shipping being International thus SMOU represent both the local and foreign members. We endeavour to reach out to all our members irregardless of nationalities and age. In fact our members can continue to join us after their retirement

Thanks to the feedback from the shipping companies that for the first time on 4 November, we organized a dinner and dance in the home ground of our Filipino members in Manila.

About 500 of our Filipino members and some with spouses came from different parts of Philippines to join us for the evening of interaction with SMOU's Officials and have the privilege of meeting up with our Filipino members for the first time. Many travelled for over 3 hours just to join us for the dinner.

Our Filipino members get to know more about SMOU and that evening, GS Thomas Tay presented the cheque of 160,000 peso to the wife of our member, who was recently lost at sea. It was a very touching moments for us. We would like to thank our CA companies for making this arrangement possible.

Another area that is close to SMOU's heart is the upgrading of skill and training of our seafarers. For that reason, that is why we set up the Singapore Maritime Training Fund and the Wavelink Academy. We have been working closely with MPA, SMA and the shipping companies and will continue to do so.

Recently we have also led a delegation of about 20 delegates from shipping community to visit China on Maritime Training Collaboration and we have signed MOUs with 6 reputable Training Institutes in different parts of China. We hope to train quality seagoing officers to be employed on Singapore flag ships and help to meet the needs or shortage within the industry.

This evening, I would like to share that the Wavelink Academy has initiated Singapore's first one-stop education portal to actively promote and facilitate learning – Lifewire.

Lifewire.com.sg is Singapore's first portal for courses and conferences in every field of learning and facilitates the search for courses. Courses listed on the website have been segmented into 5 key categories, Lifestyle, Education, Corporate, Wealth and Family,

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offering a comprehensive directory for people from all walks of life including the educators as well as training providers. At Lifewire, we believe that learning is for everyone. With Lifewire, we encourage our labour force to continually seek and pursue skills upgrading to prepare and equip for the challenges beyond.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all of you for your wonderful support and SMOU can never be where it is today without the support from NTUC, MPA, Shipping Companies / Community and Members.

Our appreciation to the Organising Committee for the tremendous hard work and effort put in for tonight

Thank you and have an enjoyable evening!

- Ends -

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