



SPEECH BY CAPTAIN ROBIN FOO, PRESIDENT OF THE SINGAPORE MARITIME OFFICERS' UNION (SMOU) AT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HONG BAO PRESENTATION LUNCHEON 2006, HELD AT THE MERITIUS MANDARIN HOTEL, MANDARIN BALLROOM, ON 8 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 12.00PM

Guest-of-Honour Mr Lim Swee Say – NTUC Deputy Secretary-General, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Mr Matthias Yao – Mayor of the South-East District, BG Tay Lim Heng – Chief Executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, NTUC Central Committee members, Mr Ong Yen Her – Director of Industrial Relations of the Ministry of Manpower, Mr Teh Kong Leong – Executive Director of Singapore Maritime Foundation, Capt Chong Chee Eng – Chairman of Singapore Maritime Employers Federation, friends & partners in the shipping community, unions, Wavelink business associates, distinguished guests, members, senior citizens, ladies and gentlemen, a very good afternoon.

On behalf of the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) and Wavelink, I would like to welcome you to our Annual Lunar New Year Hong Bao Presentation Luncheon.

We have among us this afternoon, senior citizens representing eldercare homes and community service organisations namely: the Jalan Besar Constituency, Kampong Kapor Family Services Centre, Touch Community Services, Care Community Services Society, Hope Community Services Centre, and our adopted home, the Henderson Senior Citizen's Home. Also joining us this afternoon are 290 senior members from the SMOU.

The year 2006 marks the 55th Anniversary of SMOU. The theme that we at SMOU have adopted as part of our 55th Anniversary celebrations is **Together, We Make a Difference**. We want to make a positive difference to the lives of our members and the community.

We at SMOU have always believed in caring and sharing with those around us including with the less fortunate and those going through difficult periods of their life. It is a philosophy and value that everyone in SMOU & Wavelink holds dear to their hearts.

This afternoon, SMOU is privileged to be presenting about 500 Hong Baos amounting to approximately S\$27,000 to our elderly friends, neighbours and senior members seated in our midst today as a charitable gesture. Likewise, we are glad that they can join us in celebrating the Lunar New Year festivities. We appreciate them being here with us.

SMOU is thankful for this opportunity to care, share and make a difference in people's lives and contribute to the community.

We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to our Guest of Honour Mr Lim Swee Say, for joining us in celebrating this traditional Chinese custom of presenting red packets as a symbol of good luck and well wishes to all our elderly guests here in this ball room.

We would also like to thank all our other guests from the NTUC, unions, co-operatives, shipping community and our associates for joining us on this joyous occasion in celebration of the Lunar New Year.

On this note, I would like to wish everyone here good health and an auspicious and prosperous Lunar New Year. Enjoy yourselves and have a pleasant lunch.

Thank you.

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