



**SPEECH BY CAPTAIN ROBIN FOO, PRESIDENT OF THE SINGAPORE MARITIME OFFICERS' UNION (SMOU) AT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HONG BAO PRESENTATION LUNCHEON 2007, HELD AT THE RAFFLES CITY CONVENTION CENTRE, PADANG & COLLYER BALLROOM, ON 28 FEBRUARY 2007 AT 12.00PM**

Guest-of-Honour Ms Grace Fu – Minister of State for National Development and SMOU Advisor, NTUC Central Committee members, Mr Ong Yen Her – Director of Industrial Relations of the Ministry of Manpower, Capt Khong Shen Ping – Director of Shipping Division of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, Capt Chong Chee Eng – Singapore Maritime Employers Federation Chairman, SMOU Executive Committee, 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.

Amongst us this afternoon, we also have more than 330 senior citizen members from SMOU as well as senior citizens and volunteers from the NTUC Eldercare.

The NTUC Eldercare team have been doing a wonderful job taking care of the elderly through their day care centres and other services. SMOU would also like to applaud their passionate team of volunteers for the tremendous efforts and care showered on the elderly under the program.

At SMOU, we have always believed in caring and sharing with those around us, especially the elderly who are the Silver Collar in our membership. This afternoon, SMOU is privileged to be presenting Hong Baos to our elderly friends and senior members present here as we celebrate the Lunar New Year festivities. We appreciate them being here with us.

Today's Hong Bao presentation is just one of the first of SMOU's Lunar New Year celebratory activities this week of caring and sharing with the community. SMOU will also be hosting other events in our Lighthouse Bistro later this week, the senior citizens from the Jalan Besar Constituency, Care Community Services Society, Hope Community Services Centre, and our adopted home, the Henderson Senior Citizen's Home. In all, SMOU will be handing out more than 500 Hong Baos to senior citizens.

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 Ms Grace Fu, 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.

Gong Xi Fa Cai, Shen Ti Jian Kang, Wan Shi Ru Yi.

Enjoy yourselves and have a pleasant lunch

Thank you.

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