

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MS MARY LIEW, GENERAL SECRETARY,
SINGAPORE MARITIME OFFICERS' UNION AT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR
LUNCHEON, 11 FEBRUARY 2016**

Our Guest-of-Honour, Brother Chan Chun Sing,
Secretary-General, NTUC

NTUC Central Committee members

Ms Tan Beng Tee, Assistant Chief Executive of Maritime and Port Authority of
Singapore

Mr Esben Poulsson, President of the Singapore Shipping Association,

Tripartite Partners and friends from the government and members from the
shipping community,

Sisters and Brothers from the Labour Movement, Social Enterprises, NGOs and
Associate Companies,

SMOU Exco and Senior Members,

Friends from the Henderson Home,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and a Blessed Lunar New Year to everyone! I would like to wish
everyone 新年快乐 (Xin Nian Kuai Le), 身体健康 (Shen Ti Jian Kang), 万事如意
(Wan Shi Ru Yi)!

Introduction

1. Welcome to SMOU's 65th Anniversary Lunar New Year Luncheon and Hong Bao Presentation. This year is a historic milestone for SMOU - 65 years is indeed a long journey. Perhaps some may say, well, it's been 65 years, we can start to slow down, cruise along and let things remain status quo. Well, not in SMOU. In fact, this year, it is not so much about celebrating our anniversary but it is all about anticipating the needs of our members and impacting their lives.

65th Anniversary Celebrative Events

2. For SMOU members, this year is another milestone and we want to appreciate our members and the shipping community, through the many meaningful activities which we have in store for you. Today's Luncheon is the first of many activities that we have planned for our 65th Anniversary since 2 years back, all with the objective of giving back to you, and preparing for the future. Over the years, more than 6,000 senior citizens have benefitted from close to half a million dollars contributed by SMOU for more than a decade at our annual Lunar New Year celebrations. This year, some 500 senior citizens will receive more than \$30,000 in the form of hong baos and food aid over a series of Lunar New Year celebrations.
3. Since January this year, our members can enjoy a value-for-money monthly special set lunch worth \$40 at the cost of \$6.50 at our Lighthouse Bistro. On top of that, they can have a main course anytime during the year for only 65 cents. Come next month, we have a Mega Trip on board Star Cruise; in May we have our SMTF 10th anniversary; and our annual Family Day gathering –a Night out at Universal Studios. Not forgetting members who are residing overseas, they will get to attend the first ever Myanmar Nite, and also the Philippines Nite which we had first organised in 2011. We are marking the end of this significant milestone with a Gala Dinner on 25 November.

Contributing S\$1.5 million to CBA Companies

4. We recognise that we have to gear ourselves for tough times ahead. Various signals such as low freight rate and oversupply of vessels have pointed to bigger

challenges ahead, which will inevitably have a trickle-down effect on our members. To cushion this impact, we are looking at ways to promote good labour management relations and help our shipping companies and members.

5. In line with our 65th Anniversary, we are committed to ride through this storm with our CBA companies. I am happy to announce that our Executive Committee has taken a bold step, by approving an initiative of contributing a one-time off S\$1,000 **per vessel** to each CBA company. This works out to a disbursement of S\$1.5 million for SMOU to help our CBA companies through this difficult time, and at the same time to better the welfare on board the vessels as part of their cost savings on service provision to vessels.
6. This is also a gesture to thank our CBA companies for their years of support and that we believe that a happy crew is an efficient crew.
7. Our IR Department will release more information on this initiative through email to our CBA companies shortly – do look out for this in your mailbox. SMOU will also continue to step up efforts to ensure fair payment for our stranded seafarers and members in need. Since last year up till the end of January this year, we have successfully claimed S\$2.7 million in backdated wages and claims in grievance cases. We would like to thank MPA and our various associate companies for assisting us in ensuring a fair and safe employment for our members.

Conclusion

8. Lastly, I would like to give my heartfelt gratitude to our SMOU Executive Committee, the Organising Committee and staff for their hard work in organising today's event and thank you everyone for taking time to attend and be a part of this joyous occasion. Let's continue to keep our family, friends close at heart and together, we shall have a better 2016.
9. Ladies and Gentlemen, in this 65th Anniversary year, SMOU will continue to uphold our mission to champion seafarers' interests and add value to the maritime community and beyond. We will continue to sail through the oceans

together with our members and shipping companies, and support the maritime community for many more years to come – We will continue to care, to be fair, and like our 65th Anniversary theme, continue “Growing Together With You”.

Thank you.