

A sense of belonging

Sense



SGS CO-OP
A sense of belonging

**SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT STAFF CREDIT
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED**

JUL/AUG 2018

MCI (P) 032/11/2017



4

WHAT'S ON
A Meeting of Minds

6

WHAT'S ON
Members Speak Up!

7

WHAT'S ON
Ready To Serve



SGS CO-OP
A sense of belonging

CHAIRMAN

John Raghavan, PBS, PB

VICE CHAIRMAN

Lim Huan Chiang, JP, BBM (L)

HON SECRETARY

Tan Hung Cheng, PBS

ASST HON SECRETARY

Lim Hee Joo, PBS

HON TREASURER

S. Sundram, PBS

ASST HON TREASURER

Abdul Alim Karim, PBS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Yusuf Bachik

Noorul Hassan

Tan Pin Cheow

S Mohan

John Michael, PBS

Ab Majid Sahid, PBS

GENERAL MANAGER

Martin Nathan, PB, PBS, Pingat Kejujian

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Lim Huan Chiang, JP, BBM (L) (Chairman)

Tan Pin Cheow

S Mohan

Ab Majid Sahid, PBS

Martin Nathan, PB, PBS, Pingat Kejujian

SECRETARIAT

Prabha Chandran Seth, PBM

EDITORIAL & DESIGN

INKGOT! Pte Ltd

Sense is the bi-monthly publication of The Singapore Government Staff Credit Co-operative Society Limited. It is not for sale. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Society. No part of this publication is to be reproduced, stored, transmitted, digitally or otherwise, without the prior consent of the publisher. The information contained herein is accurate at time of printing.

1 Sophia Road #05-21 Peace Centre
Singapore 228149

Tel: 63374936 (Main)

69336776 (Activities)

69336778 (Savings)

69336779 (Membership)

69336782 (Loans)

Fax: 63396772

IVRS 24/7 Hotline Tel No: 69336777

Email: admin@sgscoop.sg

Feedback: thc@sgscoop.sg

Website: www.sgscoop.sg

Operating Hours: 9.00am to 7.00pm (Mon-Fri),
9.00am to 1.30pm (Sat)



Printed by Xpress Print Pte Ltd

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

THE STRENGTH

We welcomed over 600 members to our 89th Annual General Meeting on 23 June 2018. I am glad that many members chose to spend their Saturday afternoon with us. This signals that our members are taking a keen interest in the affairs of our Co-op, and that can only be a good thing.

PEOPLE & PERFORMANCE

I am happy to share that 2017 was another successful year for our Co-op. Despite an increasingly challenging business landscape, we achieved profit in excess of \$2.4 million and grew our assets by over \$3 million year on year. I would like to thank my fellow Committee of Management members and our secretariat staff as their hard work surely contributed to these results.

I believe there is a direct correlation between our Co-op's financial performance, the strength of our leadership, and the operational excellence of our staff. When it comes to people, quality is certainly more important than quantity.

One reason why we are able to maintain a low wage bill is because we have a number of qualified professionals who volunteer as independent members in our Audit and Investment Sub-Committees. This enables us to benefit from professional advice

OF THE COLLECTIVE



without incurring additional cost. The generosity of our independent members is much appreciated, and, in time, we hope to co-opt more qualified persons to help our Co-op grow.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

This is important because we are strengthening our foundation to serve a bigger family of members. We now have 7,000 members, and are working towards achieving our goal of 10,000 members by our 100th anniversary in 2025.

Growing our membership will benefit our Co-op as an organisation, and our members as individuals. With more members, we can achieve better economies

of scale in our operations. We also expect that this will bring about a greater inflow of funds that could potentially create better yields for you.

I encourage you to talk about an SGS membership with your friends and family in the public service. Referring a new member continues to earn you a \$20 reward.

REWARDING MEMBERS

Given our healthy financial results for 2017, I'm pleased to declare a dividend of 3.5% on subscription savings of all members on our register as at 30 June 2017. From 1 July 2018, we have also raised the fixed deposit interest rates to 1.2% per annum and specific deposit interest rates to 0.7%.

I am grateful to your trust and support in 2017, and look forward to journeying with you into the future.



John Raghavan PB, PBS
Chairman

Corrigendum to 2017 Annual Report

At the Annual General Meeting, Honorary Secretary Mr Tan Hung Cheng reported a corrigendum to Agenda 12: To write off irrecoverable default members' loans as per the Report of the Committee of Management.

On page 20 of the Annual Report, it was stated that the principal loan amount to write off for Saravanan Ramayah NRIC SXXXX373B was \$11,038.51. This is incorrect. The amount should be \$11,083.51. With this correction, the total write-off was revised to \$35,825.91, from \$35,780.91.



A Meeting of Minds



The 89th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of SGS Co-op, held on 23 June 2018 at the Singapore Chinese Orchestra Hall, saw a large turnout of over 600 members. A scrumptious buffet spread served prior to the start of the meeting offered an opportunity for members to mingle and reconnect, setting the stage for an engaging and fulfilling afternoon.





The event was opened by Chairman Mr John Raghavan, who warmly welcomed fellow co-operators in his speech and shared insights into the affairs of the Co-op this past year. The meeting flowed smoothly through the agenda, with members accepting the Committee of Management's resolutions.

As the AGM came to a conclusion, four Committee of Management members, Mr John Raghavan, Mr Lim Huan Chiang, Mr Yusuf Bachik and Mr Tan Pin Cheow, were re-elected to serve for another term. The group expressed enthusiasm and optimism for the coming year, while emphasising a strategic focus on growing the Co-op's membership and leadership succession pipeline.



Financial Highlights

Given the Co-op's healthy financial results in 2017, Chairman Mr John Raghavan announced the following benefits for members this year.



Members Speak Up!

We talk to members on the sidelines of AGM to find out what they love most about being an SGS member.

"I've been a member for about six years and each time I receive the Co-op's Annual Report, I would just quickly flip through and set it aside. This year, what struck me was that the format of the Annual Report was very engaging and visually appealing, so I read it more thoroughly and realised that AGM was coming up. I decided to attend, and encouraged my colleague, who is a new member, to come along. AGM is a good opportunity to learn about the Co-op's short- and long-term plans."

- Ms Goh Sok Hoon (left)



"I've been a member for three years and this is my third time attending AGM. I'm hoping to get updates about the past financial year, as well as upcoming events and initiatives. My parents were members for a long time, and I saw how an SGS membership helped them save and grow their money. I also like the overseas members' tours, which are value-for-money deals, and would go if my schedule permits."

- Ms V. Nisanthra (right)



"My husband has been a member for over 20 years and he encouraged me to join, saying that it's good for savings and interest rates are favourable too. I think it's good for retirement planning. Many of my friends and colleagues are members too. One of them took out a marriage and renovation loan from the Co-op, and was very pleased with the interest rate and the efficient loan process."

- Ms Uma Rani



"I make it a point to attend AGM every year, in order to get updates on what's happening in the Co-op. I became a member about seven years ago, based on my colleague's recommendation. I decided to join because it offers me another way to save. I'm very happy with the dividends so far."

- Mr Mohamed Suandi Bin Churaimi



Ready To Serve

Mr John Raghavan, Mr Lim Huan Chiang, Mr Yusuf Bachik and Mr Tan Pin Cheow have been re-elected to the Committee of Management, to serve members for another term of three years.



Mr John Raghavan

"I'm honoured that my fellow members have confidence in the way we run the Co-op with me leading the Committee of Management. We will continue to do our best and explore the introduction of more products and services for members. We aspire to be a community club that members have a strong sense of belonging to."

"It's my honour to be re-elected. I want to work hard and contribute further to the Co-op and society at large. I think it's important that the Co-op continually renews itself and, as part of the Committee of Management, I believe it is my duty to help uplift the Co-op and make it a more modern and up-to-date organisation."



Mr Lim Huan Chiang



Mr Yusuf Bachik

"As someone who has been actively involved in the Co-op since 1973, I'm very happy to be given the chance to continue serving my fellow members. I will continue to work closely with my colleagues in the Committee of Management to bring bigger and better benefits to members."

"To me, re-election is a mark of recognition from fellow members for my services and contributions to the Co-op. It is certainly a great honour. In return, I will continue to work hard by undertaking projects that benefit our Co-op and our members. I also hope to see more younger members stepping up and volunteering to serve."



Mr Tan Pin Cheow

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF

Manila

Join us on a 4D3N members' tour from Friday, 28 September to Monday, 1 October 2018 to mesmerising Manila! This trip will take you from the modern suburban city of Makati to the historical charms of St Augustine Church, and transport you back to the time of Spanish, American and Japanese reign. Our itinerary also leaves you with free time to explore at your own leisure, so don't miss out!

Itinerary Highlights

- Return flight, inclusive of all taxes
- 25kg check-in baggage allowance (return)
- 3 nights' stay in an international 4-star hotel
- Daily buffet breakfast
- Meals as stated in itinerary in local Filipino, Chinese and Indian restaurants
- Guided tour of Makati city
- Visit the old Spanish-influenced walled city of Intramuros
- Visit Fort Santiago, former HQ of the Spanish, American & Japanese regimes
- Free & easy time to shop and explore
- Rates include tour guide tips



Subsidised Rates for Members

	Twin Sharing	Single
SGS Member (first time participant)	\$618	\$776
SGS Member (repeat participant)	\$668	\$826
Non member	\$718	\$876

Rates stated are per person

Book early to avoid disappointment!

Limited places available. To register, please contact Ms Shiqin at 6933 6776 or email shiqin@sgscoop.sg / admin@sgscoop.sg.



24 November 2018,
Saturday
6.30pm – 11.30pm

THE RITZ-CARLTON

The Grand Ballroom,
7 Raffles Avenue Singapore 039799

Come dressed in theme to win a prize!

\$50 per ticket

Open for Booking from 1 August 2018!

Tickets are only confirmed upon receipt of payment

Act fast to avoid disappointment!


Call Shiqin at 6933 6776 or email shiqin@sgscoop.sg

NEWS *from Around* Singapore



Are You Ready for the Future Economy?

Singapore has identified eight priority and emerging skills areas, based on the Industry Transformation Maps and feedback from industry partners. This has led to the development of the SkillsFuture Series, which is a curated list of short and modular industry-relevant courses to help Singaporeans prepare for the future. These are delivered by institutes of higher learning in Singapore.

 **Data Analytics**, including collecting, cleansing, transforming and modelling data, in order to discover useful information, led by **National University of Singapore**

 **Digital Media**, including the creation, broadcast, production, and use of digitised content, as well as digital communications, led by **Nanyang Polytechnic**

 **Advanced Manufacturing**, including the use of innovative and advanced technologies to improve products and processes by enhancing the cyber-physical integration of manufacturing, led by **Nanyang Technological University** and **Singapore Polytechnic**

 **Finance**, including the application of technologies in the design, delivery and governance of financial services, led by **Singapore Management University**

 **Cybersecurity**, including measures and techniques to protect the integrity of data, computing devices and other systems from damage or theft, and prevent disruption to the functionality of the systems, led by **Singapore University of Technology and Design** and **Temasek Polytechnic**

 **Urban Solutions**, including solutions aimed at improving the quality of living through designing and building environmentally-sustainable and liveable cities, led by **Singapore Institute of Technology** and **Institute of Technical Education**

 **Tech-Enabled Services**, including the use of technology-based applications to transform services-related industries such as supply chain, retail, healthcare, professional and security services, led by **Singapore University of Social Sciences** and **Republic Polytechnic**

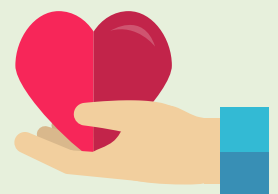
 **Entrepreneurship**, including the art of transforming an idea into a venture of value creation for market, through innovation and risk-taking, led by **Ngee Ann Polytechnic**

For more information on available courses, please visit www.skillsfuture.sg.

Source: SkillsFuture Singapore

Screen Regularly, Stay Healthy

In most cases, the early detection and treatment of illnesses can improve your chances of a full recovery. Singaporeans can take advantage of the Ministry of Health and Health Promotion Board's Screen for Life programme to go for regular, subsidised health screening. Here's what is recommended.

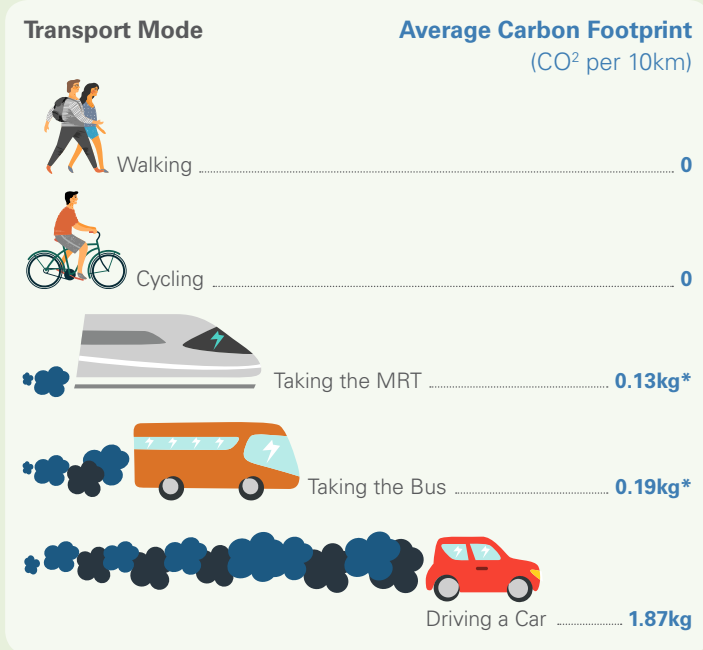


Who	What	When
Women, 25 years and above	Cervical cancer screening	Once every 3 years
Men & women, 40 years above	Chronic disease screening (Obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol)	Once every 3 years
Women, 50 years and above	Breast cancer screening	Once every 2 years
Men & women, 50 years and above	Colorectal cancer screening	Once a year

Learn more at www.healthhub.sg. Source: HealthHub

Walk, Ride, Cycle or Drive?

Many of us understand that the mode of transport that we choose has an impact on our environment, but few of us actually know our carbon footprint. Here's a quick comparison by transport mode to help you make more informed transport decisions!



* Assuming an average loading of 80 passengers per bus, and 1,100 per train

Source: Land Transport Authority

Let's Reduce Plastic Use!

Plastic is harmful to the environment because it is non-biodegradable. In 2017, it was found that Singaporeans used an average of 1.6 plastic bags a day and as much as 94% of our total plastic waste was not recycled. For Singapore to become a zero-waste nation, we need to start changing our daily behaviours. Here are nine ideas to help you reduce the use of plastic.

Bring your own **shopping bag**, and avoid using disposable plastic bags.

Choose **products in cardboard packaging** like boxes, instead of those in plastic containers.

When packing food home, **skip the disposable cutlery** and use the utensils you have at home.

Carry a **handkerchief** so you use less tissue paper, which always involves plastic packaging.

Bring your own **water bottle**, and stop spending money on bottled water.

Say **no to plastic straws** when ordering a drink.

Enjoy your **ice cream in a cone** instead of a cup (which requires you to use a plastic spoon)

Opt for **electronic bank statements** to reduce the need for envelopes with plastic windows.

Always remember to **recycle!**

Source: National Environment Agency

Be Money Smart!

Tips from SGSCC

Keep cool in Singapore's hot weather without chalking up a hefty utilities bill. Here are three easy ways!

- 1 Cool your pulse points.** Apply a cold compress to pulse points at the wrists, neck, ankles and behind the ears to cool off your entire body.
- 2 Store lotions and sprays in the fridge** for an instantly refreshing application.
- 3 Take a warm shower.** Cold showers have the opposite effect of raising your body temperature!

To understand how SGSCC can support your financial stability and security, please contact us at **69336778 (Savings)** or **69336782 (Loans)** or email **admin@sgscoop.sg**.



Photo: 123RF

Quiz Time!

A foldable table-and-chair set worth \$50 await
10 lucky winners!

1. Over 600 members attended SGS Co-op's 89th Annual General Meeting on 23 June 2018. *True / False*
2. What is the declared dividend rate on members' subscription savings for 2017?

3. Complete this sentence: From 1 July 2018, the Co-op has raised the interest rate for fixed deposits to _____% per annum, and the interest rate for specific deposits to _____% per annum.
4. State the date and venue of the SGS Co-op 93rd Anniversary Gala Dinner 2018.

5. When is the upcoming members' tour to Manila, Philippines?

Submit your answers by
24 August 2018:

- Fax to **6339 6772**
- Email to **admin@sgscoop.sg** or
- Post to **1 Sophia Road #05-21, Singapore 228149**

*Multiple entries will not be accepted.
Winners will be announced in the next issue.*

Name: _____

NRIC: _____

Contact No.: (M) _____

(H) _____

(O) _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Congratulations
Mar/Apr Quiz Winners!

Fauziah Binti Abdul Razak SXXXX538J

Jonathan Ling Shiang Lin SXXXX354E

Kamisah Binte Jailani SXXXX521E

Lee Tian Siong SXXXX062I

Siregar Roseletta Marulitua SXXXX966H

Tan Hui Leng SXXXX506B

Muhamad Zulkarnain Bin Mohamed Jaynodin

SXXXX628G

Usha Devi d/o Lachman SXXXX169F

Vimmala Devi Munusamy SXXXX298Z

Yeo May Ching Angelin SXXXX808D

*Please collect your prizes by **7 September 2018.***



1 Sophia Road #05-21 Peace Centre Singapore 228149

Tel: 6933 6779 (Membership) Fax: 6339 6772 Email: admin@sgscoop.sg Web: www.sgscoop.sg