

A sense of belonging

Sense



SGS CO-OP
A sense of belonging

**SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT STAFF CREDIT
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SGS CO-OP
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

SGS CO-OP IS 94 YEARS YOUNG THIS YEAR

As we enter 2019, our co-op turns 94. People grow older as time passes but, in my opinion, our co-op only grows younger. Youth is associated with stamina, strength, and agility — traits that our co-op increasingly displays.

We were founded in 1925 as Singapore's first co-operative and we are still walking tall and going strong. Our mission makes us evergreen; our commitment makes us strong. Year on year, our membership, which is our greatest source of strength, grows steadily. We now have 7,500 members to thank.

Agility and adaptability is another key characteristic of our co-op and an important one, especially in today's tumultuous world. The way we serve members has and will continue to evolve with your needs and lifestyle, but our mission of protecting your financial security remains unchanged.

In 2019, as we have done for the past 93 years, we will strive to create another good year for the co-op in terms of financial performance, membership benefits, and loan products.



Outlining the next 12 months

Before I share the Committee of Management's (COM) plans for the year ahead, I have saddening news. In December 2018, we lost a fellow co-operator. Mr Yusuf Bachik, who has been a faithful and long-serving member of the COM, has passed away. We grieve his passing but will continue to work hard for the benefit of the co-op, as he would want us to.

In 2019, we aim to build a more inclusive society for all our members.

We are working on strengthening membership benefits in new and existing areas such as insurance, hospitalisation claims, bursary awards for your children, overseas tours, and retail items.

By providing you with more options and greater affordability, we hope to help you stretch every dollar. We encourage you to consider a family membership so that your family gets to enjoy the same benefits.

As always, membership growth is a strategic management priority. I have mentioned this

before — you are our co-op's best recruiter. This year, I hope every member will do your part. If we each bring just one new member on-board, we would exceed our membership target of 10,000 easily. Your co-op is counting on you!

For a rewarding year ahead

Warren Buffett once said, "Do not save what is left after spending, but spend what is left after saving."

In 2019, I trust that you will continue practising the financial prudence that the co-op stands for by saving diligently and spending prudently. You can save easily and safely with the co-op by using our convenient salary check-off, GIRO, NETS and PayNow methods. These expanded services were mostly introduced last year to support you as you build greater financial resilience.

I hope that you are having a great start to the year and look forward to journeying with you through the next 12 months. To all our Chinese members, here's wishing you a prosperous lunar new year !



John Raghavan PB, PBS
Chairman



2018 YEAR

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



SGS ANNUAL BURSARY AWARDS



UPSKILLING AND UPGRADING



IN REVIEW

93RD ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER



OVERSEAS MEMBERS' TOURS



In Memoriam: Yusuf Bachik 1937-2018



Mr Yusuf Bachik once said,

“I am glad that I have had the opportunity to serve members through the Management Committee. Having come from a humble background, I understand the plight of junior public employees. I hope to continue serving as long as I can.”

And serve the people, he did. Introduced by a colleague, Mr Yusuf Bachik joined SGS Co-op in 1978 and was an active member of the society – advocating for financial support for its members. He took on leadership roles as a member of the Committee of Management and later, as the Honorary Assistant Secretary with the sole aim of benefiting more members.

On 6 December 2018, Mr Yusuf Bachik passed away at the age of 82. We wish to thank him for his generous and open heart, and life spent in service of Singapore and the Society. We offer our deepest condolences to his family, for he will be greatly missed.

“Mr Yusuf Bachik introduced me to the Co-op back in 1990. He was a calm and friendly person who always had kind words to give. I will miss him, as will many others who have been touched by him.”

**– Mr Ab Majid Bin Sahid, PBS,
Member, Committee of Management**

“Mr Yusuf Bachik was the Co-op’s original Recruitment Champion of the 80’s and 90’s. As a Committee of Management member for many years, he also supported members in need by appealing for higher loan limits for them. It is sad that he has left us. Such a person who relentlessly served both the Society and its members will be hard to replace.”

**– Mr Abdul Kader Maiden,
Former Chairman**



2019 SGS Co-op Annual Bursary Awards Now Accepting Applications

Submit your applications for the SGS Co-op Annual Bursary Awards!
This is open to members' children who are studying in local government schools or education institutions at the following levels:

- Primary 4 to 6
- Secondary 1 to 'O' Level
- Junior College, ITE, Polytechnic
- University

Closing Date: 30 April 2019

Application forms are available from the SGSCC office at Peace Centre or via its website at www.sgscoop.sg.

TRY YOUR HAND AT RECRUITING!

Introduce your colleagues to an SGS membership by sharing these benefits with them! Every member you refer earns you \$20, credited to your Specific Deposit Account.

ENJOY RETURNS ON SAVINGS

Fixed Deposit Account

Subscription Account

Specific Deposit Account

ENJOY LOAN FACILITIES

Unsecured Loan

Surety Loan

Subscription Loan

ENJOY OTHER PRIVILEGES

Hospitalisation Benefit

\$30 a day, capped at 15 calendar days a year.

Insurance Coverage

Free insurance coverage for members on accidental death or permanent disability.

Death Benefit

\$300 upon death of member after at least 15 years of membership.
\$200 upon death of spouse.

Loyalty Benefit

Members with at least 15 years of membership with the Co-op receive \$200 upon cessation of membership.

Bursary Awards for Members' Children

Bursaries of \$100 to \$1,000 are awarded to members' school-going children. Subject to application and assessment.

Extended Membership

Members who resign or retire from their current employer can continue their membership if they have been a member of the Co-op for at least 10 years prior.

Family Membership

Members may enrol their family as Co-op members to enjoy privileges.

Highly subsidised overseas tours and annual Gala Dinner with lucky draw prizes.

Information is correct at time of print and may be subject to changes. For details and updated information, please visit www.sgscoop.sg.

Live and Learn

More Singaporeans are embarking on the lifelong learning journey today. While there are many compelling reasons to do so, everyone's motivation is different.

For some people, lifelong learning is an economic imperative. It could be a necessity in order to stay competitive in the job market, especially in a rapidly changing world. Their learning is a quest for functional skills and knowledge for greater employability, career progression, and professional success.

For others, the learning journey is more about personal fulfilment. It is an opportunity to pursue passions and interests outside work. Whether it is calligraphy or flower arrangement, ballroom dancing or even coffee appreciation, learning becomes a form of leisure and recreation.

While it is important to understand your own motivation for learning, and have clear learning goals, it is just as important to enjoy the process. That way, learning becomes a habit and a way of life.

Leading the Way

The Co-op's Vice Chairman, Mr Lim Huan Chiang, walked the talk as he graduated from the one-year, full-time Masters in Public Administration and Management programme under NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in 2018. He also received the Dean's Leadership Award (first prize) from the course.

Holding several positions, both voluntary and appointed, at various government boards and associations, Mr Lim made a bold decision to enrol in the Masters programme last year while juggling a full-time career.

On pursuing education in his later years, the active veteran grassroots leader says, "Obtaining knowledge is a lifelong process. It will equip you with a greater understanding of current issues, triggering you to be a problem solver. Learning is an integral part of me, and as long as there is opportunity to do so, I will not stop."

A strong advocate of lifelong learning, Mr Lim, who is in his 60s, has also obtained other professional qualifications in the fields of business management, public relations, publishing and China law. He encourages all, young and old, to continue learning — for passion and knowledge.



Mr Lim receiving award from Senior MOS Ms Sim Ann



4 Days 3 Nights

Macau & Zhuhai

Marvel at China's new mega bridge linking coastal cities, Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai. Join us for a 4D3N weekend as we go on a cultural tour to visit historic cultural sites, feast on famous pastries and walk through these picturesque coastal towns.

When: March 1-4, 2019 (Friday – Monday)



Prices include:

- Return airfare from Singapore – inclusive of taxes
- Return 20kg checked in baggage per person
- 2 nights stay at 4-star hotel in Zhuhai with daily breakfast
- 1 night stay in 4-star hotel in Macau with daily breakfast
- Meals and sightseeing as per itinerary
- English speaking guide, including tour guide tips
- Free & Easy time for shopping

Price per pax	Twin Sharing	Single
SGS MEMBER (First time Participant)	\$678	\$838
SGS MEMBER (Repeat Participant)	\$728	\$888
Non Member	\$778	\$938

Limited to 1st 30 sign-ups on a first-come-first-serve basis!

To register, please contact Ms Shiqin by phone: 6933 6776 or email: shiqin@sgscoop.sg / admin@sgscoop.sg

Tour Highlights in Macau & Zhuhai

- Ruins of St Paul
- A-Ma Temple
- Senado Square (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Famous Macau bakery
- Zhuhai Lovers' Road
- Statue of Fisher Girl
- Shijingshan Park
- Gongbei Underground Market (a.k.a. Zhuhai Port Plaza)

NEWS

from
Around

Singapore

LTA has started an on-demand bus service for 6 months

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) started a six-month On-Demand Public Bus (ODPB) trial on 17 December 2018. The purpose of the trial is to evaluate the effectiveness of operating bus services with routes and schedules based on real-time commuter demand instead of following the fixed bus timings.

With the ODPB trial, commuters are able to request pickups and drop-offs with the use of an application at any bus stop within the designated areas such as Joo Koon, Marina-Downtown and from the Central Business District to Bedok and Tampines via the Geylang Corridor.

The mobile application works by processing your booking request in real-time and it will match any available buses in the area for your pickup.

The ODPB will be on trial at the following locations:

-  **Joo Koon** from 11am to 3pm and 8.30pm to 11.30pm on weekdays (excluding public holidays)
-  **Marina-Downtown** from 11am to 3pm and 8.30pm to 11.45pm on weekdays (excluding public holidays)
-  **Central Business District to Bedok and Tampines** from 11.30pm to 2am on Fridays, Saturdays and eve of public holidays.

Regular bus services will still resume at lower frequencies during the 6 month ODPB trial at the designated areas.

In order for commuters to use the ODPB services, you will need to download the mobile applications – BusGo and BusNow from the Apple Application Store or the Android Play Store.

For more information, please contact SMRT at 1800 336 8900.

Source: Land Transport Authority



A guide to planning your vacation in 2019

We got this worked out for you. In 2019, we have 3 public holidays falling on a Sunday, giving us Monday a public holiday.

We map out the dates here for you to plan ahead and apply for your annual leave to get permission to go on a break. With just 9.5 days of annual leave, you can get 42 days of vacation.

Once you get your boss's approval for your holidays, be sure to book your airline and hotel ahead to get cheaper deals!

Some airlines allow you to track the best airfare price as they fluctuate from time to time. You can subscribe for alerts and get email notifications when the airfare for the journey you are planning for drops to a lower price!

2019 Public Holiday	2019 Date	2019 Day	Dates to take leave	Total days for vacation
Chinese New Year	Feb 5	Tue	Feb 4, Mon (0.5 / 1 day)	5
	Feb 6	Wed		
Good Friday	April 19	Fri	0	3
Labour Day	May 1	Wed	May 2-3, Thu-Fri (2 days)	5
Vesak Day	May 19	Sun	0	3
	May 20	Mon		
Hari Raya Puasa	June 5	Wed	Jun 3-4, Mon-Tue OR	5
			Jun 6-7, Thu-Fri (2 days)	
National Day	Aug 9	Fri	0	3
Hari Raya Haji	Aug 11	Sun	0	3
	Aug 12	Mon		
Deepavali	Oct 27	Sun	0	3
	Oct 28	Mon		
Christmas Day	Dec 25	Wed	Dec 23-24 Mon-Tue	12
			Dec 26-27 Thu-Fri (3.5 / 4 days)	
New Year's Day	Jan 1	Wed	Dec 30-31 Mon-Tue (1.5/2 days)	
Total:			9.5 days of annual leave	42 days of vacation

BE MONEY SMART! Tips from SGS Co-op

New Year is the opportunity for new adventures, making new plans and a brand new you. What better way to achieve your life goals with a clear plan at the start of the year?

1) **Declutter** – Marie Kondo is the new rage on Netflix teaching families to tidy up their living space and encouraging people to keep only what they need. One great tip she shared was to pile up all your possessions before you start sorting through what you need to keep or throw.

For example, place all the clothes in your home into one big pile. Start sorting through by deciding if you will keep or throw each piece. You'll get to appreciate the amount of clothes you have and probably make changes to future buying habits.

2) **Budget household expenditure** – Revisit your expenditure in the past year and review your buying patterns. Where possible look at how much was waste you can cut down in your household and buy only when required.

For example, consider how long your shampoo and soaps last and buy only when you need to top up such supplies. When you buy in excess and keep them for too long, your old purchases may get thrown out because they have expired or you want to try a newer product.

3) **Put your bonus in fixed deposits** – Fixed deposits typically earn higher interest than your usual savings account. For money that you won't be using in the short term, put them in fixed deposits to earn a higher interest. With a low minimum sum, fixed deposits are a good way to save for the rainy day as your principal is secured.



To understand how SGS Co-op can further support your financial stability and security, please contact us at 69336778 (Savings) or 69336775/69336776 (Loans) or email admin@sgs.coop.

QUIZTime



**WIN!!! A foldable table-and-chair set worth \$50.
10 lucky winners will be picked and announced in our next issue.**

1. Where is the destination for the upcoming members' tour in March?

2. How many public holidays fall on a Sunday this year? _____

3. In which year was SGS Co-op founded? _____

4. When do applications for the 2019 SGS Annual Bursary Awards close?

5. You can now use PayNow to make your monthly subscriptions savings with SGS Co-op.

True / False

Congratulations

Nov/Dec Quiz Winners

Abeeramy d/o Appavoo
Asmah Binte Kamsan
Devagi d/o Krishnan
Lee Keen Hong Alfred
Lee Soon Heng, Justin
Loh Yuke Kuen
Mehrajnisa Abdul Hameed
Sun Kok Liang
Tam Lap Tak
Tan Eng Kiat

Please collect your prize by 8 March 2019.

Special Year-End Edition Quiz Winners

Lai Poh Kheng
Loh Yu Cheng Jovian
Rahman Beevi S M Ibrahim
Sheela d/o Navandran
Sim Geok Lian Nancy

Prizes will be delivered to your home address.

Submit your answers by
5 March 2019 through:

Fax: 6339 6772

Email: admin@sgscoop.sg

Post: 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: _____