

# Sense

*A sense of belonging*



**SGS CO-OP**  
*A sense of belonging*



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

**JAN/FEB 2020**

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**SGS CO-OP**  
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**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

# MAKE 2020 COUNT

## Happy New Year!

The start of a New Year is a good time to reflect and renew our resolutions for the year ahead to achieve our goals. Yet, 2020 will be an extra special year for our Co-op -- it marks the beginning of a new decade, and also our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, since we were first founded in 1925.

Everything we have achieved, and everything we will achieve in the years to come, is made possible by the loyalty of our members, the declaration of our Committee Of Management and the secretariat team as well as our friendship of the wider cooperative sector.

Have you penned your resolutions for 2020 yet?

### COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS IN 2019

2019 has been a tumultuous year for the world with many changes afoot. While Singapore mark the past year with various Bicentennial celebrations island wide, we too, at SGS Co-op took the time to reflect on our beginnings and our core values which underpins the reason for our steady growth through the years.

Looking back on 2019, we have much to be grateful for, especially for our financial growth. We made positive returns on our business with increased surplus and minimal bad debts, and managed to keep within a healthy range for the year to meet our financial



commitments. This was in spite of some paper loss in our investments due to the volatility in global markets.

Our investment in real estate continues to grow with our two units in Centrium Square Serangoon Road in its finishing phase of construction and which we hope to take over sometime this year. To date, we have about eight properties valued at about \$12 million and will be keeping an eye out for suitable properties to purchase that will give us a good yield.

Our prudent approach to growing our investments have been rewarded with members receiving an additional dividend in celebration of Singapore's Bicentennial last year. Moving forward, we will continue with this approach whilst looking for new opportunities to expand and grow our assets.

## MAKE 2020 COUNT

At the Co-op, we have many items coming up on our agenda and, all mainly focused on bringing more benefits to our members. We hope our future events will grow to include more members such as our Annual Bursary Awards and Gala Dinner. We are also

looking to expand our recreation activities such as Members' Tours by including new destinations and securing more vacancies for more members to join us on the tours.

We cannot achieve our goals alone and must do it together with every member's support and help. I hope you will pen one or two resolutions which will help our society grow stronger. One resolution could be to share about the benefits of joining our co-op with your colleagues and aim to bring in one new member this year!

As a sustainable social enterprise, our aim is to become a large co-operative. To do this, we will need to have 10, 000 members. Last year, we made a small increment with the largest turnout at our AGM and with our membership hovering around 7,100. However, we still have some way to go to hit our target of 10, 000. Let us all make a small contribution to achieve this goal together!

## LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR 95<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

I'm truly excited about celebrating our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is no small feat for the nation's very first co-operative to continue growing in strength to this day. Our founders have banded together for a common good and, we have grown because of our shared belief in mutual help to benefit our members. Let us strengthen that resolve and work together, so we have more reasons to celebrate at our Annual Gala Dinner.

On that note, I wish to thank you all for your continued support in 2019. Our staff has been busy

planning the activities for the year ahead. Do join in the activities and get to know more about our Co-op as well as meet more members and make new friends. Don't forget to keep reading SENSE for news of the events and to book your tickets early!

In closing, here's wishing all our Chinese and non-Chinese members a Healthy Year of the Rat to you and your families and May everyone be in the pinkest of health.



**John Raghavan PB, PBS**  
*Chairman*



### MEMBERS' NOTICE

With immediate effect, unsecured loans shall not be granted to employed members who are 67 years and above. However, they may still be granted Surety Loan(s) and/or Subscription Loan(s) with the condition that the repayment term must not exceed member's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. In the event that employment is terminated, all outstanding loans with the Society must be fully settled.

# 2019 YEAR

## 45<sup>TH</sup> SGS ANNUAL BURSARY AWARDS



## 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



## 94<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER



# IN REVIEW

## MEMBER TOURS



## OUTREACH AND NETWORKING



## UPSKILLING AND UPGRADING



# Keeping Your Personal Data Safe

The security of our members' personal data is a top priority at SGS Co-op, which explains the need for the formal training of the entire staff at SGS Co-op in data protection by a competent external consultant.

SGS Co-op staff will attend an extensive five day workshop and delve into the management of personal data privacy and compliance risk. Our staff will also learn about topics including the latest updates on key legislative and regulatory requirements of the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) as well as organisations' required obligations and handling of personal data.

During the workshop, our staff will examine standards implemented by other organisations in this area and work closely with our appointed consultant to adapt the industry's best practices when developing SGS Co-op's own data inventory map and management processes.

Through this workshop, our staff will be equipped with the knowledge and skillsets to face the critical challenges ahead in safeguarding and managing members' personal data. SGS-Co-op intends to attain the Data Protection Trust Mark Assured Certification in the near future.

If you have any queries on how your personal data is being handled, please call us at 6933 6779 (Membership) / email us at [admin@sgscoop.sg](mailto:admin@sgscoop.sg).



**Stay Up to Date** with SGS Co-op Happenings by updating us your information where there are new changes:

- ✓ Home and/or Email Address
- ✓ Bank Account Details
- ✓ Contact Information such as mobile number to receive reminders and notifications
- ✓ Employment Status



# 4D3N

# South Korea



Embark on a 4D3N tour as we walk through time with visits to the stunning Gyeongbokgung palace and Bukchon Hanok Village – reminiscent of Korea's Joseon Dynasty.

Don't miss the breath-taking views of Nami Island, the chance to make your own Kimchi and shop the hottest and latest Korean trends at Namdaemun and Myeongdong all on this tour!



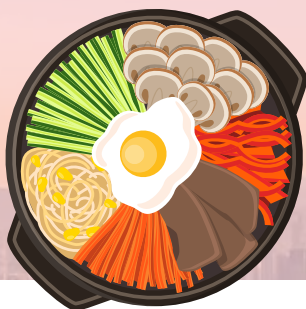
**When:** Feb 29 – Mar 3, 2020 (Saturday – Tuesday)



## Tour highlights:

- Yangpyeong Dumulmeori Park
- Nami Island
- Bukchon Hanok Village
- Gyeongbokgung palace
- Seaweed Museum – Famous Kimchi DIY
- N Seoul Tower & Love lock wall
- Namdaemun Shopping Street
- Myeongdong Shopping Street

Price per pax	Twin Sharing	Single
<b>SGS MEMBER (First time Participant)</b>	\$1,098	\$1,290
<b>SGS MEMBER (Repeat Participant)</b>	\$1,148	\$1,340
<b>Family member / Non Member</b>	\$1,198	\$1,390



## Prices include:

- ✓ Return airfare from Singapore – Inclusive of taxes
- ✓ 3 nights' stay at a 4-star hotel in Seoul with daily breakfast
- ✓ Halal meals and sightseeing as per itinerary
- ✓ English speaking guide
- ✓ Free & Easy time for shopping

**Limited to the first 30 slots only. Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment!**

To register, please contact **Ms Shiqin** by phone: 6933 6776 or email: [shiqin@sgscoop.sg](mailto:shiqin@sgscoop.sg) / [admin@sgscoop.sg](mailto:admin@sgscoop.sg)  
Information correct at time of print.

# 46<sup>th</sup> SGS Co-Op Annual Bursary Awards CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

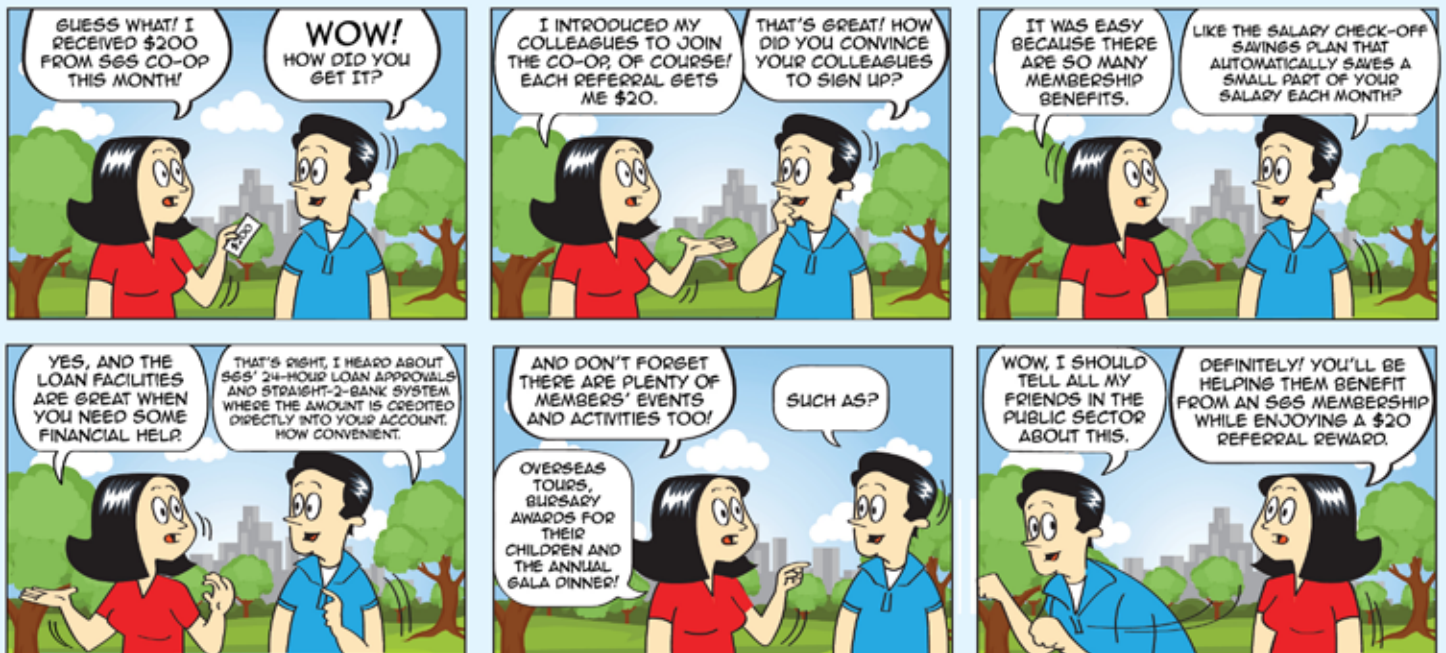
Applications for SGS Co-op's Annual Bursary Awards are now open. Members' children who are studying in local government schools or educational institutions at the following levels are encouraged to apply.

- ✓ Primary 4 to 6
- ✓ Secondary 1 to 4 or qualified to sit for GCE 'O' Levels
- ✓ Admitted to ITE
- ✓ Pre-U/JC /Poly
- ✓ University Level

Application forms are available at the SGS Co-op office at Peace Centre or download via the SGS Co-op website at [www.sgscoop.sg](http://www.sgscoop.sg).



## THE MEMBERSHIP THAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT!

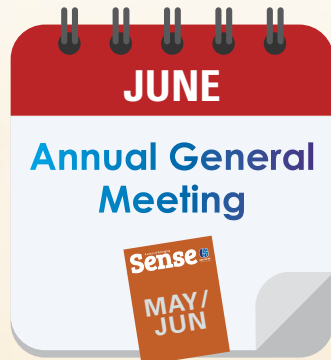


INTRODUCE YOUR COLLEAGUES TO AN SGS MEMBERSHIP AND EARN \$20, CREDITED TO YOUR SPECIFIC DEPOSIT ACCOUNT! TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT SGS CO-OP AT 6933 6779 OR VISIT [WWW.SGSCOOP.SG](http://WWW.SGSCOOP.SG) TODAY!



# What's Happening in 2020?

Here's what happening at SGS Co-op.  
Mark your calendars and look out for our tour ads as they sell out fast!



**Don't forget:** Read SENSE and enter our quiz to win great prizes. 10 lucky winners will be picked and announced in each issue.

Information is correct at time of print and may be subject to change. For the latest information, please visit [www.sgscoop.sg](http://www.sgscoop.sg).

# NEWS

from  
Around

# Singapore

## Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs) banned on footpaths

Following the ban of electric scooters (e-scooters) on footpaths since 5 Nov 2019, strict enforcements will begin from 1 Jan 2020. Those caught riding e-scooters on footpaths can be fined up to \$2,000 and/or jailed up to three months. E-scooters are only allowed on cycling paths and park connectors, and the ban will gradually include other motorised PMDs such as hoverboards and electric unicycles by the first quarter of this year.



Source: Land Transport Authority

## More Support for Couples to Meet Parenthood Aspirations

From 1 Jan 2020, there will be no age limit for women to undergo assisted reproduction technology (ART) treatments and no cap on the number of ART cycles.

In addition, up to two of the six co-funded ART cycles can be carried out after age 40, as long as the couple had attempted AR or Intra-Uterine Insemination (IUI) procedures before age 40. Government co-funding of up to 75%, capped at \$1,000 per treatment cycle for a maximum of three cycles, will also be available for eligible couples going through IUI at public assisted reproduction centres. Interested couples can visit MOH's website to find out more details.

Source: Ministry of Health



## Minimum Legal Age of Smoking Raised to 20

From 1 Jan 2020, the minimum legal age of smoking will be raised to 20. With the bill in effect, the use, purchase and possession of e-cigarettes will also be illegal. This follows MOH's commitment to lower the prevalence of smoking and de-normalise smoking amongst youths here in Singapore. On 1 Jan 2021, the minimum legal age of smoking will be raised to 21.



Source: Ministry of Health

## Singapore Unveils Rearranged National Anthem

To celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state crest, the flag and the anthem, a new rendition of the national anthem was unveiled on all Mediacorp, Singapore Press Holdings and SAFRA radio stations on 3 Dec 2019.

### What's new in our new anthem?

- It is approximately 5 seconds shorter than the original recorded in 2001
- It is arranged in F major instead of G major – allows the majority of Singaporeans to sing the anthem with ease
- It is of better sound quality – reflects the improvements in audio recording since the 2000s and showcases the nuances of the music arrangement, especially in large venues with modern sound systems



Listen to the new anthem on the 'Prime Minister's Office, Singapore' official YouTube channel.

Source: National Heritage Board

## CPF Retirement Sum Scheme (RSS) Payouts to Last till 90

Starting from 2020, CPF RSS payouts will last until age 90, instead of 95. With the bill in place, eligible Singaporeans will be getting higher payouts each month. The new rules will be applied to RSS members who turn 65 from 1 Jul 2020, while RSS members currently receiving their payouts will see the change from 1 Jan 2020. RSS members can also opt for CPF Life (Lifelong income for the elderly) when they reach 65 or before they turn 80.

Source: Central Provident Fund Board



## Be Alert!

In light of scam activities happening in Singapore, the Ministry of Home Affairs posted a guide to identify scam tactics. Here is a quick summary in case you missed it:



### 1. Unbelievable Bargains

Exercise caution when you come across bargains that are too good to be true, especially on online shopping platforms.

### 2. Trusting People on the Internet

When purchasing something online such as Carousell, always make sure that the seller is verified.

### 3. Unsolicited Text Messages

Money lending services promoted through text messages are illegal as licensed moneylenders are not allowed to advertise their services through text.

### 4. Requesting for Personal Details

Since 1 Sept 2019, organisations are no longer allowed to collect an individual's NRIC number. Do not provide sensitive information such as your bank account number, contact numbers or your NRIC number to strangers.

To learn more about combating scams, call the anti-scam hotline at 1800-722-6688 or visit the scam alert website at scamalert.sg

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

## BE MONEY SMART! Tips from SGS Co-op

## Savings Tips for 2020

Usher in a new decade by working on lifestyle changes you have been meaning to make! Put these tips into good use and embark on your money saving journey today.

- 1. Meal prep** – Though it may be cumbersome to prepare your meals before work, meal prepping helps to save money for the important things that matter. Meal prepping also allows you to make healthier meals by controlling the ingredients you use in cooking, spending \$200 on groceries a month would reduce your expenditure to about \$3.60 per meal. To make meal prepping seem less daunting, cook in large batches and freeze them in single-sized portions to bring to work.
- 2. Review your insurance plans** – While insurance is important, you might still be paying for insurance you no longer need. Ensure that while you are covered for the right things, you are not chipping in additional cash each month for an insurance policy you no longer need.
- 3. Daily budget planning** – Make it a habit to log your daily expenditures every day. From your cup of coffee to movie tickets to stationery, plan your future budgets by cutting down on unnecessary expenses. Try bringing just enough cash on you and leave your credit cards at home.



- 4. Choose public transport** – Ditch the automobiles by taking advantage of our transport system. Not only do cars contribute to carbon footprint, your car insurance, servicing and maintenance costs, road tax and even gasoline prices can amount to a hefty sum by the end of the year. Choose to ride on the MRT instead – commuters who tap in before 7:45AM on weekdays can enjoy discounted train fares of up to 50 cents.

To understand how SGS Co-op can support your financial stability and security, please contact us at 6933 6778 (Savings) or 6933 6775 / 6933 6776 (Loans) or email: [admin@sgs.coop](mailto:admin@sgs.coop).

# QUIZ time



## PRIZE FOR QUIZ WINNERS:

**10 lucky members will stand to win a Jumbo 3-tier stainless steel steamer with a glass lid and steam release vent worth \$100!**

1. 2020 is SGS Co-op's 95th Anniversary. *True / False*
2. Where will members get to visit as part of SGS Co-op's subsidised tour in March?  
a. South Korea      b. Japan      c. Hanoi
3. SGS Co-op offers bursary awards every year for students studying in upper primary to tertiary levels to support them in their learning journey. *True / False*
4. SGS Co-op's Annual General Meeting will be held in July. *True / False*
5. Starting from 2020, CPF retirement sum scheme payouts will last till \_\_\_\_\_ years old instead of 95.  
a. 85      b. 90      c. 80

Submit your answers by  
**28 Feb 2020** through:

Fax: 6339 6772  
Email: [admin@sgscoop.sg](mailto: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 (Last 3 digits and letter only): XXXXX \_\_\_\_ \_

Contact No.: (M) \_\_\_\_\_

(H) \_\_\_\_\_

(O) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Congratulations!

### Nov/Dec Quiz Winners

1. Ng Lay Suat
2. Lim Kian Choon
3. Aziah Binte Abu Bakar
4. Maisharah bte Mohamad
5. Uma Rani Mrs P Kurusamy
6. Goh Swee Kee, Raymond
7. Rajesvari D/O Ayyakannu
8. Siah Wee Lan
9. Lalitha K Nair
10. Ang Lay Tin

### Christmas Hamper Quiz Winners

1. Lim Po Geok Elena
2. Goh Puay Kiang
3. Danakody Gabriel
4. Tan Teck Nam
5. Samsinah Bte Torman

Please collect your prize by **6 Mar 2020**.