

# Sense

A sense of belonging



SGS CO-OP  
A sense of belonging

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT STAFF CREDIT  
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

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A sense of belonging

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**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

# OUR HOPES



**The new year always brings hope, which is perhaps the reason why people make new year resolutions. As your Chairman, I am hopeful that this year will see us achieving greater productivity and improved efficiency, and imbibing a renewed enthusiasm for the co-operative movement among the wider public service community.**

**GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP**

In 2017, we must continue our push for 10,000 members. Our target is to recruit 3,500 new members this year and I am glad that we have the support of 23 recruitment champions. While we intend to ramp up our recruitment activities, I encourage all members to play an active part in growing our family. Remember that the \$20 reward for every new member you recruit is still in place, so please start the year by talking to your friends and colleagues about an SGSCC membership!

# FOR 2017

## SERVING OUR MEMBERS

Members' satisfaction is very important to us and we have always believed in being meticulous with our loans and financial services. In the new year, we plan on paying greater attention to the overall personal debts of members, ensuring that they only borrow what they need. This means that our frontline staff will invest more time in analysing your financial landscape and offering recommendations to help you make responsible borrowing and saving decisions. Loan contracts are likely to be tightened in order to help members better manage their debts. Given that over 80% of our members are savers, not borrowers, we believe that this approach will help more members enjoy a financially sustainable future.

Last year, we put in place a new telephony system to better serve members. This year, the Co-op will continue exploring new technology applications to deliver greater convenience to members. Rest assured that we will balance this with the needs of members who prefer the personal touch so as to best serve our large and diverse family.

## IMPROVING INTERNAL EFFICIENCY

As the Co-op has outgrown the accounting software that we have been using for the past three years, 2017 will see the implementation of a new system. We are also looking into the feasibility of engaging external experts to advise us on accounting best practices. This is necessary to ensure that we maintain reliable members' accounts and good corporate governance, and we will continue to keep members updated on this front.

## TO NEW BEGINNINGS

This new year, I would like to express my appreciation for my colleagues in the Committee of Management, our dedicated team of secretariat staff as well as our members who have supported us year on year. Please accept my wishes for a happy and healthy 2017!



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



# SUPPORTING *a worthy cause*



"I'm very happy and excited to be here. It's my first time watching such a performance and I'm glad to share the experience with my friends."

**Mdm Ow Choon Neo, 81**  
SASCO Senior Citizens' Home



**S**GSCC started the year 2017 on a positive note by hosting 31 seniors from SASCO Senior Citizens' Home and St Theresa's Home to a cultural performance with a charitable element.

and closing ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics in 2008. It is touted the first of its kind to use light and laser effects as a stunning backdrop as 80 performers use the stage to depict the life of the Dong people, one of China's 55 minority races.

The seniors were invited to join SGSCC Committee of Management on the opening night of 'Legend of the Moon' on 6 January 2017. The 3D musical was held in support of the President's Challenge charity and graced by President Dr Tony Tan.

Net proceeds from the two-night-only performance at The Star Theatre will be donated to the President's Challenge charity, which pledges to help the less fortunate regardless of culture, religion or family background.

For Ms Celia Lee, Enrol Nurse of SASCO Senior Citizens' Home, the outing was very beneficial for the residents. "They've clearly enjoyed themselves tonight! We feel it's important that our residents have the opportunity to go out and experience new things, so we're very happy to have been invited to attend this performance."

After the performance, Dr Tony Tan shared his experience via his Facebook page, saying: "I enjoyed watching the musical. I was also very impressed by the 3D stage display, which was the first of its kind and created to build awareness of Chinese culture among the youths. I would like to thank the sponsors and organisers for bringing this musical to Singapore. It has not only enriched our arts and heritage scene but also raised funds for charity."

'Legend of the Moon' is directed by Zhang Jigang, who is perhaps best known for choreographing the opening

# 2016: THE YEAR

THANK YOU FOR SHARING A MEMO

**91ST ANNIVERSARY  
GALA DINNER**



**ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**



**SINNATHAMBY MEMORIAL  
BURSARY AWARDS**



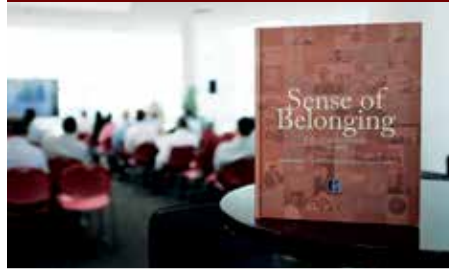
# IN PICTURES

## RABLE YEAR WITH US!

HONG KONG TOUR



HERITAGE BOOK PUBLIC FORUM



RECRUITMENT ROADSHOWS



# News From Around Singapore

## Property Tax Goes Down

The Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) has announced that all HDB flat owners will pay lower or no property tax this year, while almost all private residential property owners will see lower or no change in their property tax. HDB flat owners will enjoy tax savings of between 13.1% to 51% for 2017, with three-room flat owners enjoying the biggest cuts in property tax rates. One- and two-room flat owners, as well as some three-room flat owners, will continue to be exempt from property tax.

*Source: Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore*

## Ride for Less with Cheaper Bus Fares

From December 30, 2016, commuters have been enjoying lower bus fares, thanks to a fall in energy costs. Public transport fares have been reduced by 4.2%, which means that commuters can pay up to 27 cents less per trip. Senior citizens using concessionary cards now enjoy fare reductions of 1 to 7 cents while student concessionary fares have been lowered by 1 cent. The prices of monthly concessionary passes and monthly travel passes are unchanged.

*Source: Public Transport Council*

## Changes to Workfare Income Supplement

From 1 January 2017, the Workfare Income Supplement (WIS) scheme has been modified to take into consideration changes in income levels for lower wage earners. The qualifying income has been increased to \$2,000 a month and those who qualify can look forward to higher payouts of up to \$3,600. Payouts will also be disbursed on a monthly, instead of a quarterly, basis from this year, so that individuals who work more months can look forward to receiving more WIS.

An estimated 460,000 Singaporeans will receive \$770 million in WIS for work done in 2017. To learn more about the Workfare Income Supplement scheme, please visit [www.workfare.gov.sg](http://www.workfare.gov.sg).

*Source: Ministry of Manpower*



## More Paid Leave for Papa

Fathers of Singapore citizen children born from 1 January 2017 will enjoy two weeks of paternity leave, up from the previous entitlement of one week. These two weeks of paternity leave are now mandatory under the Government-Paid Paternity Leave scheme and apply to self-employed fathers as well.

Looking ahead to 1 July 2017, there will also be changes to the Government-Paid Shared Parental Leave programme. Working fathers of children born on or after 1 July 2017 will be eligible to up to four weeks of Shared Parental Leave from their wife's maternity leave, subject to their wife's agreement.

*For details, please visit [www.profamilyleave.gov.sg](http://www.profamilyleave.gov.sg).*

## New Limit for Personal Income Tax Relief

Beginning with the Year of Assessment 2018 (i.e., for income earned from January to December 2017), the government has placed a cap of \$80,000 a year for personal income tax reliefs. There are currently 15 types of tax reliefs that citizens can use to offset their taxable income. The Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) expects that only 1% of the tax-paying population will be affected by this change.

*To find out more, please visit [www.iras.gov.sg](http://www.iras.gov.sg).*

## Say Goodbye to 2G Mobile Services

On 1 April 2017, Singapore's 2G mobile network will be discontinued. All three mobile operators in Singapore (M1, Singtel and Starhub) will stop 2G voice, messaging and data services in order to provide faster and more advanced 3G and 4G services to customers. According to Info-comms Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA), only 3% of SIM cards in Singapore are on 2G subscriptions. Customers using 2G mobile services are encouraged to contact their mobile operator about switching to 3G or 4G services.

*Source: Info-comms Media Development Authority of Singapore*

## 2017 SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT STAFF CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE ANNUAL BURSARY AWARDS

# APPLY NOW!

From now until 30 April 2017, members are welcome to submit their applications for the Singapore Government Staff Credit Co-operative Annual Bursary Awards. Your children must be studying in government schools or education institutions, and be at any of the following levels:

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

Application forms are available at the SGSCC office at Peace Centre or via the SGSCC website [www.sgs.coop](http://www.sgs.coop).

***Be Money  
Smart!***

***Tips from SGSCC***

***Enjoy the Chinese New Year festivities  
without overspending. Here's how!***

- 1 Buy new clothes that you can wear to work or school,** so your outfit will last you beyond Chinese New Year.
- 2 Have meals at home** instead of in restaurants. It's more wallet friendly and healthier too!
- 3 Make, don't buy, your Chinese New Year home decorations.** Look online for simple instructional videos.

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



Photo: 123RF

Discover the mysterious charms of Myanmar with us on a **4D3N** tour from **24 to 27 February 2017!** Members enjoy subsidised rates.

# Experience Myanmar with Us!

**BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**  
Limited places available.

## Register now!

Please contact Mr Dennis at 6933 6779 or email [dennis@sgs.coop](mailto:dennis@sgs.coop) / [admin@sgs.coop](mailto:admin@sgs.coop) for more information.

Venture into the heart of Myanmar with an immersive tour of Yangon! The country's largest city is a travellers' dream with glistening temples, mosques and churches that stand alongside some of Southeast Asia's most impressive colonial era architecture. Stroll the streets of Yangon and take in the colourful sights and busy open-air markets for a truly memorable experience.

### Itinerary highlights

- Scheduled return flights inclusive of all airport taxes
- 3 nights' stay in a 4-star hotel
- Daily breakfast
- Lunch and dinner
- English-speaking tour guide
- Plenty of sightseeing and shopping!
- One Free & Easy day (meals at own cost)

### SUBSIDISED RATES FOR MEMBERS!

	Twin Sharing	Single
SGS member (first time participant)	\$668	\$848
SGS member (repeat participant)	\$708	\$898
Non member	\$768	\$998

*Rates stated are per person*

*Information correct at time of print  
Photos: 123RF.COM*



# Quiz Time!

**Prizes await 10 lucky submissions!**  
**Multi-purpose mini rice cooker & steamer worth \$50!**

Submit your answers by **17 February 2017**:

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



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

1. What worthy cause did SGSCC support by attending the 'Legend of the Moon' performance?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many seniors did SGSCC host at the 'Legend of the Moon' performance?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When is the application deadline for the 2017 Singapore Government Staff Credit Co-operative Annual Bursary Awards?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Name any two major Co-op events held in 2016.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. When is the members' tour to Myanmar? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NRIC: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

## Congratulations!

**Five lucky members have won themselves a hamper worth \$100 as part of our Special Year-end Edition Quiz!**



**Fong Fei Fong** SXXXX022E  
**Francis Susaiyah Ronald** SXXXX097H  
**Kuah Lay Hoon Jacqueline** SXXXX356G  
**Maslinah Bte Mohd Rasul** SXXXX182C  
**Sun Kok Leong Andy** SXXXX473G

**Ten lucky members have also won themselves a multi-purpose mini rice cooker & steamer worth \$50!**

**E Chantheran** SXXXX574I  
**Emily Wilma Jacintha** SXXXX686C  
**Ho Chee Seng** SXXXX196I  
**Ma Kian Chong** SXXXX603I  
**Neo Ah Hoe** SXXXX601B  
**Poomahdevi d/o Somasundram** SXXXX776D  
**Rehman Beevi S M Ibrahim** SXXXX472G  
**Rosita Ahmat** SXXXX147H  
**Saloma Bte Johari** SXXXX442J  
**Tam Lap Tak** SXXXX104G

*Please collect your prize by **28 February 2017**.*