

A sense of belonging

Sense

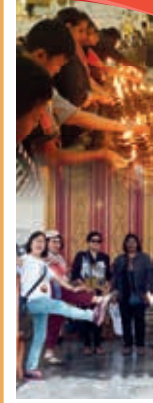


SGS CO-OP
A sense of belonging

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

JAN/FEB 2018

MCI (P) 032/11/2017



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SGS CO-OP
A vision of belonging

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

OFF TO A



People say that a good beginning makes a good ending. I agree, but I also believe that the reverse is true – a good ending makes for another good beginning. I hope that you closed 2017 on a positive note and are having a wonderful start to 2018.

At SGS Co-op, we enjoyed a good year in 2017. Our financials continued to be steady and stable, allowing us to ensure that you were rewarded with 3.5% dividends on your 2016 savings. We also strengthened our lifestyle offerings to you, with two subsidised members' tours to Myanmar and Cambodia and made our 92nd Anniversary Gala Dinner even bigger and better than before.

Behind the scenes, your Committee of Management and Secretariat team have been working hard to improve our service quality through technology-enabled improvements like our Straight-2-Bank arrangement. We also sought to create a more robust governance infrastructure by critically reviewing our processes and procedures.

I'm delighted to share that our efforts have already produced small successes, many of which were noted by our distinguished guests and fellow co-operators ahead of our 92nd anniversary. What better way to wrap up 2017 than with their well wishes and words of encouragement? I'm happy to share some snippets with you here.

GREAT START

Ready for 2018

This year, as the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has introduced a set of core competencies for credit co-operatives, we will be placing greater emphasis on upskilling our Committee members and Secretariat staff. Needless to say, you will remain at the front and centre of everything that we do. Our focus on improving service quality to members will remain. This includes conceptualising new and interesting lifestyle initiatives for you, so please keep reading SENSE magazine to get all the latest news.

Finally, here's wishing all our Chinese members a prosperous Lunar New Year! May the year ahead be filled with good fortune and good health.




John Raghavan PB, PBS
Chairman

The management and staff of SGS wish all our Chinese members a prosperous Lunar New Year!



"It heartens me to learn that your co-operative is actively engaging the public service community to bring more officers, especially young officers, into your fold."

Mr Chee Hong Tat
Senior Minister of State,
Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Health



"I applaud your effort in championing thrift and providing credit facilities where necessary to your members to tide through difficult financial times. Keep up your good work."

Mr Kwek Kok Kwong
Chairman, Singapore National Co-operative Federation



"May the years ahead bring stronger governance, further recognition and success to you as you strive to cater to the changing needs of your members."

Ms Dolly Goh
Chief Executive Officer,
Singapore National Co-operative Federation

2017: A FULFILLING

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YET ANOTHER

92ND ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



SGS ANNUAL BURSARY AWARDS



YEAR INDEED

MEMORABLE YEAR WITH US!

MEMBERS' OVERSEAS TOURS



UPGRADING & UPSKILLING



OUTREACH & NETWORKING



2018 *The Year Ahead*

Mark your calendars,
because here's a round-up of what you can look forward
to in the next 12 months!

JANUARY

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| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
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FEBRUARY

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Sense
Jan/Feb issue

MARCH

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Members' Tour to Taiwan
Last chance to collect 2017 birthday gifts

APRIL

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Sense
Mar/Apr issue

MAY

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89th Annual General Meeting

JUNE

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Sense
May/June issue

JULY

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AUGUST

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Sense
Jul/Aug issue

2018 SGS Bursary Awards

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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Sense
Sep/Oct issue

NOVEMBER

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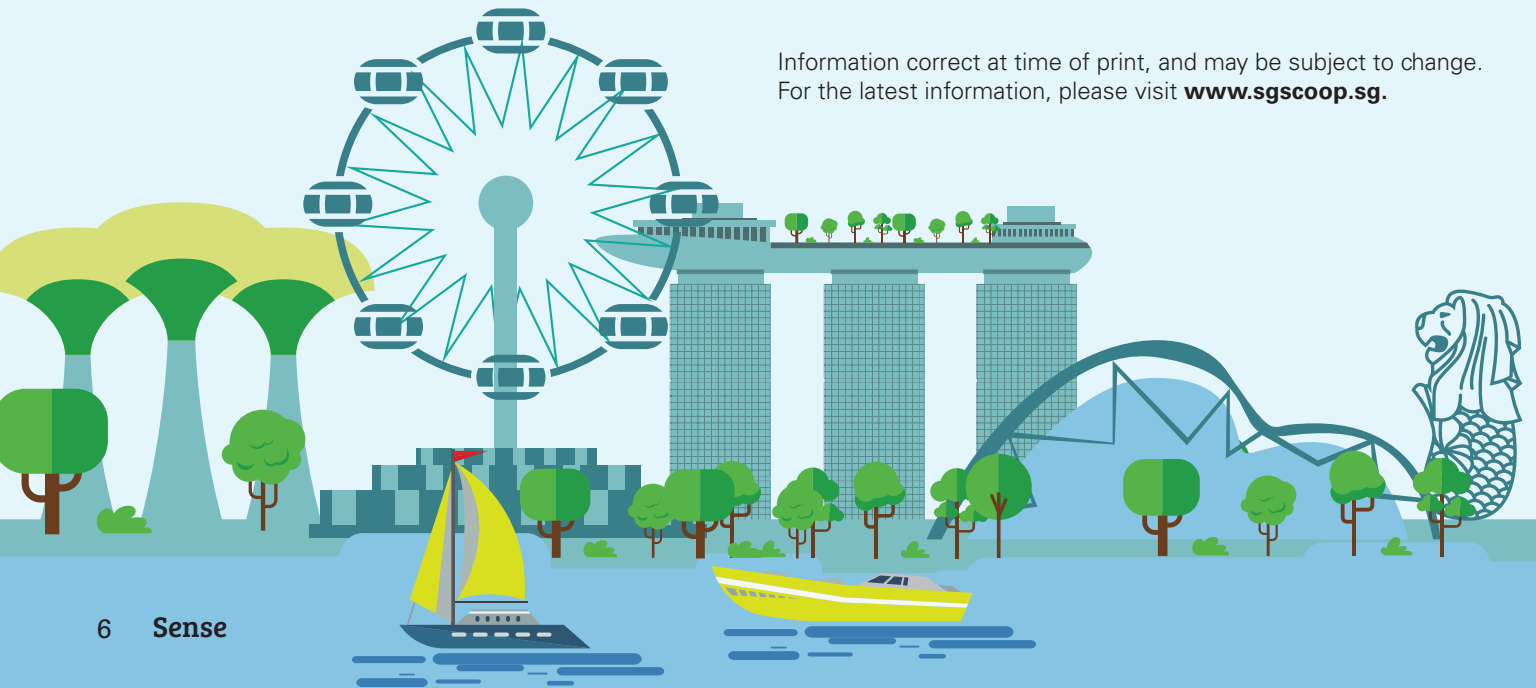
93rd Anniversary Gala Dinner

DECEMBER

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Sense
Nov/Dec issue

Information correct at time of print, and may be subject to change.
For the latest information, please visit www.sgscoop.sg.



Let's Tour TAIWAN together

Eat, shop and sightsee your way through Taipei, Taiwan with SGS Co-op! This 4D3N members' tour from 1 to 4 March 2018 will show you the best of Taiwan's capital city, from the grand Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall to the quaint waterside boardwalk town of Tamshui. Our itinerary also leaves you plenty of free time to explore the city at your own pace.

Don't miss out!

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Return flight inclusive of all taxes
- 25kg check-in baggage allowance (return)
- 3 nights' stay in a 4-star hotel
- Daily buffet breakfast
- Meals as stated in itinerary
- Guided city tour
- Free & easy time
- Shopping – from shopping malls to night markets and more!



SUBSIDISED RATES FOR MEMBERS

| | Twin Sharing | Single |
|---|--------------|---------|
| SGS Member (first time participant) | \$728 | \$958 |
| SGS Member (repeat participant) | \$778 | \$1,008 |
| Non member | \$828 | \$1,058 |

Rates stated are per person

Information correct at time of print
Photos: 123RF.com

Limited places available

Book early to avoid disappointment!

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

MAKING SENSE OF WHAT YOU WANT

In the two years since we have refreshed the SENSE magazine, members have given us encouraging feedback and many ideas for improvement. Here's what some of you have to say!



“SENSE is a good resource for members. It keeps us updated on the latest Co-op events. I also like that it features other articles that are nice to read.”

Mr Lim Wee Kee

“SENSE magazine provides good and up-to-date information about how one can benefit from being a member. I especially love to look out for the overseas tours that are organised just for us.”

Mr Joe Ashley

“I like SENSE because it's so informative. It's easy to catch up on past events and the quiz gives us the chance to win attractive prizes. I look forward to every issue!”

Ms Maliha Seenivasen

“Great job on SENSE! My family and I are always looking forward to receiving the bi-monthly magazine and reading about Co-op news.”

Ms Regina Ong

“I enjoy reading SENSE because it's colourful and engaging, features activity updates, contains useful tips, and has a fun quiz to win prizes.”

Mr Ramzan Beevi

We're always listening to feedback in order to make SENSE an even better magazine for you. If you would like to share your thoughts with us, please send your feedback to thc@sgscoop.sg.

2018 SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT STAFF CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE ANNUAL BURSARY AWARDS

APPLY NOW!

From now until 30 April 2018, 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.sgscop.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.

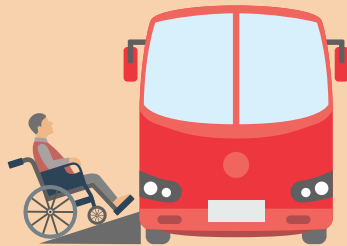
Information is correct at time of print and may be subject to changes. For details and updated information, please visit www.sgscop.sg.

NEWS *from Around* Singapore

MORE WHEELCHAIR-FRIENDLY BUS SERVICES

All SMRT bus services are now wheelchair accessible, with the latest addition of 11 Wheelchair Accessible Bus services on 17 December 2017. These add to SMRT's existing network of 75 such services to enhance accessibility for wheelchair-bound passengers.

The new SMRT Wheelchair Accessible Bus services are:



- 184, 300, 900, 964
- NR1, NR2, NR3, NR5, NR6, NR7, NR8

For more information, please contact SMRT Customer Relations Centre at 1800-336-8900.

Source: SMRT

GST VOUCHER REBATE PAYOUT IN JANUARY

Are you one of the 880,000 HDB households expected to receive the GST Voucher – Utilities-Save (U-Save) rebate in January 2018?

The Ministry of Finance has announced that the first payout of the year will see eligible Singaporean households receiving rebates of up to \$95 depending on their HDB flat type.



HIGHER SALARIES FOR SINGAPOREANS THIS YEAR?

Two separate industry reports have forecast that Singapore salaries will rise in 2018. Human resources firm ECA International has pegged this at 2.7% after accounting for inflation, while human resource consultant Mercer believes the figure will be closer to 3.9%.

Meanwhile, the Monetary Authority of Singapore is expecting moderate economic growth this year, with inflation maintaining within the 0 to 1% range.

Source: The Straits Times, Channel NewsAsia



KEEPING HOMES SAFE FROM FIRE

From June 2018, it will be compulsory for all new homes to be fitted with smoke detectors. For new residential projects, developers will bear this cost but existing homes which undergo fire safety works will also be required to install the smoke detectors, and the cost will be borne by homeowners.



About 28,000 HDB rental flats have been shortlisted to have smoke detectors installed from the middle of this year, at no cost to tenants. SCDF, HDB and People's Association have earlier committed to doing so for more than 50,000 public rental flats.

Source: Channel NewsAsia

| HDB Flat Type | January 2018 Rebate |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1- and 2-room | \$95 |
| 3-room | \$85 |
| 4-room | \$75 |
| 5-room | \$65 |
| Executive / Multi-Generation | \$55 |

The U-Save rebate is designed to help HDB households lower their overall household expenses by offsetting part of their utilities bills. It is distributed every three months, with the next payout expected in April 2018.

At the same time, SP Group has announced that electricity tariffs will be increased for the period of 1 January to 31 March 2018 due to rising costs. It estimates that the average monthly electricity bill for a four-room HDB flat will increase by \$4.78.

For more information, please visit www.gstvoucher.gov.sg and www.spgroup.com.sg.

HOW TO CREATE 9 LONG WEEKENDS IN 2018

This year, only four of the 11 national public holidays fall on either a Monday or Friday. But you can easily create nine long weekends for yourself by being smart about utilising your annual leave. Here's how!

JANUARY (NEW YEAR'S DAY)

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| SAT | SUN | MON |
| 30 | 31 | 1 |

FEBRUARY (LUNAR NEW YEAR)

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| FRI | SAT | SUN |
| 16 | 17 | 18 |

MARCH (GOOD FRIDAY)

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| FRI | SAT | SUN |
| 30 | 31 | 1 |

MAY (LABOUR DAY / VESAK DAY)

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|------|
| SAT | SUN | MON | TUES |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 |

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|------|
| SAT | SUN | MON | TUES |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

JUNE (HARI RAYA PUASA)

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| FRI | SAT | SUN |
| 15 | 16 | 17 |

AUGUST (NATIONAL DAY)

| | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| THURS | FRI | SAT | SUN |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |

NOVEMBER (DEEPAVALI)

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|------|
| SAT | SUN | MON | TUES |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS DAY)

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|------|
| SAT | SUN | MON | TUES |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |

■ Take leave on these days to enjoy long weekends!



If you're resolved to save money this year, here are our top tips on how to do so.

- 1 **Split your bonus into three parts:** one for your past (outstanding debt), one for your present (home or personal improvement) and one for the future (save or invest).
- 2 **Maintain emergency funds.** To keep unexpected incidents from thwarting your monthly budget, have an emergency fund equivalent to one or two months' salary.
- 3 **Put yourself on payroll!** Write a small cheque to yourself every month to make sure that you're saving and/or investing consistently.

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. Which two countries did members visit in 2017 as part of the Co-op's subsidised overseas tours?

2. In which month will the SGS Co-op 93rd Anniversary Gala Dinner be held?

3. Name the destination of the next members' overseas tour, to be held from 1 to 4 March 2018.

4. When do applications for the 2018 SGS Annual Bursary Awards close?

5. In 2018, members continue to enjoy a \$20 reward for every new member that they refer. True / False

Submit your answers by
23 February 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 **Nov/Dec Quiz Winners!**

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

Pritam Kaur SXXXX901H
Rujia Ali Shahul Hameed
SXXXX886A
Seo Dee Chern SXXXX780A
Shio Chew Yan SXXXX157B
Tay Thiam Teck SXXXX939J

Ten lucky members have won themselves a foldable table-and-chair set worth \$50!

Aw Yong Kheng Soon SXXXX081C
Chan Foo Weng SXXXX040H
Chang Wan See SXXXX772Z
Halijah Binte Dahari SXXXX387C
llangovan s/o Sinniah SXXXX584J
Lim Bang Heng SXXXX600Z
Poziah Binte Yusof SXXXX193I
Tan Yew Teng SXXXX799F
Sarah Abdul Ghani SXXXX376G
Sheela d/o Navandran SXXXX253B



*Please collect your prize by **2 March 2018.***