

Sense

A sense of belonging



SGS CO-OP
A sense of belonging

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

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SGS CO-OP
A sense of belonging

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Members First,

At SGS, we are one big family, held together by a Sense of Belonging. Our family-oriented culture has helped us stay strong in the 92 years since our founding, and will continue to be an important pillar for us in the future.

As Singapore's first credit co-operative, we have always strived to help our members lead financially stable and secure lives. We journey with you through your different life-stages, offering you the financial support to get married, buy a home, start a family and put your children through school. The Annual Bursary Awards plays a small but meaningful role in that.

Every year, for the past 43 years, we have disbursed Bursary Awards to members' school-going children to support them in their educational journey. This year, we received 222 applications, of which 209 were successful. This is a 94% success rate, and one that we are proud of.

With a united family of 7,000 members as well as a pool of well-wishers and benefactors, we are able to distribute \$45,500 in bursaries to these well-deserving students.

At the SGS Annual Bursary Award Ceremony on 19 August 2017, Guest-of-Honour Mr Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State,

Family First



Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Health and Adviser to Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC Grassroots Organisations, described your contribution to the SGS Annual Bursary Award as an investment in the future. This is undoubtedly true.

Through a small contribution of \$5 each year, you are making a big difference to a child's life. You are investing in their future, our Co-op's future and Singapore's future, and this is indeed a worthy cause.

Growing the Family

The Bursary Award is a great example of the benefits that can arise from a bigger, stronger

membership base. As a credit co-operative, we believe in self-help. When our family of members grows, from our current 7,000 to our goal of 10,000, we will be in a better position to leverage the strength of the collective and do more for each and every member, and their families.

For this reason, pursuing sustainable growth through membership recruitment continues to be a top priority for us. The Committee of Management is working closely with the Co-op staff to engage the wider public service community and build awareness of the advantages of an SGS membership.

I urge each and every one of you to do your part too, simply by sharing your Co-op experience with your colleagues. And if your colleagues express interest in being part of our family, be sure to refer them yourself in order to receive a \$20 thank-you token from the Co-op. If you need more information, please contact the Co-op staff team and they will be happy to assist you.

There is strength in numbers, so let us work together as one united family to grow our Co-op!

Finally, allow me to wish all our Hindu members a very Happy Deepavali!




John Raghavan PB, PBS
Chairman

Clarification

In the last issue of Sense, we said that representatives of the Committee of Management met with three research consultants from the World Council of Credit Unions. The consultants are from CU Counsel PLLC.

Separately, the special audit conducted by KPMG was commissioned by the Registry of Co-operative Societies, not the Singapore National Co-operative Federation. We apologise for the errors.

We also referred to SGS as a "Tier 'A' Co-operative". We would like to clarify that this refers to the unsecured loan limits as prescribed by the Registry of Co-operative Societies. The applicable loan limits for a credit co-operative can be "Tier A", "Tier B" or "Tier C", depending on its capital adequacy and minimum liquid assets ratios based on its latest audited financial figures.



Bursaries for a Brighter Future



At the annual SGS Bursary Awards on 19 August 2017, Saturday, the Co-op celebrated the academic and non-academic achievements of its members' children. This year, a total of \$45,500 was given out in bursaries to 209 students from upper primary to tertiary levels.



The event was graced by Guest-of-Honor Mr Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Health and Adviser to Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC Grassroots Organisations. It was held at Civil Service Club, Tessensohn Clubhouse.

In his opening address, Mr Chee applauded Co-op members for their ongoing support for this worthy cause, saying, "We believe it is crucial to invest in education because this is an investment in our future, and

Singapore's future. I am very happy that SGS has been giving out bursary awards to its members' school-going children every year, for 43 years. This is a very meaningful tradition. I am even more encouraged to learn that every SGS member contributes \$5 a year to support this initiative and make a difference to our children's lives."

Mr John Raghavan, Chairman of SGS, also took to the stage to congratulate the recipients and recognise their hard work and

efforts. He said, "To our young recipients, I would like to say congratulations. Not because you are about to receive a bursary award but because you have worked hard to earn it. The award is our way of recognising your efforts in the past academic year. It also embodies our hopes and aspirations for you, your generation and our collective future."

The SGS Bursary Awards Ceremony has been held annually since 1974. For more information, please visit www.sgs.coop.

“In every application that we received this year, we saw a child with a bright future. I’m happy that our members’ children are taking their education seriously and are striving to do their best, and be the best.”

Mr Tan Pin Cheow
Chairman, SGS Education Sub-Committee



THANK YOU, SGS!

This year’s Bursary Award recipients and their families share their thoughts.



Receiving this award gives me a sense of achievement. I worked hard and now I see the results. The bursary will help lighten the burden of school fees on my family, so I’m grateful for it. I’m currently in my first year in polytechnic. Given the opportunity, I would like to further my studies in Engineering and Green Building Energy Management.

**Nurul Atiqah Binte Rasid,
21, Republic Polytechnic**

I’ve been a member for almost 17 years and in this time, the Co-op has always been there for my family and I. With the Co-op’s support, we were able to put my elder daughter through university. Now, this Bursary Award will also help offset some of my younger daughter’s school expenses. I’m very proud of her for earning it through her hard work.

Mr Rasid Bin Eksan, Father



I was pleasantly surprised when I learnt that I won the bursary award. It is added motivation for me to work harder and get better results. I hope to get a scholarship to study Computing or Engineering in university to help ease the financial burden on my family.

**Adler Chua Yu Cheng, 17,
National Junior College**

THANK YOU, SGS!

This year's Bursary Award recipients and their families share their thoughts.



I'm really excited as this is my first time receiving this bursary. I intend to use the award money to pay for tuition fees. I'm motivated to work harder, so I can enter a polytechnic and pursue my passion in early childhood education.

**Lavina Vijayakumar, 18,
Tanglin Secondary School**

I'm very happy that Lavina has won this award. I think it shows her that there are people and organisations who are taking care of her, and recognising the efforts that she is putting in to realise her dream of working with young children.

**Mdm Kurulu Angegedara,
Mother**



I have been receiving this bursary award every year since I was in secondary school. I feel really honoured and thankful. Receiving the award from the Co-op for so many years has motivated me to keep working hard for better grades. The award allows me to buy the things I need, and make things easier for my parents.

Siti Sara, 17, ITE College East

I appreciate the Co-op's support in many ways — from this bursary award to loan facilities and the savings plan for members. I'm glad to say that my daughter is also very disciplined, both financially (in managing her own money) and in her studies. She works hard and I'm proud that her efforts are recognised year on year.

Ms Mazlin Bte Sarif, Mother



I feel that I'm really lucky to be able to receive this award. This is the first time I'm receiving such an award. It motivates me to work even harder.

Hexa Chan, 16, Hwa Chong Institute

I feel that the Bursary Award is a good gesture on the Co-op's part. It is more than a monetary reward — it is motivation and recognition of my son's academic pursuits.

Mr Chan Mun Fai, Father

Designed to Serve

The office has been redesigned to be more spacious and welcoming, and now offers a better environment to serve members.

The SGS Co-op office at Peace Centre has undergone a facelift and is now better designed to serve members! This is the first time in five years that the office has been renovated. Renovation works took place over the long weekend from 31 August to 3 September 2017 so as to minimise disruption of services to members.

As part of the renovation, the office layout has been redesigned to support a smoother operational flow. This in turn is expected to deliver an enhanced experience for members visiting the office. Ergonomic design elements have also been

**A new look in four days!
Thank you for your
understanding while
we renovated the office to
serve you better.**

incorporated into the overall design for better overall well-being.

In the spirit of financial prudence, the Co-op has submitted an application to the Central Co-operative Fund for a grant to offset renovation costs.



DRIVING MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

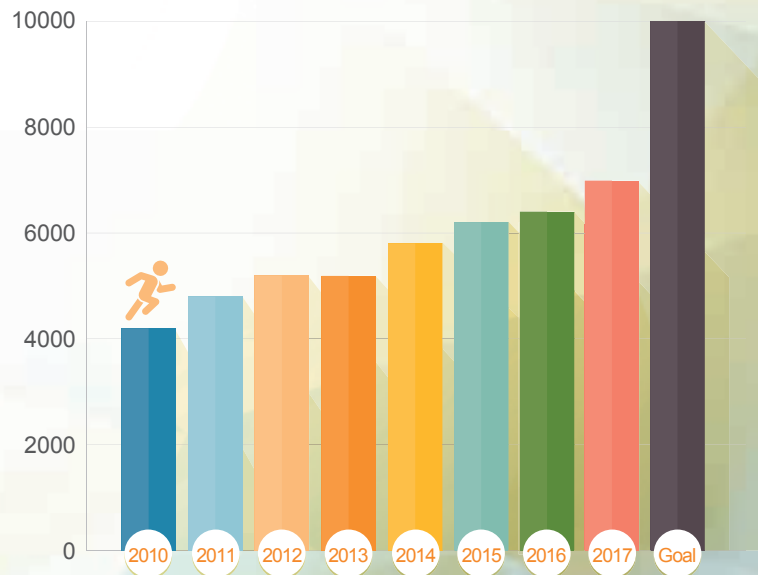
The Co-op's ongoing efforts in membership recruitment have been paying off! In the past seven years alone, membership has grown by almost 75% from around 4,000 members in 2010 to close to 7,000 members in 2017. And the drive for more continues!

With the goal of 10,000 members in mind, the Co-op has set out membership recruitment plans that will guide its efforts in the future. This includes more personalised membership marketing through one-on-one sessions with potential members. The Co-op also plans to invest more time to connect with membership ambassadors and recruiters to better support them in bringing more members into the fold.

SGS members are welcome to volunteer as recruiters, or refer a colleague and receive a \$20 reward.

For more information, please contact SGS at **6933 6779** or visit www.sgs.coop.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH OVER THE YEARS





LET'S SAMBA!

Samba Masquerade



Sold Out!

92nd ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER 2017

Saturday, 25 November 2017

6.30pm – 11.30pm

The Grand Ballroom,
Mandarin Orchard Singapore

Come masked and dressed in theme to win a prize!
Masks will also be provided.

\$50 per ticket

Open for Booking from 1 June 2017!

Tickets are only confirmed upon receipt of payment

Act fast to avoid disappointment!

Call Dennis at 6933 6779 or email dennis@sgs.coop

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.sgs.coop.

NEWS *from Around*

Singapore

NEW PARKING APP FOR DRIVERS

If you're a driver, be sure to download the new parking.sg mobile application, which will be available from October 2017.



With the app, you will no longer need to use parking coupons and be assured that you will only pay for how long you park.

1. Key in your desired parking session time.
2. Receive an alert when your parking session is about to end.
3. Extend the session, if necessary, through the app.
4. Receive a refund if you end your parking session earlier.

Photo: Channel NewsAsia

DOES YOUR HDB FLAT HAVE A SOLAR ROOF?

HDB has shared plans to install solar rooftops in 18 projects, including ongoing projects in Punggol, Bidadari and Bukit Batok. New Built-to-Order (BTO) HDB flats will also be designed with solar-ready rooftops. By 2020, HDB hopes to complete installation of solar panels in 5,500 blocks across the island. This would generate enough clean energy to power 55,000

four-room flats, or 5.5% of the total number of flats, every year. The solar panels are also expected to cut Singapore's carbon emissions by 132,500 tonnes a year, contributing to a cleaner environment for all.

Source: The Straits Times



THE WALKING TRAIN MAP

Train commuters will begin to notice a new network map at certain MRT stations very soon. The Walking Train Map estimates the time taken to walk between stations, so that commuters can make more informed decisions about taking the train or walking.



For example, Raffles Place MRT station and Telok Ayer MRT station, which are on different lines, would take 23 minutes by train but just five minutes on foot. These timings were derived by conducting walking trials based on Singaporeans' average walking speeds.

The Walking Train Map is being progressively put up at 19 MRT stations, including Bugis, City Hall, Chinatown, Dhoby Ghaut, Esplanade, Little India and Raffles Place.

Source: The Straits Times

LET'S BEAT DIABETES TOGETHER!

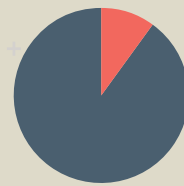
Roughly 400,000 Singaporeans have diabetes — and some do not even know! The condition can cause serious health complications if untreated, including kidney failure and blindness. Here's what we can do to keep diabetes at bay.



DIABETES IN SINGAPORE

Singaporeans with diabetes

Total
1 in 9



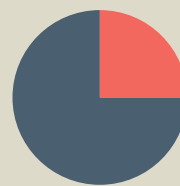
Over 60
3 in 10



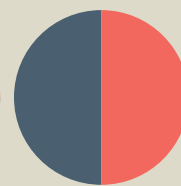
Breakdown by race

(for those over 60)

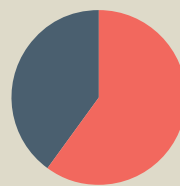
Chinese
2.5 in 10



Malays
5 in 10



Indians
6 in 10



1. Get regular medical check-ups.

- If you're between 18 to 39 years of age, check out the Health Promotion Board's free online Diabetes Risk Assessment tool to help you understand your risk of diabetes. Visit www.healthhub.sg to take the assessment.
- If you're above 40 years of age, it is recommended that you go for cardiovascular risk screening (which includes diabetes) once every three years.

2. Exercise more. Aim to get at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise every week.

3. Eat healthily. Reduce the amount of sugar you consume, including refined carbohydrates. Brown rice is a healthier alternative to white rice.

- 4. Cut down on soft drinks.** Seven beverage manufacturers have already pledged to reduce the amount of sugar in their products to 12% or less by 2020. But, of course, plain water is still best!

Source: Channel NewsAsia, Health Promotion Board

Be Money Smart!

Tips from SGSCC

Get fitter and healthier without spending money on gym memberships. Here's how!

- 1 Walk more.** If you drive, consider leaving your car at home once a week. If you take public transport, alight one stop earlier and walk the rest of the way.
- 2 Just stretch.** Stretching can improve your stamina, blood circulation and posture, and you can do it at home, before or after a long day at work.
- 3 Be a volunteer!** There are many community programmes in need of volunteers to deliver or distribute household necessities to the less privileged. Lend a helping hand and get some exercise while you're at it!

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



Photo: 123RF

Quiz TIME!

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

- When was the SGS Annual Bursary Awards 2017 held?

- Who was the Guest-of-Honour at the SGS Annual Bursary Awards 2017?

- Complete this sentence: This year, the SGS Annual Bursary Awards disbursed an amount of \$ _____
 to a total of _____ recipients.
- The SGS office at Peace Centre has been recently renovated to better serve members. True / False
- Between 2010 and 2017, the SGS membership has grown by almost how many percent?

Submit your answers by
3 November 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.*

Name: _____

NRIC: _____

Contact No.: (M) _____

(H) _____

(O) _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Congratulations Jul/Aug Quiz Winners!

- Fatimawati Bte Sue'b** SXXXX512H
Goh Hwee Eng SXXXX299B
Jayanthi d/o Jayaram SXXXX301F
Juriah Bte Mohd Noor SXXXX329I
Loh Yu Cheng Jovian SXXXX339A
Loon Ah Lim SXXXX881B
Muhammad Alimran Bin Abdul Rahman
 SXXXX610F
Shanmugam Vanajah SXXXX623A
Su Sing Geok SXXXX097J
Suriyati Bte Rawi SXXXX829B

Please collect your prize by 10 November 2017.

