



## **UTES NEWSFLASH**

**Union of Telecoms Employees of Singapore**

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15 February 2008

### **Index (Click Ctrl & Point-Click Topic)**

- (1) [Food for Thought](#)
- (2) [Laughter is the Best Medicine!](#)
- (3) [UTES Events and Updates](#)
  - (A) [UTES Membership Drive](#)
  - (B) [UTES Souvenir Distribution](#)
  - (C) [NTUC 'Back-to-School' Vouchers](#)
  - (D) [Festive Celebration : UTES Chinese New Year Celebration 2008](#)
  - (E) [Work Injury Compensation Act to replace Workmen's Compensation Act \(wef 1.04.08\)](#)
- (4) [Discounts and Promotions](#)
  - (A) [Dining](#)
  - (B) [Education](#)
  - (C) [Leisure](#)
- (5) [Monthly Update on UTES Welfare Benefits](#)
  - (A) [Benevolent Grant](#)
  - (B) [Basket of Goodness](#)
  - (C) [Hospitalization Reimbursement](#)
  - (D) [Medical Assistance Scheme](#)
  - (E) [Recreational Benefits](#)
  - (F) [NTUC Gift](#)
  - (G) [SLF Hardship Grant](#)
- (6) [Other Benefits](#)
  - (A) [Retirement Gift](#)
  - (B) [Recreational Activities](#)
  - (C) [Financial Assistance](#)
    - (i) [General Purpose Loan](#)
    - (ii) [Bursary Awards](#)
    - (iii) [Eligibility of Claiming UTES Membership Benefits](#)
- (7) [UTES Membership Matters](#)
  - (A) [Convert now your NTUC General Branch Membership to UTES Membership](#)
  - (B) [Changed your address, contact numbers or email address?](#)
  - (C) [Have your say](#)
  - (D) [Feedbacks and Enquiries](#)
- (8) [Membership Medical Benefits](#)

## (1) FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity.  
An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.  
[Winston Churchill. Sir \(1874-1965\)](#)

## (2) Laughter is the best Medicine !

### Perfect Pick-up Lines:

1. Q: What did the stamp say to the envelope?

A: I'm stuck on you.



2. Q: What did the light bulb say to the switch?

A: You turn me on.

A British Man, a French man, and an American man went on a safari in Africa, and they were taken prisoner by a savage group of villagers. As they were being brought to the village, they were told that death was their only option; however, they each had their choice of the method they would use to kill themselves. The British man requested a pistol, and cried out "Long lives the queen!" as he blew his brains out. The two others watched in horror as the savages flayed the man and made his skin into a canoe. The French man

was next, and he requested a Saber. "Vive le France" was what he cried out as he disemboweled himself. The American guy watched again what the savages did with the body, which of course was to use the skin for the canoe. Now the last guy, the American requested a fork with which to kill himself. As soon as it was handed to him, he started stabbing himself violently as he screamed "So much for your damned canoe!"

Tickled? Why not share with us the funny incident that happened at the workplace, in your home or when you were out with your friends. Or maybe you heard a funny joke and want to share it with your UTES Family. We look forward to receiving your contributions, so come on and send it to us at [utes@utes.org.sg](mailto:utes@utes.org.sg).

## (3) UTES Events And Updates

### **A. UTES Membership Drive**

UTES had launched the membership drive last year and a welcome gift of \$50 TCC voucher is being given to all new sign-ups or newly transferred members. In addition, an existing member (the introducer) will be given \$20 cash/voucher as a token of appreciation when a friend is encouraged to become a UTES Member.

Why your membership counts:

By joining the Union, your voice is added and the total solidarity of all the employees signals a clear mandate when worker's rights, benefits and compensations are negotiated. Remember your membership gives the Union strength to

negotiate your future in the company. So let's insure everybody's career with a Union membership.

Also since UTES is affiliated to NTUC, all employees of SINGEL, SINGPOST, RADIANCE, G3 and NCS CE will automatically enjoy all its benefits and services too.

So do hurry up and introduce your friends to become members so that all can enjoy the wonderful benefits and services we have waiting for you.

***"United we stand, Divided we fall"***

### **B. UTES Souvenir Distribution**

As a token of appreciation for our member's support, this year UTES is giving each member a \$10 NTUC voucher and a Travel Kit worth \$5.

The Souvenir Distribution period started from

14 January 2008 and will end 31 March 2008.

Members who have not collected their souvenir are kindly requested to collect them from UTES HQ during office hours 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

### **C. NTUC 'Back-to-School' Vouchers**

This financial program aims to help the low wage workers with the education expense of their children. These vouchers are given in the hope that this assistance would move the children up the social ladder.

In the last issue, we reported that based on the number of vouchers allocated and the overwhelming applications received, UTES had distributed one voucher per eligible member (who is not in arrears) so as to allow more UTES families to benefit from this scheme. As a result, four members wrote to Berita Harian to



clarify the number of vouchers issued by UTES and subsequently our General Secretary Mr Logarajah S/O J K Sabapathy explained that the distribution criteria adopted by UTES was for the majority to benefit from this assistance.

Then subsequently after the first round of distribution, NTUC re-distributed the left-over vouchers from the other unions. And from this re-distribution, UTES had received another 387 vouchers which were again distributed fairly amongst the eligible low-income UTES members.

### **D. Festive Celebration: UTES Chinese New Year Celebration 2008**

Gong Xi Gong Xi Gong Xi Ni



Word-for-word translation of the above:

Top (Horizontal across) : Whole Earth Returns Spring  
Left (Vertical Line) : Winter gone, mountain clear, water sparkles  
Right (Vertical Line) : Spring comes, bird sings, flower fragrant

Have you ever wondered why the Chinese New Year is celebrated with lots of noise and everything red? Well, there is an interesting legend to this custom. And it's all because of Nian a ferocious and carnivorous beast that had a lion-type head with a elephant-type body. And because Nian was too strong to kill, the people had to scare him away with fire, loud noise and the auspicious red colour. Also over time, in the

final house decoration for the New Year, poetry written by Chinese calligraphers on red colour papers came to be pasted on the top and both sides of the main door of homes for good luck.

The President, General Secretary and the Executive Council of UTES would like to wish all our members a Prosperous and Fruitful 2008 !

And to celebrate this joyous occasion, UTES is organizing a dinner and the details are as follows:

#### **UTES CHINESE NEW YEAR NITE 2008**

**GUEST OF HONOUR** : Mr S Logarajah, General Secretary, UTES  
**VENUE** : Qian Xi Restaurant Pte Ltd  
(Paya Lebar) Tanjong Katong Complex  
845 Geylang Road #04-09 S(400845)  
**DATE** : 22nd February 2008, Friday  
**TIME** : 7.00 PM  
**HIGHLIGHTS** : UTES 2008 Hong Bao Draw  
Open Karaoke  
Loh Hei  
**TICKET PRICE** : Only \$28  
**CLOSING DATE** : Monday, 18th February 2008

(Due to overwhelming response, all tickets are now sold out)

#### **E. Work Injury Compensation Act to replace the Workmen's Compensation**

##### **Act with effect from 1 April 2008.**

This act provides a simple, low-cost and no-fault system (no need on the part of both parties to ascertain whose fault caused the injury) that benefits both employees and employers. As such, employees can receive compensation quickly without having to prove fault, and employers' liability can be capped. These compensation also includes medical expenses and medical leave wages.

This revamped compensation act now called the 'Work Injury Compensation Act', unlike the previous act, covers all employees (both manual and non-manual) in general, who are engaged under a contract of service or apprenticeship, regardless of their level of earnings.

However, the Self-employed persons, independent contractors, domestic workers, members of the Singapore Armed Forces, officers of the Singapore Police Force, the Singapore Civil Defence Force, the Central Narcotics Bureau and the Singapore Prisons Service are not covered under the Work Injury Compensation Act.

As usual, the employee is required to fill a claim application form and submit it to MOM within one year from the date of accident. The form is available at MOM counters and also online at: [http://www.mom.gov.sg/maintaining\\_safe\\_and\\_healthy\\_workplace/eservices\\_forms.html](http://www.mom.gov.sg/maintaining_safe_and_healthy_workplace/eservices_forms.html)

MOM will also extend a copy of the claim application form to the injured employee upon receipt of an accident report by the employer.

For more information on the claim process, please refer to the Work Injury Compensation Benefits and Claim Process Guidebook.

For more information about this Act, please refer to the Ministry of Manpower's website:

[http://www.mom.gov.sg/publish/momportal/en/legislation/Occupational\\_Safety\\_and\\_Health/Work\\_Injury\\_Compensation\\_Act/workmen\\_s\\_compensation0.html#general\\_coverage](http://www.mom.gov.sg/publish/momportal/en/legislation/Occupational_Safety_and_Health/Work_Injury_Compensation_Act/workmen_s_compensation0.html#general_coverage)

## (4) DISCOUNTS AND PROMOTIONS

### A. Dining

#### Mushroom Pot - Chinese New Year Special



#### NTUC Members' Special

20% Off ala carte food menu and Chinese New Year set menus

Valid till 29 February 2008 (except on eve of Chinese New Year)

#### Terms & Conditions:

- NTUC Card must be presented to enjoy the offer.
- This promotion is not valid for buffet and beverages.
- Not valid with other promotions or discount.
- Advance reservation is strongly recommended.

#### The Mushroom Pot outlets:

##### Singapore Indoor Stadium Branch

##### The Mushroom Pot

2 Stadium Walk, #01-02

Singapore Indoor Stadium (Carpark E)

Tel: 6342 3320 Fax: 6342 3327

##### Orchard Point Branch

##### Mushroom Pot Orchard Point

Level 4 of OG Orchard Point  
(enter through OG)  
Orchard Point, 160 Orchard Road  
Tel: 6733 9910 Fax: 6733 3327

Website: [www.mushroompot.com](http://www.mushroompot.com)

### Plaza Market Cafe

20% off Dinner Buffet from Sunday to Thursday only.

Dinner 6pm – 10pm (Mon - Fri)  
6.30pm - 10.30pm (Sat, Sun & Public Holiday)

Peranakan & Int'l Buffet: \$42.00+++ (A) & \$22.00+++ (C)

Location:

Level 2, Raffles The Plaza

**For reservations and enquiries, please call Restaurant Reservations hotline at (65) 6431 6156 or email: [dining.plaza@raffles.com](mailto:dining.plaza@raffles.com)**

### B. EDUCATION

#### MDIS-NTUC Scholarship Awards

**5 MDIS Scholarship Awards (non-degree) for NTUC Members**



The MDIS-NTUC Scholarship programme aims to provide suitable candidates with the opportunity to undertake program by MDIS and develop skills for life.

#### **Who is eligible?**

The Sponsorship is open to all general branch and ordinary branch union members. In addition, applicants should be Singapore citizens or permanent residents, with impressive academic and co-curricular activities record, strong language skills and be able to demonstrate leadership qualities.

#### **Value of Sponsorship**

Each scholarship will provide for the following:

Course fee (excluding supplementary exam fee and re-module fee)

Waiver of application fee

#### **How to apply?**

You can obtain an application form from the NTUC website. <http://www.ntuc.org.sg/>

Applications must reach NTUC Membership Department by **29 February 2008**.

#### **NTUC Membership Department**

NTUC Centre, No. 1 Marina Boulevard  
#11-01, One Marina Boulevard  
Singapore 018989

To know more about the courses, visit [www.mdis.edu.sg](http://www.mdis.edu.sg).

### C. LEISURE

**Hellish Rock Tour Presents :** Michael Weikath  
Markus Grobkopf  
Andi Deris  
Sascha Gerstner  
Dani Loble

Live In Singapore

Exclusive Concert of the Year from the Fans to the Fans

Date : 24 February 2008

Time : 7:00 PM

Venue: Fort Canning Park

Ticket prices: \$99 (hotline: 65 6296 2929)

## Kenny "B Plan" Concert 2008

"B 2008"

Kenny "B Plan" Concert 2008

Date: 29 March 2008

Time: 8pm

Venue: The Max Pavilion, Singapore Expo Hall 10

Ticket prices: \$68, \$108, \$158 (excluding \$2 SISTIC fee)

NTUC Members' Special

- 20% discount for all ticket categories till 31 January 2008
- 10% discount for category 1 - 2 tickets from 1 February 2008

Tickets are available at all SISTIC authorized agents. This promotion is not valid for SISTIC online/phone booking.

## National Heritage Board

NTUC Members' Special

**20% Off** Adult Priced Tickets

Valid from 1 January till 30 June 2008

Unearth our rich and diverse cultural treasures. Be enchanted by our inspiring selection of specially-themed museums and interpretative centres.

Immerse yourself in 5,000 years of Asian cultures or trace the fascinating roots of modern

Singapore. Marvel at masterpieces from leading Singapore and South East Asian artists, or indulge your passion in all things postage. Relive and reflect on what life was like during the Second World War.

### 1. Asian Civilisations Museum

**Adult:** S\$10

**Student:** S\$5

**Senior (60 years and above):** S\$5

\*\*Admission charges may vary during special exhibitions.

**Address:** 1 Empress Place, S179555

**Tel:** 6332 2982 / 6332 7798

**Opening Hours:** Mon: 1pm - 7pm  
Tue - Sun: 9am - 7pm

(to 9pm on Friday)



**Website:** [www.acm.org.sg](http://www.acm.org.sg)

## 2. National Museum of Singapore

**Adult:** S\$10

**Child\* / Senior / Student / NSF:** S\$5

\*Free for infants in arms

\*\*Admission charges may vary during special exhibitions.

**Address:** 93 Stamford Road, S178897

**Tel:** 6332 3659 / 6332 5642

**Opening Hours:** 10am - 5pm (History Gallery);  
10am - 9pm (Living Gallery)

**Website:** [www.nationalmuseum.sg](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg)



## 3. Singapore Art Museum

**Adult:** S\$8

**Student:** S\$4

**Senior (60 years and above):** S\$4

\*\*Admission charges may vary during special exhibitions.

**Address:** 71 Bras Basah Road, S189555

**Tel:** 6332 3222

**Opening Hours:** 10am - 7pm

**Website:** [www.singart.com](http://www.singart.com)



## 4. Singapore Philatelic Museum

**Adult:** S\$5

**Senior / Student / Child (3 - 12 years):** S\$4

**Address:** 23-B Coleman Street, S179807

**Tel:** 6337 3888

**Opening Hours:** Mon: 1pm - 7pm  
Tue - Sun: 9am - 7pm

**Website:** [www.spm.org.sg](http://www.spm.org.sg)



### 5. Reflections at Bukit Chandu

**Adult:** S\$2  
**Student:** S\$1  
**Senior (55 years and above):** S\$1

**Address:** 31-K Pepys Road, S118458

**Tel:** 6375 2510

**Opening Hours:** Tue - Sun: 9am - 5pm

**Website:** [www.s1942.org.sg/s1942/bukit\\_chandu/homepage.htm](http://www.s1942.org.sg/s1942/bukit_chandu/homepage.htm)



### 6. Memories at Old Ford Factory

**Adult:** S\$3  
**Student:** S\$2.50  
**Senior (55 years and above):** S\$2.50

**Address:** 351 Upper Bukit Timah Road, S588192

**Tel:** 6462 6724

**Opening Hours:** Mon - Fri: 9am - 5.30pm  
Sat: 9am - 1.30pm

**Website:** [www.s1942.org.sg/s1942/moff/](http://www.s1942.org.sg/s1942/moff/)

Terms and Conditions:

NTUC Card must be presented prior to purchase of tickets



## (5) Monthly update on UTES welfare benefits

For the month of December 2007 and January 2008, the following membership benefits were given out to assist UTES members:

Types of Membership Benefit	Amount (\$)
A. Benevolent Grant	900.00
B. Basket of Goodness	1,011.15
C. Hospitalization Reimbursement	1,470.00
D. Medical Assistance	600.00
E. Recreational	90.00
F. NTUC Gift	5,500.00
G. SLF Hardship Grant	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,571.15</b>

**A. Benevolent Grant**

This Scheme provides a payment of \$100 upon the death of member’s legal parents or legal children (only 2 claims per member). UTES

members are eligible for this grant with a minimum six (6) months subscription.

**B. Basket of Goodness**

This “Get-Well Hamper” consists of Bird’s Nest Wild Ginseng with White Fungus & Rock Sugar, Brand’s Essence of Chicken, Nestle High Calcium Milkmaid, Quaker Instant Oatmeal with Fresh Fruits, Flowers and packaging will be

delivered to members who are hospitalized. Please inform UTES HQ at 6337 1122 if you are hospitalized with the relevant information (name of hospital, block, ward, contact no. and likely date of discharge).

**C. Hospitalization Reimbursement**

A member is provided a reimbursement of \$15 for each day of hospitalization. For the spouse or

child below 18 years old, the reimbursement is \$30 per day of hospitalization.

**D. Medical Assistance Scheme**

Provides financial assistance for chronic illnesses such as:

Tuberculosis	Liver cirrhosis	Renal Failure
Mental illness	Leprosy	Heart Diseases
Cancer	Degenerative Diseases	

Members have to submit a Doctor’s Letter of Certification & Hospital Bill to claim this one-time payment which also depends on the

membership term. Details are shown on the following chart:

Length of Membership	Amount Claimable	Length of Membership	Amount Claimable
1 – 5 years	\$200	16 – 20 years	\$500
6 – 10 years	\$300	21 – 25 years	\$600
11 – 15 years	\$400	26 years & above	\$700

**E. Recreational Benefits at Costa Sands Resort Downtown East, Pasir Ris, Sentosa**

(Claimable Period: 1 January 2007 – 31 December 2007)

Members are reminded to submit their claims if they had stayed at any of the 3 Costa Sands Resorts (Downtown East, Pasir Ris, and Sentosa). This recreational claim from UTES will reimburse the member \$10 for each night of stay, limited to a maximum of 3 nights claim per eligible member per calendar year.. If you need

assistance or clarification, we look forward to hearing from you.

The Executive Council after some review concluded that this benefit is underutilized and so are considering leasing a chalet from NTUC for the UTES member’s use. This will be available soon. So do continue to look out for the latest updates in our next Newsflash.

**F. NTUC Gift (Group Insurance for Trade Union Members)**

Members must be 16 to 65 years of age with at least 6 months of continuous union/association membership and be physically and actively at work on the date of claim. All valid claims

must be submitted within 30 days of the member’s death or permanent & total disablement.

What are the benefits?

Description	NTUC GIFT	
	Less than 10 years of Membership	10 or more years of membership
Death or PTD of member due to natural causes (24 hours) or accidents (during working hours)	\$4,500	\$5,500
Death or PTD of member due to accidents (outside working hours)	\$20,000	\$30,000
The aggregate of all payout per member shall not exceed	\$20,000	\$30,000
Death or PTD of member's spouse due to all causes	\$250	\$500

The benefits for Death or Permanent & Total Disability resulting from accidents outside working hours are as follows:

Description	NTUC GIFT	
	Less than 10 years of membership	10 or more years of membership
1. Death	\$20,000	\$30,000
2. Permanent & Total Disability		
a. Loss of two or more limbs	\$20,000	\$30,000
b. Total loss of sight of both eyes	\$20,000	\$30,000
c. Loss of one limb and total loss of all sight of one eye	\$20,000	\$30,000
d. Total Paralysis	\$20,000	\$30,000
e. Injuries resulting in being permanently bedridden	\$20,000	\$30,000
3. Permanent & Partial Disability:		
a. Loss of one limb	\$7,750	\$12,250
b. Total loss of all sight of one eye	\$7,750	\$12,250
The aggregate of all payout shall not exceed	\$20,000	\$30,000

**For more details, please contact:**

NTUC Income at Tel : 6788 1122  
 NTUC Customer Service Centre at Tel : 6213 8008  
 UTES at Tel: 6337 1122

**G. SLF Hardship Grant**

This scheme applies to non-industrial cases resulting in the following:

Non-Industrial Cases	Criteria	Quantum
Death	1. Union members who are the sole or main breadwinners. 2. Union members whose gross family income is	Maximum \$1,000
Permanent & Total Disability / Chronic illness		

Loss of job	not more than \$1,500	
Registered Fire or Flood victims	3. No retrenchment benefits (for loss of job).	

## **(6) Other Benefits:**

### **A. Retirement Gift**

Members who retire from service will be granted an amount of \$150 as a token of appreciation for their loyal support.

### **B. Recreational Activities**

UTES organize a wide variety of activities to cater to the diverse interest of its members such as Anniversary Dinner & Dance, Members-Get-Together, Sports Events and Community

Outreach Programs at its two adopted charities, Gracehaven and Haven. Do look out for these activities in our UTES Newsflash and visit our UTES homepage for updates!

### **C. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **i. General Purpose Loan**

Members can make use of UTES credit line to cater for their ad-hoc needs such as a holiday getaway or getting new furniture for their house. Under this scheme, members can sign up as Co-

operative member to apply for a loan up to a maximum of \$1000 at an interest rate of 5% payable over a period of 12 months.

#### **ii. Bursary Awards**

This award serves to provide financial assistance to deserving schooling children of our members and to motivate them to do well in their studies

#### **iii. Eligibility of Claiming of UTES Membership Benefits**

For claiming of UTES membership benefits, a member shall as at the date of the qualifying event:

1. has been a member for not less than twelve months
2. has not ceased to be a member of the Union from whatever cause
3. has not been in arrears of membership subscriptions
4. and subjected to any other terms and conditions as stipulated by the Executive Council.

## **(7) UTES MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

### **A. Convert now your NTUC General Branch Membership to UTES Membership**

If you had recently joined SingTel, SingPost, NCS, NCS CE, Radiance Communications, G3 Worldwide ASPAC or any of SingTel's subsidiaries and is holding an existing NTUC Membership, please convert it now to become a UTES member. By joining the UTES family, in addition to the membership benefits offered by NTUC, our members will also enjoy the

exclusive UTES membership benefits! With more to gain, why wait? Make the switch TODAY!

For more details, please visit UTES website [www.utes.or.sg/memb\\_elig.htm](http://www.utes.or.sg/memb_elig.htm) or call us at 63371122. We look forward to hearing from you.

### **B. Changed your address, contact numbers or email address?**

To update us at UTES, please visit our website at [www.utes.org.sg/change\\_add.php](http://www.utes.org.sg/change_add.php)

### **C. Have your say**

Moaning and groaning to yourself? Your boss is breathing down your neck? Your colleagues are not teaming but are against you? The 'IN' tray is higher than the 'OUT' tray? At your wits end and don't know what to do?

Come on, fret not. UTES wants to hear from you. Drop us an email letting us know what's bothering you and who knows, we may come up with fruitful suggestion or if nothing else, you would have had a friendly ear.

### **D. Feedbacks and Enquiries**

If you have a constructive feedback or a wonderful suggestion, we would love to hear from you. All points of view will give us an opportunity to improve and grow so as to meet with the standards set by our members. So do visit us at [www.utes.org.sg/contact.htm](http://www.utes.org.sg/contact.htm)

Alternatively, you may contact the following staff:

#### **For Membership Matters:**

Ms Kamilah Bte Mahmood, Tel: 6337 1122 x 29  
Email: [kamilah@utes.org.sg](mailto:kamilah@utes.org.sg)

Ms Karthi D/O Chanthiran, Tel: 6337 1122 x 39  
Email: [karthi@utes.org.sg](mailto:karthi@utes.org.sg)

Ms Noorani Samat, Tel: 63371122 x 33  
Email: [noora@utes.org.sg](mailto:noora@utes.org.sg)

#### **IR Matters**

: Ms Careen Ng, Tel: 6337 1122 x 26  
Email: [careenng@utes.org.sg](mailto:careenng@utes.org.sg)

Ms Mary Rose, Tel: 63371122 x 25  
Email: [mary@utes.org.sg](mailto:mary@utes.org.sg)

## **(8) MEMBERSHIP MEDICAL BENEFITS**

### **Medical Benefits**

APIC Admin Hotline: 62803932

HR Medical Enquiry: SINGTEL – 68383932  
SINGPOST – 68456577  
NCS CE – 65565442

For more information on membership benefits, please visit our UTES website:  
[http://www.utes.org.sg/memb\\_elig\\_bene.htm](http://www.utes.org.sg/memb_elig_bene.htm)



*PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE.*