

NEWSFLASH

UNION OF TELECOMS EMPLOYEES OF SINGAPORE

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011

***"It is necessary to help others,
not only in our prayers, but in our daily lives.
If we find we cannot help others,
The least we can do is to desist from harming them."***

- His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet
6 July 1935 – Present

His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is head of state and spiritual leader of Tibet. He was born to a farming family in Taktser, Amdo in northeast Tibet. At the age of two, he was recognised as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso. The Dalai Lamas are believed to be manifestations of Avalokiteshvara or Chenrezig, the Bodhisattva of Compassion and Patron Saint of Tibet (Bodhisattvas are enlightened beings who have postponed their nirvana and chosen to take rebirth in order to serve humanity).

His Holiness the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his non-violent struggle for the liberation of Tibet. He has, since 1959, received more than 84 awards, honorary doctorates and prizes in recognition of his message of peace, non-violence, inter-religious understanding, universal responsibility and compassion. He has authored more than 72 books and also became the first Nobel Laureate to be recognized for his concern for global environmental problems.

2 NEWS IN BRIEF

3 & 4 UNION-MANAGEMENT BOWLING TOURNAMENT 2011

5 & 6 PERKS & PROMOTIONS

7 UTES BENEFITS

8 USEFUL CONTACTS

SINGPOST SETS THE TREND ON REHIRING RETIREES

SingPost, having had a re-employment policy in place since 1994, is poised to reach "L4" status in the run-up to a new law which mandates the re-employment of retired workers.

Come January 2012, new legislation will be in force, mandating the re-employment of retired workers.

Passed in Parliament at the beginning of this year, the new Retirement and Re-Employment Act states that employers must give eligible workers the option of working beyond the statutory retirement age of 62, to 65 years at first instance and to 67 years subsequently. The objective of this new legislation is to boost the economic productivity of workers in order to manage the greater dependency ratio that comes with declining birth rates and longer life expectancy of Singaporeans. Medical fitness and satisfactory performance would generally deem a worker eligible for re-employment.

SingPost, having had their own in-house re-employment policy since 1994, is arguably the trendsetter in the run-up to the enforcement of the legislation. It has, since 1994, rehired 91 of its retired workers.

As the largest provider of postal and courier services in Singapore, SingPost is poised to become the first company represented by this Union and indeed, within the Infocomm and Media Cluster, to become an "L4" company.

A "Level 4" company, according to NTUC, is one that *"pro-actively seeks out new initiatives to ensure that their re-employment efforts are sustainable and scalable"*. Such companies *"have in place a structured and systematic process that facilitates a holistic approach to the re-employment of older workers, resulting in a well-calibrated and objective re-employment system that is age-neutral"*.

One of the strongest advocate of the move towards the rehire of retirees is Mr Lim Ho Kee, SingPost's Chairman. Both he and Mr S Logarajah, General Secretary of this Union, are now working closely to assist SingPost in fully adopting the guidelines of the Retirement and Re-Employment Act.

The views of SingPost and UTES were recently sought on the subject. For access to the article *"Blazing the trail in rehiring retirees"* by Kor Kian Beng and Tessa Wong, please refer to Friday, 11 February 2011's copy of The Straits Times, *Insight*, page A27.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

Negotiations have been initiated and in some cases, already underway for the Collective Agreements and Annual Increment & Variable Bonus for our represented companies. No further details may be disclosed until their respective conclusions.



UNION-MANAGEMENT BOWLING TOURNAMENT 2011

Karthi d/o Chanthiran

The second Union-Management Bowling Tournament was held 22 January 2011 at Planet Bowl, Civil Service Club, Tessensohn Road.

The event was organised to provide a platform for interaction and to strengthen bonds between Union and Management. A total of 16 teams participated in this year's tournament, striking a balanced mix of union and management teams.

The event was flagged off with the honorary roll off by UTES General Secretary, Mr S Logarajah. Teams who had participated in the first tournament were determined to leave their mark in this tournament and worked hard in their pursuit of the challenge trophy. But it was a healthy competition, wherein Union and Management teams bowled side by side not only competitively but also cheering on one another.



The Defending Champions from Quantum Solutions Management emerged champions and walked away with the championship trophy once again in this year's tournament. Team AD from the AD Branch was first runner-up, followed by second runner-up, Team BAA2 from UTES HQ.



The Champions – Team Quantum Solutions
(Quantum Solutions Management Team)

First Runner-Up: Team AD (Administrative Branch)

Ms Hamidah Binte Abdullah, representing the NCS Management Team, was lauded Top Female Bowler title and Mr Sam Lim, representing Quantum Solutions Management Team, emerged Top Male Bowler.



Top Female Bowler: Hamidah Bte Abdullah
Team Magnificent – NCS Management



Top Male Bowler: Sam Lim
Team Quantum Solutions – QS Management Team

A lucky draw and luncheon were held for participants and management invitees following the tournament. During their addresses, Management representatives expressed their desire to make the event an annual affair. UTES too hopes to make it a yearly event with the continued support of our Represented Companies and sponsors.



Participants from SingTel



Participants from SingPost



Participants from NCS



Second Runner-Up: Team BAA2 (UTES HQ)

UTES is grateful for the sponsorships extended towards the event by SingTel, SingPost, NCS, Quantum Solutions, Radiance Communications, NTUC Club, Humming House and NTUC Income.

PERKS & PROMOTIONS

UTES Chalet

MARCH 2011 PROMOTIONS @ DOWNTOWN EAST



Peak Period: 11 MAR TO 20 MAR – SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Package	Period	Rates	
		Off-Peak	Peak
FRI - SUN	3D/2N (Weekends)	\$200.00	\$238.00
SUN- WED	4D/3N (Weekdays)	\$120.00	\$300.00
WED-FRI	3D/2N (Weekdays)	\$100.00	\$200.00

Enjoy 2 FREE entry tickets (for each night's stay) at either Escape Theme Park or Wild Wild Wet.
Wild Wild Wet is closed on Tuesdays.

For chalet booking enquiries, please contact **UTES** at 63371122 Fax 63396040 or email chalet@utes.org.sg

“GIRO YOUR TAX AND WIN CASH” CAMPAIGN
by INLAND REVENUE AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

Get more Chances of Winning in the Lucky Draw

The GIRO Promotion Lucky Draw will be conducted annually over the next 3 years, from 2011 to 2013.

There are cash prizes totalling \$360,000 to be won.

You will get higher chances of winning if you continue to pay your income tax and/or property tax through GIRO during the promotion period.

Please go to IRAS' website for information on the lucky draw.

Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) recently launched the 'GIRO Your Tax and Win Cash!' campaign to encourage taxpayers to join GIRO.

Why GIRO your tax?

Convenient: GIRO is an electronic cashless mode of payment.

No more queues: You do not have to spend time queuing at payment kiosks.

No more late payment: You will not miss the payment due dates.

Interest-free instalments: You can enjoy up to 12 monthly interest-free instalments, or opt for one-time GIRO deduction.

Faster tax refund: You can receive tax refund faster as it will be credited directly to your bank account. You do not have to wait for your refund to be posted to you in cheque.

Full control over GIRO with IRAS' e-Services: You can view your GIRO plan and tax balance simply by logging in to myTax Portal. You can cancel your GIRO plan just by calling IRAS on 1800 356 8300.

Signing up for GIRO is Easy

You can apply for GIRO through one of the following ways:

- Instant approval if you sign-up at any **AXS station** (for DBS/POSB customers) or through **Internet banking** (for DBS/POSB or OCBC customers); or
- Complete and send the GIRO application form (14 days to process); or
- Sign-up for GIRO using the Payment Voucher enclosed with your tax bill.

UTES BENEFITS DISBURSED FOR DECEMBER 2010 AND JANUARY 2011

In December 2010 and January 2011, UTES collectively disbursed SGD27,908.40 to members through the following benefits:

<u>Type of Membership Benefit</u>	<u>December 2010</u>	<u>January 2011</u>
Benevolent Grant	500.00	1,100.00
Get Well Hamper	866.70	866.70
Hospitalisation Reimbursement	5,400.00	1,575.00
Medical Assistance	2,100.00	-
NTUC Gift	11,000.00	4,500.00
SLF Hardship Grant	-	-
Total	19,866.70	8,041.70
Grand Total	27,908.40	

Please visit http://www.utes.org.sg/memb_elig_bene.htm for more information on membership benefits.

SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS FOR HOSPITALISATION & MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Claims for hospitalisation reimbursement and medical assistance must be submitted together with supporting documents no later than 30 days from the qualifying event. As a first point of reference, please contact the medical enquiry line at your respective companies. Alternatively, contact UTES Finance on 6337 1122 for claiming procedures.

MEMBERSHIP CONVERSION AND TERMINATION

New staff members of NCS CE, SingPost, SingTel, Quantum Solutions and Radiance Communications who are existing NTUC Card holders are welcome to convert their membership to that of UTES. Doing so would allow members to enjoy benefits that are both exclusive to UTES as well as those that are already provided under NTUC. Please visit http://www.utes.org.sg/memb_elig_bene.htm for the complete list of benefits or contact UTES Membership on 6337 1122.

Members wishing to terminate their membership are kindly reminded to do so in writing to us. Please address your letter to our *Membership Department at 15 Hill Street, Telephone House Complex II, 3rd Storey, Singapore 179352* or membership@utes.org.sg. We will initiate the process of cancellation upon receipt of your written notification. Kindly allow 3 months for it to be fully processed and effected. A written acknowledgement will be sent via mail or email to inform you of the last date of your membership. Members who initiated termination but did not receive any form of written acknowledgement from UTES are requested to follow up with our Membership Officers.

CONTACTING UTES

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The UTES Secretariat operates from 8:30am to 6pm (Mondays to Thursdays) and from 8:30am to 5:30pm (Fridays).

Please refer to the contact list below for assistance on specific area(s):

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CHANGES TO CONTACT DETAILS

Please call on 6337 1122 or visit http://www.utes.org.sg/change_add.php to update UTES on any changes to your contact details.

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please direct your feedback and newsworthy contributions for Newsflash to utes@utes.org.sg

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