

WORKING IN *Singapore*

ISSUE 12 / 2016



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SMS US!

Simply SMS us at 9112 5929
Three lucky workers to
offer their feedback will
receive mystery prizes
from us.

SMS your feedback in English
and end it with your work
permit number. Example:
"Hi MOM, your newsletter is
good and informative.
WP 0 7245596"

**NOTE: The mobile number
provided is not valid for voice
calls.**

TWO HEROES

Among You

On 23 April 2015, two heroic foreign workers rescued a toddler, whose head was trapped in-between the rails of a drying rack, leaving her dangling from the second floor flat.

Like many foreign workers here, Subramanian Shanmuganathan and Ponnann Muthukumar came from India to work in Singapore. Last year, they were hailed as “Singapore’s Baby Heroes” after their courageous act of risking their lives to save a toddler went public. This was a heartwarming story that we wanted to share with the readers of this newsletter.

Both workers were busy repairing the roads when they heard the cries of a child and to their horror, they saw a toddler hanging out of a balcony of a second floor flat. The men immediately ran over to render help; they disregarded their own safety by

climbing up a water pipe on the outside of the block to reach the unit. Their only thought was the safety of the child. The rescue involved one of the men standing on a ledge to hold the child with the other climbing onto the balcony to release the child’s head out of the rails of the drying rack. The child was safely handed to the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) which arrived minutes after.

For their courageous act, the duo received the Public Spiritedness Award from SCDF.

Well done Subramanian and Ponnann. You are our heroes!

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WELL
BEING

OVERCROWDED HOUSE? *It's not safe for living!*

On 3 April 2015, a fire broke out in Geylang Lorong 4 killing two foreign workers from Bangladesh. The employer of the two deceased workers was unaware that his workers were living in overcrowded conditions as they had relocated to the premises without informing him.

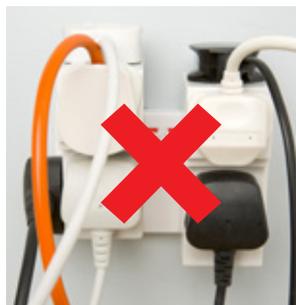
Such tragic incidents can be avoided. Workers must pay more attention to where they live and make sure the conditions in which they live in are safe.

MOM has continuously stepped up enforcement actions to protect the well-being of foreign workers. But workers too must learn how to protect themselves.

If you look for your own accommodation or change your accommodation at any time, you must **inform your employer of your latest residential address**, so that they can inform

MOM. If you fail to do so, your work pass may be revoked and you will not be allowed to come back to Singapore to work.

In the case of the Geylang fire, investigations revealed that the cause of the fire could be due to the overloading of electrical outlets and extensions. For your own safety, please do not **overload your electric socket** on a single point by using many multi-plugs. You must use only electric devices/multi-purpose sockets that come with the safety mark.



A FRIEND IN RAJ, *Our FW Ambassador*

Raj has worked in Singapore for more than four years. He is from India and is currently an Operations Executive at a foreign workers' (FW) dormitory, Homestay Residences @ Kaki Bukit.

Raj first came into contact with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) in 2012 as he sought help to resolve his salary issues with his previous employer. MOM successfully helped Raj to claim back his owed salary. Raj subsequently found another job and to show how grateful he was, he decided to 'give back' by volunteering as a FW Ambassador.

As a FW Ambassador, Raj is responsible for introducing new FWs to Singapore's working environment. He takes the time to explain to them the rules and regulations they need to observe when working in Singapore. Raj also offers a listening ear to his friends or colleagues when they face any problems. When the workers need help, Raj will encourage them to approach MOM for assistance.

As a FW Ambassador appointed by the MOM, Raj was invited to attend a workshop. During the workshop, he learnt various topics relevant to FWs, such as foreign workers' rights and responsibilities as well as employment regulations. The information provides Raj with sufficient knowledge to advise his fellow FWs on issues such as where to seek help.

Raj shared that he found the materials given out during the workshop very informative and useful, particularly the MOM newsletter, Working in Singapore. He believes that a FW will benefit from reading articles on real-life cases, real stories and workplace issues, and relevant advisories on working safely. He encourages all workers to gain more knowledge through reading, whether it is the newsletter or the guide, to better protect themselves.

Raj enjoys working in Singapore and helping other workers who need assistance. He has a word of advice for his fellow foreign workers: Follow the rules and regulations set by MOM for a pleasant and meaningful working experience here.



Recognising Your Efforts On *International Migrants Day*

When 28-year-old Moshiur Rahman flew from Bangladesh to Singapore for work eight years ago, he had aspirations for a better life and future for himself and his family back home. Today, Moshiur is a tile setter with Tong Seng Construction.

While it was not easy leaving his family behind to come and work here, Moshiur relished the opportunity to go overseas to earn a better income, so that his parents and two sisters could have a better life back home.

"I am fortunate and happy to be working in Singapore as the laws protect foreign workers like myself. The salary is good and Singapore has in place safety practices so that we can work in a safe environment," said Moshiur.

There are more than a million migrant workers of various nationalities who are working in Singapore today.

In recognition of their contributions, the Migrant Workers' Centre (MWC) organised an International Migrants' Day (IMD) celebration on 13 December 2015 at Little India to bring foreign workers together. The event included a mass picnic, educational

roadshows and a photographic exhibition showcasing the stories of the migrant workers in Singapore.

Moshiur was present at the event, and together with his friend, they had a good time. Moshiur shared that his friends enjoyed working in Singapore.

"All of them like to work here because Singapore is a safe country," he said.

Habibcen, another migrant worker at the event, was happy with his work experience in Singapore. He shared how working here had made a difference to the lives of his large family back in Bangladesh. The young construction worker used to work in his family's rice farm before coming here.

"Although I miss my family, I am glad that they are able to benefit from my earnings to live a more comfortable life at home," Habibcen said.

For this year's event, over 5,000 migrant workers celebrated the day as they socialised and milled around the various booths and tents during the event.



Comply with The New Liquor Control Laws

With the Liquor Control Act in place from 1 April 2015, anyone who wishes to consume alcoholic drinks in public must comply with the regulations.

Restrictions under the New Liquor Control Act

- ✓ No drinking of alcohol in public places daily from 10.30pm to 7.00am.
- ✓ Public drinking is banned in Geylang and Little India at these timings:
 - a. 7.00am on Saturday to 7.00am on Monday
 - b. 7.00pm on eve of Public Holiday to 7.00am the day after the Public Holiday
- ✓ The ban also applies from 7.00pm on the eve of a public holiday to 7.00am after the holiday.
- ✓ Shops in Geylang and Little India are not allowed to sell takeaway alcohol from 7.00pm on weekends, the eve of a Public Holiday and the Holiday itself.

If you plan to drink during your off days, please drink responsibly and only at areas and timings where drinking is allowed. If you break the law, you may be sent home and you will not be able to work in Singapore again.



ADVISORY

Ordering Catered Food?

Here's What You Need to Know!

Many of you have meals that are catered for, both at your workplace and the dormitories you live in. The National Environment Agency (NEA) has this advice for you regarding the consumption of catered food.

(A) Choosing Caterers

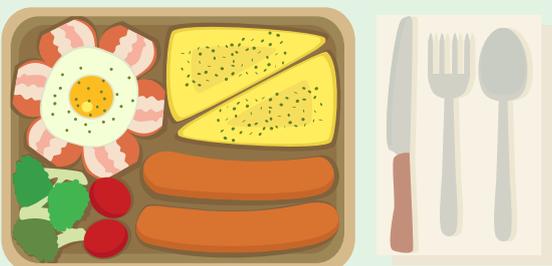
When choosing a caterer, you should only order your food from licensed food caterers found at NEA's website <http://app2.nea.gov.sg/ListOfLicencees.aspx>. The licensed caterer should preferably have a good hygiene grading.

If your employer is providing your meals, the same guidelines also apply.

(B) Eating

When consuming the food, please observe the following safety advices:

- Remember to consume your food within the "CONSUME BY" time given by the caterers.
- Before eating, clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- Observe good personal and food hygiene. For example, try to use common serving spoons, tongs and ladles.
- Do not taste the food with fingers or cough and sneeze into the food.
- Pay attention to the appearance, texture and smell of the food. Do not eat undercooked food or food that has turned bad or stale.
- You should not pack any left-over food or consume any food past the "CONSUME BY" time on the time stamp. Any food uneaten by the "CONSUME BY" time should be discarded, as the food would have been left at room temperature for more than 4 hours.



Injured at Work? MOM Can Help You!

DO YOU KNOW YOU CAN CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR WORK INJURY CLAIM USING SMS?

Use MOM SMS services with these simple steps:

- (1) For one-time check, text **CS**<space>**claim reference no.** to **'96175993'**; OR
- (2) To monitor your claim and receive new status updates, text **SUBCS**<space>**claim reference no.** to **'96175993'**
- (3) To unsubscribe, text **UNSUBCS**<space>**claim reference no.** to **'96175993'**

If you are injured due to work and your employer does not help you with your compensation claim, approach MOM directly.
Location: MOM Services Centre, 1500 Bendemeer Road, Singapore 339946
Opening hours: Monday - Friday, 8.00am to 5.30pm
Website: <http://www.mom.gov.sg/tec>
Tel: 6438 5122

MINISTRY OF MANPOWER

Not Feeling Well or Injured At Work? Tell Your Supervisor!

Tell your supervisor immediately when you are injured at work, even if the injury is not visible

A work-related accident or disease can result in the following:

- Physical injuries (cuts, burns, muscle strains), or
- Symptoms of medical conditions such as hearing loss due to excessive noise exposure, breathlessness from occupational asthma and rashes from occupational skin diseases.

Whether a work injury or work-related disease needs to be reported does not depend on whether it is visible.

If you are injured and need assistance with your work injury compensation claim, MOM can help you.
We are located at MOM Services Centre, 1500 Bendemeer Road, Singapore 339946
Opening hours from Monday to Friday: 8.00am to 5.30pm
Website: <http://www.mom.gov.sg/tec>
Tel: 6438 5122

MINISTRY OF MANPOWER

ADVISORY

ARRESTS OF 27 FOREIGN WORKERS UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT

Between 16 November and 1 December 2015, the Internal Security Department arrested 27 foreign workers for engaging in terrorism-related activities. All of them have been sent back to their home country and banned from entering Singapore.

Foreigners are welcome to work and live in Singapore as long as they abide by our laws. The actions of the 27 men were serious but not representative of the majority of the foreign workers in Singapore who work hard to provide for their families and make positive contributions to this country.

The Government will not condone any form of support for terrorism, and our security agencies will take firm and decisive action against any person, regardless of nationality, who engages in any activity in support of terrorism.

Anyone who knows or suspects that a person is engaging in activities in support of terrorism should quickly inform the Internal Security Department (1800-2626-473) or the Police (999).



AUTOMATED CLEARANCE LANE NOW OPEN TO S-PASS & WORK PERMIT HOLDERS!



FAST Immigration in 3 EASY STEPS!

- 
1 Insert your passport into the passport scanner slot with the bio page facing down
- 
2 Remove passport when prompted and enter the lane
- 
3 Place one of your thumbs on the scanner. Exit the lane when the front gate opens

Message brought to you by Changi Airport Group (CAG)

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TO MASTER THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EFFECTIVELY!



... ?

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