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**We Want To Hear From You!**

Fog Horn is an initiative to bring together all members of the Synergy Family – our seafarers, shore staff, family members as well as the stakeholders. We would love to hear from you and have your contributions in forthcoming issues as well as for the website. You may share a write up on an inspiring event or your own experience on-board or ashore, a joyous occasion in your family, stories about life, health, fitness, photographs, sketches, drawings by children, poems, get together's or just jokes!

Write to us at [editorialteam@synergymarine.sg](mailto:editorialteam@synergymarine.sg)

Follow us on



*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!*



Synergy Group  
**Fog Horn**  
Synergy Group Newsletter

*Our Team on board LPG/C Hisui*





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## MD's Note



10 years strong!

Wow!. Ten years! This winter we enter into the tenth year of our operations.

**A lot has changed in these years but more importantly, a lot has remained the same. We are a group that still gets excited with the feeling of ownership in each employee. We are a group that still values the trust we earn from our clients. We are a group that still empathises with our colleagues at sea.** As we enter the tenth year I can say from the bottom of my heart that all this wouldn't have happened without the great relationships we have built across the industry.

To all fellow Synergians I would like to say, Pause for a moment and be proud about what we have done. Whether you are in the group over the last 10 years or just the last 10 days, the group you belong to is the loved one and will continue to be the loved one in years to come. I am proud of the company we have built

together. It has taken a lot of hard work, sacrifice and is something special for each one of us. Thanks to everything you all have done to get here. I am more if not equally excited about the future. We need to work with the same passion and continue our pursuit of excellence. The pursuit is not about being the best at any particular point of time in future but getting better everyday.

To all our clients, thank you for the trust you have in us. Your relationship and trust is of great value to us. We continue to invest in our people and technology so that we can continue to provide the best and reliable service with transparency and add value to your business. Whatever may be our size we will continue to reach out to you.

To all our industry friends from class societies, industry associations, employee unions, service providers, suppliers, bankers and all associated with our business, thank you for all the support you have given.

Hope you enjoyed the festive season with your friends and families.

Wishing every one of you a happy and peaceful new year.

Stay blessed

Rajesh M. Unni

Synergy's Exclusive

## SGOI Seafarers' Wives Club Launched

Various initiatives launched

The SGOI Seafarers' Wives Club was successfully rolled out in Manila. This recently introduced club saw enthusiasm and support that could make up for huge crowds. The agenda was as follows:

1. Mission and Vision of the club
2. Timelines and initiatives of the club
3. Execution of the initial outreach program
4. Suggestions on how to increase membership base
5. Introduction of the post-holders:

President -Mrs. Susan Brito

Vice President -Mrs. Joy Quijano

Secretary - Mrs. Ma. Eloisa T. Alcantara

Auditors -Mrs. Ely Vilanueva, Mrs. Girlie Yuzon and Mrs. Gina Ruiz

Advisors -Mrs. Leila Monreal, Mrs. Lourdes Pascual and Mrs. Jeanette Edep



The second assembly meeting of the SGOI Seafarers' Wives Club was held on August 13, 2015, with the introduction of new set of members, tackling livelihood opportunities and plans for the very first outreach program to be executed in the beginning of 2016.

SGOI Seafarers' Wives Club would like to thank everyone for their support for making this possible, and requests continuous support from the community and urges potential members to be a part of this initiative.



A special thanks to our seafarers on-board and also those on vacation. Your support even in spirit is always appreciated!

## Synergy Group joins ISWAN

We are pleased to announce that Synergy Group has joined the International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)



The membership of ISWAN gives Synergy Group access to a network of organisation and individuals involved in the welfare of seafarers all over the world. We intend to use the shared knowledge and experience to further develop seafarers' welfare activities.

The welfare of Seafarers is one of the firm objectives of Synergy Group, seafarers deserve appreciation and respect for a job well done not just from within the maritime industry but people from all walks of life -as they continue to take a pivotal role in underpinning international trade. ISWAN, over the years has played a stellar role in seafarer welfare and initiatives like establishing welfare facilities around the world and training of ship visitors have indeed made a huge difference. It is for the welfare of the 4000+ Synergy seafarers of various nationalities that we thought of synergizing with ISWAN.





## A World within a World

I was excited about visiting the TH Sonata at Singapore, as I have been handling her commercial operations for the past 2 years but had never had the opportunity to see her in flesh and blood!

Her schedule was fixed to enter harbour and so was mine to coincide. She dropped anchor and I was soon on board and I must confess that I was in awe seeing her from close quarters!

Capt. Praveen Jaiswal was the Master of this beauty – she sure was. He was always available and ensured that all was going well with the operations of the vessel while allowing his officers and crew to do the execution – enabling them to gain confidence in execution, it was indeed inspirational to see a seasoned seafarer imbibing good work ethics in the generation next.

It was a matter of great pride to see that there was not a single activity which could be termed 'unsafe'.

The ship during the present period charter was a regular visitor to the terminal, and everyone at the terminal was glad to see the synergy between the crew and the ship. The comfort level between vessel and terminal staff was evident.

The ship has been maintained very well even though she had been doing cross harbour trade in the recent months. Master and his team seemed ready to welcome the vetting inspector for the inspection planned during the next ex-harbour discharge operations.

I disembarked at the end of discharge after thanking everyone for their time, guidance and hospitality.



Contributed by:  
Mr. S. Ganesh, FICS



## Synergy Group declared Finalist at Lloyd's List MEIS Award

We are pleased to announce that Synergy Group has been declared as a finalist in the Maritime Services Award category of the news publication's annual Shipping and Maritime Industry Awards.



## Synergy in Pictures



Capt. Swaminathan along with other dignitaries at the launching ceremony of chemical tanker Fairchem Cutlass.



Senior Officials of the Port of Mangalore welcoming M.V. Kota Teraju and her crew on their maiden voyage to the port, seen here is Capt. Debartha Bhattacharjee receiving a bouquet from the officials.



Synergygroup Operations Inc. (SGOI) Races for life.



SGOI branch office inaugurated at Iloilo by City Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog.



Mr. Brijesh Bassi was the Chief Guest at the Independence Day celebration at Maharashtra Academy of Naval Education & Training, Pune.



Mr. Vinayakk Sambamurthy at the World Maritime Day celebrations in Kolkata.





# Meet the Editorial Team



# Proud to be Synergian



Name: Capt. Govind.A  
No of Years in Synergy: 4  
Designation: DPA  
Location: Cochin

"I am one of the lucky ones to have worked for Synergy Chennai and now for Cochin. What is most striking from the other companies I have worked for is the sincerity and kindness shown by one and all to everyone in the office and especially towards the floating staff. Everyone feels "wanted" here and I think that is what makes me proud to be a Synergian."

Capt. Joselito Monreal  
Designation: Marine Superintendent  
No of Years in Synergy: 1  
Location: Manila

"In less than a year working with Synergy I feel the company's dedication to shipping business, its vision, goals and the compassion to its people both ashore and onboard. The aim for a quality service to our customers, exploring and implementing continuous innovation to strive for excellence is an achievement for Synergy. And seeing it grow and diversify into a more profitable shipping business makes me a proud and a stable Synergian. I would like to convey my great appreciation to Synergy for giving the opportunity to be a part of the family. More power to Synergy."



Name: Saranapriya. K  
Designation: HR Executive  
No of Years in Synergy: 2  
Location: Chennai

"As the word 'Synergy' indicates it has a cluster of 'Energy' spread throughout the organization. I like that all employees are treated equally. Towards the organization is its equal treatment among all employees, freedom to share our opinion and the encouragement for our inbuilt talents. Synergy has given me the best platform to prove my leadership and managerial qualities. Being a part of such a leading company, I had an opportunity to learn about ships and had experience through interaction with Captains, Chief Engineers & Fleet Managers. I am proud to be a Synergian and love to continue my career in this reputed organization."

Name: Kalpana Uniyal  
No of Years in Synergy: 2  
Designation: Manning Executive – Documents  
Location: Delhi

"I have been working in Synergy since one and half year. It has been an enriching experience. I want to share with you that the amount of exposure Synergy has given me. It has made me confident in handling people and speaking to them with confidence. I have started my career with Synergy and learnt lots of new things. As shipping industry was new to me, my seniors guided & supported me. They encouraged me and provided a supportive environment to perform better each day. I am thankful to synergy to provide a platform to learn and grow not only professionally but as a human being. Proud to be a Synergian!!"





## Let's focus on values

Synergy Group held its annual two-day seminar-'Surabhi' for senior officers on September 3rd and 4th at the Radisson Blu Resort in Mahabalipuram.

Capt Rajesh Unni said at the meet: 'Let's focus on our values; then nothing can stop us.' He gave examples from sports to explain the value of teamwork. He also stressed on customer satisfaction.

There were several expert speakers who addressed issues faced during shipboard operations. Brijesh Bassi spoke on 'SIRE inspections & vessel screening', John Martin of GARD addressed personal injuries and crew claims. Other topics included ballast water treatment (Bill Yoon of Techcross) and emission control areas (Deepak Kamran). 'Harry Potter and shipping' was an interesting presentation by Arthur Kozyra & S. Mishra.

Chennai-based actress and VJ, Paloma Rao compered the Seafarer Awards ceremony. The rock band 'Indian Ocean,' a DJ, an open bar and an elaborate dinner completed the first day.

On the second day separate sessions were conducted for the Deck officers and Engineers. Case studies of Main & Auxiliary Engine failures were discussed with the Engineers. ECDIS, case studies of navigational incidents and Safe Cargo carriage were topics of discussion with the Deck officers.

Dr. Ram Vis of 'Viswa Lab' elucidated on 'Bunker Analysis', through his interesting presentation. Other presentations from Owners and on risk assessment were much appreciated.



### Voices:

**Shanavaz Anwar, Chief Engineer**  
Nice get-together, well arranged with great presentations. I feel proud to be a Synergian.

**Subhrajit Chakraborty, Chief Officer**  
At Synergy you don't have to break the ice; it is already broken. I enjoy sailing here. There is a sense of achievement.

**Capt Anil Kumar Singh**  
Communication is easy at Synergy. I feel as if I am working for an ownership company and not a management company.

**Capt Rajdeep Singh Toor**  
Synergy gives a personal touch, is transparent and seafarer-oriented.

**P. Kennedy Fernandez, 2nd Engineer**  
There is a family-like atmosphere here —transparent dealings, friendly atmosphere and down to earth people.







## Synergy Group gets the Samudra Manthan Award 2015 for Social Responsibility

We are pleased to announce that Synergy Group got the Corporate Social Responsibility Award at the prestigious 'Samudra Manthan Awards 2015' which were held in Mumbai recently. Capt. Anshul Rajvanshi and Capt. Somasekhar, received the Award on behalf of the Group.

The awards were organized by Bhandarkar Shipping Events with the support of CARE rating agency for their professional opinion in choosing the winners along with the jury.

This award recognizes Synergy Group's achievement in fulfilling our corporate citizenship by applying our core values of safety, empathy, integrity, transparency, respect, empowerment and sustainability. Each value permeates our four areas of corporate social responsibility – environment, industry, workplace and society.



## Earth without ozone is like a house without a roof

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated on September 16 every year. The importance of ozone layer and how we can protect it was emphasized by Mr. Hari from our EMS team at the Annai Fathima Child Welfare Center. It was highlighted that trees are an essential component in saving the Ozone Layer. In order to further drive home the point, the children were guided to plant saplings and to escalate the joy, Capt. Sairaj was kind to sponsor clothes and other goodies. The children at AFCWC really cherished the experience as much as we did, and they shared 'thank you' notes well expressing their feelings. Also present on the occasion were Mr. Mathavan S., Mr. Vinod Mittal and Mr. Abhishek Kumar. Our CSR team explained to the children in simple words that 'Earth without ozone is like a house with a roof' which left a positive and hopefully everlasting impact on their minds!



## Thank you for Saving Lives!

Synergy Group's Annual Blood Donation Camp was held recently in our office premises at Chennai in collaboration with Voluntary Health Services (VHS) and it turned out to be a resounding success.

We are proud to report that a total of 130 Synergians registered for the blood donation camp, of which 127 cleared the initial screening and could make this invaluable donation. This has been the largest turn out thus far at this annual feature.

According to Red Cross, on an average, each blood donation can help save up to 3 lives - the blood collected through this drive will help Thalassemia and Hemophilia patients at VHS (Voluntary Health Services, Chennai), who require regular blood transfusions and this stands testimony of our commitment to social causes.

Thank you for the overwhelming response and we look forward to your continued support.



## Children's Cancer Foundation in affiliation with SSA.



Synergians got together with SSA YEG team to have a promising day with children supported by **Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF)**. A joyful movie for children, a very well planned session of table games and a train ride was the highlight of the day. CCF is a non-profit organization with a mission to improve the quality of life of children with cancer and their families through enhancing their emotional, social and medical well-being.



## Practice Is The Best Of All Instructors [#SafetyFirst](#)

Do I really need it? I have been trained enough ashore. I have my certificates in place. Why do I need to waste my off-time to train?

These people are too fussy about drills and familiarization. The cook needs to get the dinner ready; the duty engineer needs to finish the store's inventory. What do I gain from all this training anyway? I could have written another e-mail home.

Re-think.

An emergency does not give you a 'One hour Notice'. It just happens. If you are familiar with your vessel's systems and train regularly then you will be in a superior position to save yourself, your friends, the ship and the environment. Whole hearted participation is the best way to make sure that you are safe at the time of crisis. What if it was an MOT exam? Will we still be reluctant?

No, we will give it our best as we need to pass the exam to get our license. Hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Your knowledge and practice will help you stay calm in an emergency and that's what really counts. If an emergency has not occurred till now it does not mean it will never happen. Be ready for any situation and train yourself well. Our family wants us back home safe and for this we should be sufficiently trained to face any emergency and stay safe.

I wish everyone the best and hope we have sufficient practice to come out of any contingency.

Wishing everyone Safe Seas  
Capt. Rajeev Kaushik / JBU OPAL



Photograph by: Shinto joy 3/O  
ORIENT STAR



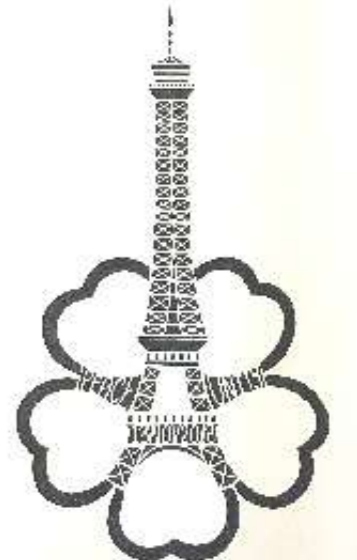
Photograph by: Capt. Bertram Nikhil  
Sima TS JAPAN



Underwater photograph of a diver with ship's propeller. Contribution by: Capt. Jitendra Arora, IRIS VICTORIA

## Papercutting Art by Chief Engineer Gladston D'souza on board M.V. OOCL Italy

The art is made out of a single sheet of white paper. The image to be portrayed is cut in such a way that when placed on a black background it displays the image.



## Christmas Presents

I sailed on-board our good vessel APL Oregon. It is always a pleasure carrying one's family on-board. Thank you for your support. I would like to share the content of the letter which was sent to us from Ms. Adrienne Lee, SCI-Bay Area's, International Maritime Center.

These hand-knitted hats arrived by container ship! In August, Sophia G. from Chennai, India was traveling with her husband, S.Gajendran, 3rd Engineer, onboard the APL Oregon, Synergy Maritime. While in the Port of Oakland, they visited SCI-Bay Area's Int'l Maritime Center. After learning about SCI's Christmas at Sea program, and being a knitter herself, she was excited to join other SCI's knitters in making hats & scarves for seafarers. In early October, the APL Oregon arrived in the Port of Oakland and several crewmembers handed us a special delivery - a box full of hats from Sophia! Now back at home in Chennai and despite the distance, Sophia continues to knit for Christmas at Sea. Thank you!



Team Nave Dorado in Dry dock

## List of Promotions

Congratulations and best wishes to the following sailing staff who have recently achieved their promotions.

- |                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Master         | Abhishek Anand Tiwari     |
| Master         | Amerjeet Sekhon           |
| Master         | Mars Oliva Nate           |
| Chief Engineer | Vijaya Sankar Padmanathan |
| Chief Officer  | Jevid Jenz Tayab Padua    |
| Chief Officer  | Praveen Kumar Durairaj    |
| Chief Officer  | Padua Jevid               |
| Chief Officer  | Nikhil Alex               |
| Chief Officer  | Shailendra Yogambar Rawat |
| Chief Officer  | Vikram Singh              |





## Safety begins with the Team Work!

A silent play on Safety and Health awareness performed by our colleagues' on-board OOCL Italy. Safety begins with teamwork!



## Wishing You a Blessed 2016 Filled with New Hope, New Joy, and New Beginnings

Our Dear Synergians,

We are about to say Good Bye to 2015, to welcome a brand new year 2016! We move forward with varied memories. Here, as a team, we are still moving forward like a soldier having faith that we will reach success with teamwork and cooperation. We will work relentlessly for the success of our company, our team. Thus, we have to utilize every opportunity at its best, because the failure of our team is our own failure! Let us eliminate that word from our dictionary, the dictionary of Synergy Group.

A little motivational thought; imagine there is a bank, which credits your account each morning with Rs. 86,400, carries over no balance from day to day, allows you to keep no cash balance, and every night cancels whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during that day. What would you do? Draw out every penny, of course! Well, everyone has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Therefore,  
 Spend time for friends & family...they are the source of happiness  
 Take time for work... it is the path to success  
 Take time to think... it will strengthen your mental ability  
 Take time to read...it is the foundation of knowledge  
 We are one team, lets join together to move forward to have success stories in our professional and personal life. Wish you all a blessed and productive New Year 2016!

Love,  
 Manu Radhakrishnan,  
 Chief Engineer  
 IS JAPAN



## Our Seafarers

I joined Synergy with the intention of short association, however soon came to realize that the company and staff were ever so generous, warm and welcoming. It made me feel that I was much appreciated as an individual, a professional and not just another asset to the company and hence - I decided to remain.

In the last 3 years at Synergy, I have come to make a lot of friends, both sailing staff and at office. It needs to be emphasized, that in the current days of difficult employment opportunities, Synergy is very helpful to youngsters who seek employment and gives them a deserved opportunity to prove their mettle, whereas most other companies don't even entertain newcomers in their premises. I am proud to be a part of this family and look forward to continue with my humble services, either from sea or ashore, depending upon opportunities available.

Capt. Elvis Savio Mumford  
 Master  
 TH Sonata



This is to thank the Synergy team from the bottom of my heart for the support they provided me during an extremely tough time which I faced with regard to my education loan instalment whilst I was Junior Engineer onboard MT D&K1.

I joined Synergy as a Junior Engineer in mid-2013 a second time after my first ship with my previous employers. Even after completing 9 months on my first ship, I could not go for MEO CL IV exams since the EMIs of my education loan (for B.S. Marine Engineering) started & being the sole earner from the family, the monthly amount was too much to cover. Synergy was kind enough to employ me as JE within a short span of time after I cleared the Entrance examination.. While on-board, I received a message from my family that we had been served a notice from the bank to deposit Rupees 1.5 lakh to cover the defaulter's penalty. I approached my C/E (Mr. Karthik K.) to guide me. With the guidance from my other seniors, I wrote a letter requesting Synergy for a loan. C/E Mr. Karthik K. then spoke to the Master (Capt. Kishore Kumar K.) about this, who immediately forwarded the request to the Office. The shore team was (Capt. Gaurav Bhatia in particular) fast tracked my request given the urgent nature and with the help of these kind seniors I got the required amount from Synergy, which saved me and my family from potential trouble.

I would always be indebted to my seniors and Synergy Maritime, as they have helped me clear my Class 4 examination and I am now a step closer from realizing my dream of being a Chief Engineer!

Thanks. Always Grateful,  
 Saurabh Ahi  
 Fourth Engineer  
 MT Pacific Dawn



Food Art in form of Lord Ganesha is done by Chief Cook Sasi on-board Nave Lucida



Independence Day celebration on-board TS Japan



# Meet the Synergian Kids



Name - Master Ishaan Parasuraman  
Age - 7 Years  
S/O 2/Eng Parasuraman on board Seroja Empat  
Won first in Kids' Marathon at Chennai Kidathon



Name - Ms. Hailey Marie I. Quijano  
Age - 4 Years  
D/O 2/Eng Johari M. Quijano on board Sentosa Bulker  
Won first price for Fancy Dress



Name - Master Siddharth Ajit Pillai  
Age - 15 Years  
S/O Capt. Ajit Kumar Pillai on board OOCL Kuala Lumpur  
Scored Full Grade points 10 with A1 in all subjects



Name - Ms. Parvathy Gopal  
Age - 3 Years  
D/O of Capt. Gopal  
Dressed as a Japanese Girl and has won the first prize



Name - Ms. Rose Maria Dominic  
Age - 6 Years  
D/O - Capt. Dominic Jerry  
Won first price for Fancy Dress



Name - Master Anshul Kumar Sarma  
Age - 12 Years  
S/O - Capt. Anoj Sarma  
Won Proficiency Award for standing 1st across all sections in his grade for 2 consecutive years



Name - Master Akshaj Joshi  
Age - 10 Years  
S/O Capt. Rajesh Joshi  
Won second prize in Hindi Elocution competition and Pencil drawing



Name - Ms. Akshitha Rajesh  
Age - 11 Years  
D/O G T Rajesh  
Won Silver Medal for creating the most efficient and easy going vacuum cleaner.



Name - Shriniketh S Nair & Shrinidhi S Nair (Twins)  
Age - 3 Years  
Children of Mr. Santhosh Nair  
First Prize in fancy dress competition

# Pune Marathon

All staff of SNPL participated in the Pune Marathon on Sunday, October 11th. This was a CSR initiative to raise health awareness amongst team members in the Office. The Pune Running Beyond Myself (PRBM) run is a marathon organized in Pune city. PRBM, a non-profit organization, partnered with SAMAVEDNA - a charitable organization that focuses on tertiary healthcare for underprivileged families in the region.



# Capali T20 Championship

Clear trip won the toss and elected to bat first. Our bowlers stuck to line and length with subtle variations in pace and were successful in restricting the opposition to a paltry 128 runs in 20 overs. The star bowlers of our team, Siva, Kalesh and Anand took three wickets apiece. Gaurav Singh and Siva were then involved in a flawless 110 run partnership thus leading team Synergy to a comfortable 9 wicket win.

Team Members: Gaurav Singh, Siva (VC), Solomon (Capt), Pradeep Raman (WK), Susil, Surendra, Kalesh, Kesav, Mega, Vijay. Sam, Anand.

