

# May Day Family Day Out With U Sports Take The Spotlight From Slump



By Nicolette Yeo with additional reporting by Vanessa Teo  
Pictures by Alvin Toh, with contributions from NTUC Club

The Labour Movement doesn't just talk about football; it plays the game, too. At the Inter-Union Mega Telematch Challenge 2009, as part of the May Day Family Day Out With U carnival on 30 May 2009 at Downtown East, 10 members of the NTUC Central Committee including President John De Payva, Vice-President Nora Kang and Assistant Secretary-General Ong Ye Kung, showed their resilience against the crisis by braving the blistering heat to kick off the Telematch's Soccer Penalty Shoot Out game.

The crowd went wild as "star player" NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say took the first shot at the game board with graphics of soccer players and black circles representing goal shots of different scores, signifying that Team NTUC will always be on the "attack" mode in the match against the recession.

SG Lim's spirit of getting the ball rolling – literally for the games and figuratively towards the crisis – was met with loud cheers and enthusiastic victory cries of the crowd, much like those hollered at "live" soccer matches by ardent football fans.

Like the Olympic Games, there was impressive display of sporting talents and competitive camaraderie from the 27 teams of 21 unions that battled it out in 10 exciting and different games.

But what made it more meaningful was that, at the end of the day, it did not matter which team won. The real score was shown through the passionate participation, dedicated unity, seamless teamwork and indefatigable solidarity of the union teams that reinforced the strong support towards lower income union members and their families during this downturn.

Particularly uplifting was the participation of Mr Tang Weng Yew, 53, a Chemical Industries Employees' Union member. He is a recipient of U Care Immediate Assistance scheme and U Stretch Vouchers. See Page 6. Mr Tang was more than happy to participate in the games despite his tough situation, a signal that workers have the right spirit to Upturn The Downturn.



It was heartwarming for all of us to see our NTUC Central Committee members joining in the heat of the competition. This is a clear signal that Union Sports is very important to the Labour Movement because it can be used to foster teamwork and unity in our fight against the downturn. At NTUC Club, we are thrilled by their outward and such highly visible demonstration of support for sports and are motivated to do even more to lift Union Sports to greater heights in the coming months and years."



Yeo Khee Leng, NTUC Club Chief Executive Officer

As we tackle the various challenges of the telematch games, it is evident that working together as a team with my fellow NTUC Central Committee members often makes completing each task easier. In the same way, as we face the challenges of a downturn, unions are committed to working together with our members to help build resilience within the Labour Movement Family."



Edwin Lye, Singapore Teachers' Union General Secretary and NTUC Central Committee team member of the Inter-Union Mega Telematch Challenge 2009. He was also Co-Chairman of May Day Family Day Out With U.

The carnival is an event that union members and their families look forward to every year, and I think it becomes even more important during this downturn. It is great to see so many members here enjoying themselves with their families, and I believe this is a big encouragement to them during this time. As for the on-going telematch, the importance is not on winning but more on being together as a family."



Terry Lee, Singapore Insurance Employees' Union General Secretary and NTUC Central Committee team member of the Inter-Union Mega Telematch Challenge 2009

This is the first time that we have organised a telematch, and it's great! If possible, we should do more of this, as it helps to bring up the morale of our members during this time of recession. It is also a time when members can come together to encourage one another and boost each other's morale. SMOU is very glad to participate in this event and be together with the brothers and sisters of the affiliated unions. Together, we should work to Upturn The Downturn."



Captain Robin Foo, Singapore Maritime Officers' Union President

NTUC has shown great support to our workers, and this can be seen from the more than \$23 million raised by the U Care Fund. Our workers are really looking forward to the help this fund can render us during the downturn. We are also very excited about the games in the telematch today. To us, winning the match is like beating the downturn, and we want to win all the way!"



Ong Soo Giok, DBS Staff Union General Secretary, before the start of the Inter-Union Mega Telematch Challenge 2009 grand finale

Besides being a fun-filled event for all members to get together, this is also a time when we should let the spirit of competition roll on and compete against this economic crisis. We must all join forces and have the determination to go ahead and work together to win."



Tan Chee Tiong, Chemical Industries Employees' Union General Secretary

When we score a goal, it is just like winning a point against the recession. This telematch is not only very enjoyable but the activity gives us a great time for bonding and seeing our friends again. Especially during this recession, we should get together more often and help uplift each other spirits."



C Shanmugam, Union of Telecoms Employees of Singapore member

We have to work hard together as a team during this recession just like how we worked together at this telematch. When we say working together, it should mean regardless of age. The young ones contribute their energy and stamina, and the older folks their experience, so we should work together harmoniously as a team and all emerge as champions."



AB Karim Abbas, Singapore Port Workers Union member

In Singapore, we have a very small population, so we need to create a bond to know that we have each other's backs during this recession. And this event is excellent in doing so. It has teamwork; you can meet a lot of people, and the games help to build up strong bonds and brighten people's moods."



Tricia Tan, The Singapore Manual & Mercantile Workers' Union member

## Inter-Union Mega Telematch Challenge 2009

The Inter-Union U Games 2008/2009 Challenge was organised by NTUC Club in partnership with Young NTUC. It started in September 2008 and culminated the grand finale on 30 May 2009, as part of the May Day Day Out With U carnival at Downtown East. The Games encouraged representatives from NTUC unions and affiliated associations to participate as an all-inclusive team that consisted of members from All Collars, All Ages and All Nationalities. Teams competed in 10 activities – Shuttle Run Relay, Golf "Putt and Chip", High Striker, Balancing Board, Trolley, Cup Stacking, Bowling, Basketball Shoot Out and Strong Man Race.

### And The Winners Are...



Champion

United Workers of Electronics & Electrical Industries 'A' Team  
\$5,000 (\$2,000 cash + \$3,000 NTUC Club vouchers)



2nd

The Singapore Manual & Mercantile Workers' Union  
\$3,000 (\$1,000 cash + \$2,000 NTUC Club vouchers)



3rd

Singapore Industrial & Services Employees' Union 'A' Team  
\$2,000 (\$500 cash + \$1,500 NTUC Club vouchers)



4th

Singapore Bank Employees' Union 'A' Team  
\$1,000 (\$300 cash + \$700 NTUC Club vouchers)

