

Retail And Hospitality

In the retail sector, even though companies carried out more aggressive sales and promotions in 2009, they have yet to reach their annual sales targets. As a result, many of the companies are still cautious in spending. New shopping malls such as ION Orchard, Central Singapore and 313@Somerset also caused an increased competition to attract shoppers.

The outlook of the retail industry also depends on the ability of the Integrated Resorts to pull visitors to Singapore in 2010.

The hospitality sector is slightly more upbeat as visitorship is generally improving. As the economy continues to recover, tourist arrival is expected to look up. The new shopping malls and the Integrated Resorts are also expected to draw more tourists into the country in 2010.



“The hospitality industry is gradually recovering from the rude downturn of the economy in 2009. The opening of the new exciting shopping malls will encourage tourism, giving the hospitality industry an opportunity to perform better in 2010. With all these new ventures and the opening of the Integrated Resorts at this juncture of economic recovery, the Food, Drinks and Allied Workers’ Union is urging the industry to be flexible and work on new capabilities to complement the entire tourism industry in Singapore.”

Tan Hock Soon, Food, Drinks and Allied Workers’ Union General Secretary

Country Clubs

“The country clubs are generally cautious, especially with the Jobs Credit Scheme ending in June 2010. They prefer to give moderate payment so as to sustain their business. The past year has been less than optimistic for some country clubs and they are likely to give a moderate variable payment for annual increment in 2010.”

Lim Kuang Beng, Singapore Industrial & Services Employees’ Union General Secretary



Powering Up For A Good Start

The Union of Power and Gas Employees has kick started the year in good momentum with successful negotiations for a Collective Agreement with Keppel Merlimau Cogen to be inked later this month.

This will be followed by discussions on new Collective Agreements with the Singapore Power Group as well as other power generation companies. These Collective Agreements will be inked three years after the last round of Collective Agreements signed by the late Mr Nithiah Nandan s/o Arumugam, former Nominated Member of Parliament, NTUC Vice-President and UPAGE Executive Secretary. He signed these Collective Agreements even in the final stage of his life, battling renal cell cancer before he died on 21 June 2007.

Said UPAGE General Secretary Nachiappan RK Sinniah: “Moving forward, we will continue to engage our management partners in weathering through the recovery from the economic crisis. The union was steadfast in its commitment to upturn the downturn during the crisis last year. All the management of our companies stayed the course and affirmed their support to the Labour Movement’s call to cut costs to save jobs rather than resorting to cutting jobs to save costs.”

“This year, we will focus on recruiting more Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technical People (PMETs) who are increasingly entering the industry. Grooming younger members for leadership roles is also on our agenda. UPAGE will continue to ride on the strong waves of tripartism at work in Singapore to serve members at its best.”

Tay Seng Chye, UPAGE President

UPAGE played a key role in rallying the ground to explain to workers on necessary cost-saving measures. The union also agreed to nominal annual increments or small one-off payments to help companies manage costs.

Amidst these cost-saving efforts, workers’ long-term interests were also kept in mind.

Added UPAGE Executive Secretary S Thiagarajan: “There was no let up on the re-employment drive of older workers. All our represented companies are committed to re-employment. In particular, Singapore Power Group, with sustainable and scalable measures in place, was elevated to Level 4, which is



the highest level, of NTUC’s re-employment framework. 85 per cent of workers who reached the age of 62 were re-employed. Sembcorp Utilities Group similarly did well with a formalised human resources policy on re-employment in place and was elevated to Level 3 of the