

# Tripartism Shines Through



By **Vanessa Teo**

The International Metalworkers' Federation-Singapore Council 7th Convention of Delegates on 11 November 2009 was no doubt a time for renewed leadership, but also a resounding affirmation to the strong tripartism in Singapore that impressed international delegates from over the world.

Guest-of-Honour, NTUC Assistant Secretary General Ong Ye Kung, highlighted that tripartism in Singapore has helped to overcome the challenges faced by the workers in the metal industry and the success of tripartism lies in its ability to work together towards a common goal of ensuring Singapore's economic success.

"Our workers face the same challenges too. But in Singapore, our response has been different because of tripartism. The essence of tripartism is, rather than fighting over the share of the economic pie, we maximise the size of the pie during good times and minimise the shrinkage of this pie during bad times. But to do so, workers must trust that they will be getting a fair share of the pie at the end of the day. Tripartism is held together by this trust that we have built up over the years with employers and the government," said ASG Ong.

Due to Singapore's strong tripartism, the Labour Movement is also able to address the problems of the "precariously employed" workers, such as the contract and casual workers, "as they faced job insecurity and an uncertain future with lower wages, limited or no social benefits", said ASG Ong.

ASG Ong also shared that to help this group of vulnerable workers, NTUC started the Unit for Contract and Casual Workers, which has put over 8,000 workers through training and upgrading. In the spirit of tripartism, the government also played its part by setting aside \$5 million to encourage NTUC's e2i (Employment and Employability Institute) to promote Best Sourcing Initiatives.

With the closing of the session, international guests were able to comprehend the true

meaning of tripartism in Singapore that has led to the speedy recovery of Singapore's economy.

Metal Industries Workers Union's Executive Secretary Jessie Yeo, who is also the newly elected IMF-Singapore Council General Secretary, said: "The outcome of the session was very satisfactory as our international guests had a very good take-away. Many of them were impressed at how tripartism worked so positively for Singapore during the downturn that has protected and benefited our workers. The Labour Movement's swift response to the economic climate by moving towards a 'Cheaper Better Faster' economy to gear Singapore towards a speedier recovery from the downturn also impressed our foreign guests."

## Part Of A 25 Million Workers Movement

Worldwide, the International Metalworkers' Federation represents 25 million workers across 200 unions in 100 countries. The Singapore Council comprise Keppel Employees' Union, Keppel FELS Employees' Union, Metal Industries Workers' Union, Sembawang Shipyard Employees' Union, Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Employees' Union, Singapore Industrial & Services Employees' Union, and United Workers of Electronic and Electrical Industries.

The IMF-Singapore Council's newly elected President is Mr Cyrille Tan, UWEEI General Secretary. He took over the position from Mr Lim Chin Siew, SMEEU Executive Secretary.

## International Metalworkers' Federation-Singapore Council

President  
**Cyrille Tan (UWEEI General Secretary)**  
General Secretary  
**Jessie Yeo (MIWU Executive Secretary)**  
Deputy General Secretary  
**Lim Kuang Beng (SISEU General Secretary)**



Passing The Baton... UWEEI General Secretary Cyrille Tan (right) takes over as the newly elected IMC-Singapore Council President, from SMEEU Executive Secretary Lim Chin Siew.

## Unique Membership

The International Metalworkers' Federation-Singapore Council 7th Convention of Delegates on 7 November 2009 provided a useful platform for overseas delegates to understand the 3R+1P membership strategy - Retention, Recruitment, Relationship and PMET (Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technical People) breakthrough, as well as for NTUC's Membership Department to consult with delegates on the strategy.

**“NTUC union membership is the only membership in Singapore that looks at workplace representation, skills and knowledge development and lifestyle benefits. In this unique space valuable to us, delegates also urged all unions, Social Enterprises and partners to work together in pushing membership to a new high, especially given the increasing diversity in the workforce, for example in education, income and employment type, amongst many other things.”**

Steve Tan, Deputy Director (NTUC Youth Development Unit and NTUC Membership Department)

## NTUC This Week Be Connected And Win Contest

Win tickets to watch the Singapore Slingers team battle it out against the KL Dragons (Malaysia) team at the ASEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUE on 22 November 2009 at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. Check out [www.ntucclub.com/usports](http://www.ntucclub.com/usports) for more info.

### Terms & Conditions

- Only 1 email entry per person
- Incomplete entries will not be considered.

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SLINGERS HOME GAMES

4pm Sunday 11/10/09	Brunei Barracudas
4pm Sunday 18/10/09	Philippine Patriots
4pm Sunday 01/11/09	Satria Muda Indonesia
4pm Sunday 22/11/09	KL Dragons Malaysia
7:40pm Monday 07/12/09	Thailand Tigers
7:40pm Thursday 17/12/09	Thailand Tigers
7:40pm Wednesday 06/01/10	Philippine Patriots
7:40pm Monday 11/01/10	KL Dragons Malaysia

SLINGERS AWAY GAMES

8pm Saturday 24/10/09	Brunei Barracudas
4pm Saturday 07/11/09	Philippine Patriots
5pm Saturday 14/11/09	Satria Muda Indonesia
5pm Saturday 12/12/09	Satria Muda Indonesia
4pm Sunday 17/01/10	KL Dragons Malaysia
8pm Wednesday 20/01/10	Brunei Barracudas
4pm Sunday 24/01/10	Thailand Tigers

All home games played at the Singapore Indoor Stadium  
Category 3, 4 & 5 Tickets available from SISITC hotline 6748 5555 or [www.sisitc.com.sg](http://www.sisitc.com.sg)  
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## NTUC This Week

Email your answers to [info@usports.com.sg](mailto:info@usports.com.sg) by 18 November 2009 and stand to WIN a pair of tickets to the game.

- Question 1: What are the dates of the U Sports 3 on 3 Basketball Showdown?
- Question 2: Where will the Tennis Interest Group Beginners Clinic be held?
- Question 3: Which team is Singapore Slingers playing against on the 22nd November 09?

Kindly provide the following info together with your email entry: Name, Address, NRIC No., D.O.B., Union, Occupation & Contact No. All fields ARE Compulsory. Closing date for contest: 18 November 2009



A Labour Movement initiative driven by NTUC Club