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By **Vanessa Teo**

UNITE 2009 brought together hundreds of union exco leaders at almost the end of a challenging year. Mount Faber, where it was held, was suddenly packed with unionists and there was much to talk about and hope for just as there was much to eat and drink. Some exco leaders shared their views on the event.

**“We are happy that NTUC appreciates our work and we are also thankful that we are invited. It gives us the opportunity to meet people from other unions as it does not always happen. We hope this can happen more often.”**

Danny Phua Cheow Huat, Second Deputy General Secretary, Singapore Port Workers' Union

**“Of all the unions affiliated with NTUC, our taxi associations are the only ones with self-employed members. We appreciate NTUC's help and that NTUC recognises the efforts we put in all these years to help members. NTUC has done well to organise this gathering and inviting us and we hope they can do even better.”**

Foo Chi Yong, Exco Chairman, Premier Taxi Operators' Association

**“It is very good getting all the union exco leaders to join in this function. SG's speech was quite thrilling to hear and it is positive news for all of us in Singapore that we are doing good. I really thank all the people who made this event possible as we manage to bump into some of our other union friends and do a bit of catch-up which is nice.”**

Rathakrishnan s/o Sinnappan, Assistant General Secretary, Singapore Airlines Staff Union



**WELL DONE,  
KEEP IT UP**

Photo courtesy of **OTC Institute**

**“This act of appreciation from NTUC will encourage us to continue to do our best for the workers, and it also acknowledges the efforts of the union leaders for one whole year of hard work. It makes us know that as long as we are united, everything is possible.”**

Mabel Low, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore Staff Union General Secretary

**“It's a great effort on NTUC's side to show their appreciation to the union leaders. This is a great event that unites the members and unions together, and also for us to meet our brothers and sisters to build up an even stronger brotherhood and sisterhood.”**

Lee Hock Gee, Amalgamated Union of Statutory Board Employees-DSTA Chairman

## Thank You, Double Happiness Union Leaders



**“As union leaders, we always look forward to this kind of occasion where all of us can be together. As what NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say said, this year has been an exceptionally gloomy year, but now things are starting to pick up and everyone is feeling more at ease today at this celebration. We can truly celebrate because with a lower retrenchment figure it means less people are unemployed, and more people are able to take care of the family without claiming assistance.”**

Wong Chip Mun, The Singapore Manual & Mercantile Workers' Union Assistant Secretary-General

**“Union work is often something that is greatly misunderstood and least appreciated, and it is very honourable of NTUC to recognise the work of union leaders and their spouses supporting them. This makes us feel we are appreciated and motivates us to spur on and faithfully continue to do our work to serve our members.”**

Freddy Lim, Singapore Urban Redevelopment Authority Workers' Union President