

# Taxi Leaders Say 'Yes' To Joining Forces

## 6 Associations Will Become 1 National Association



By **Jimmy Wee**

Assistant Executive Secretary, NTWU

**A**fter more than 12 months of intense dialogue with the leaders of the six taxi associations, it has been decided – that one national taxi association for all is the best for everybody.

It would mean a stronger voice, a larger pool of resources and economy of scale when it comes to negotiating for rights and benefits for all taxi drivers, regardless of which company he drives for.

The decision was unanimously agreed by 200 leaders who represent more than 10,000 taxi association members at the "We Are ONE" Seminar at Orchid Country Club.

Prior to this gathering, the Taxi Operators Association staff team and taxi leaders from the six taxi associations had engaged members of each taxi association through countless informal discussions, feedback sessions and seminars.

Given the importance of the merger, it was little wonder that the morning of 9 January 2010, although bright and sunny, started serious and tensed, without any jokes and laughter which is

unusual among the taxi leaders.

A final presentation on fair representation, fair distribution of funds and the numerous key amendments to the constitution such as scope of representation, delegates system and the formation of the executive committee kept the gathering pondering deeply. Assured of financial prudence and corporate governance, they finally gave their nod.

The air lightened when a selection of new logos was proposed. Almost everyone had an opinion to share, quietly between friends or aloud for open discussion – from choice of "good luck" colours to the exclusion of "sharp points" that bring ill luck. Eventually, the logo that won the hearts of most was that designed by a female taxi driver – whose name will be revealed at the official launch of the national association.

This kind of enthusiasm and zealous response from the taxi leaders clearly demonstrate their commitment towards the formation of the new "National Taxi Association". This augurs well for the future of the taxi industry and the "We Are ONE" seminar closed on a high note with a well deserved lunch served at Peach Garden restaurant.

### Cabbies Will Have Stronger, Unified Voice

**“We are pleased that our leaders understood and supported the rationale behind this merger which is to have a stronger and a unified voice for all drivers.”**

Wee Boon Kim, Pro-Tem Committee Chairman, National Taxi Association

### Leaders Understand Need For Merger

**“This session was useful and effective in reaching out to all our leaders to help them understand the progress of the merger talks and more importantly, helps to clarify many of their doubts on the merger.”**

Albert Ong, Pro-Tem Committee Secretary, National Taxi Association

# Unleashing The Tiger In The New Year



By **Muneerah Bee Mohamed Iqbal**

**“**In the Lunar Year of the Tiger, we will have to run like a tiger,” said DBS Staff Union President Nora Kang.

Indeed, DBSSU has a lot of plans to run after in the coming year.

In the area of membership, DBSSU will expand its PMETs (Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technical People) membership base by setting up interest-based groups that appeal to them such as a golfing community. DBSSU currently has a bowling community and it will also be starting a movie club. These leisure activity groups will also allow regular integration and communication among union members.

The union is also looking to cater to different groups within their database of members. For members who are parents, the union plans to hold baby contests for their infants and toddlers. DBSSU will work closely with U Family on this activity. As women make up 78 per cent of the company's workforce, the union is also tailoring activities for them. While the union plans to have its own programmes for women, it will also tie up with Women's Development Secretariat's initiatives to further enhance their membership experience.



Raring To Go... DBSSU members at the DBSSU Delegates' Workshop cum Gathering in November 2009.

Considering the union's large youth community, DBSSU is also looking to improving its youth-orientated activities and come up with programmes that will excite and energise its young demographic. Not to overlook the older workers, the union also plans activities for them, among which are food tours where they can enjoy scrumptious meals with fellow food lovers at special rates. They can also participate in volunteer work on a constant basis organised by the union, which also is open to everyone in DBSSU. Such initiatives are aimed to encourage members to have a life with purpose.

All the mentioned initiatives were sparked off at the DBSSU Delegates' Workshop cum Gathering held from 6 to 9 November 2009 and to help execute such activities and initiatives, DBSSU has a group of "connectors" who play an essential part in encouraging and increasing members' participation in union events. Outside of the Executive Committee and delegates, the connectors act as the link to connect members with updates about DBSSU and they play an active role in helping out with union activities.

The new year also took off on a good start for DBSSU with the management. Madam



**DBSSU**

DBSSU is the house union for DBS Bank Ltd and it currently serves 4,800 members, with 80 per cent of its members being PMETs (Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technical People).

Kang shared: "We met our new Chief Executive Officer last week and we are glad that he is very open and very receptive to engage the union as a partner in improving productivity as he regards the union as an important partner to the organisation."

The Lunar Year of the Tiger will also see a new approach for the new DBS branch at Resort World Sentosa. The outlet is the first to do away with multiple counters. Instead it offers a one-stop service by employees who can multi-task in different areas of banking such as bank telling and foreign exchange services. They are also certified to give financial advice. With this new concept and a team of staff who has undergone up skilling, customers will not be shuffled from counter to counter and it also increases the productivity level of employees.