

Revolutionising

Hotel Housekeeping **P06**

SHATEC TIMES

Interview

Imbibing Success

- A Vinous Journey
with Lei Dong,
the Certified
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Singapore Tourism Score Card

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The Night Which Sparkled: SHA 57th & SHATEC 35th Anniversary



Trade Secret

Revolutionising
Hotel Housekeeping



O4 SHATEC Global in Papua New Guinea – Hospitality Management Training with Coral Sea Hotels



Centre Stage

OS

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Guide to Christmas Nasi Lemak Pudding 2018



A SHATEC Chef Goes to Copenhagen: My Michelin Star Internship by Marcus Ong

Sumptuously Yours

Order a Hearty Christmas Feast!

SHA 57TH AND SHATEC 35TH: ANNIVERSARY

Our students who worked this night with aplomb

A Culinary Theatre for the Senses

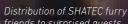


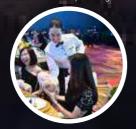
ch by Guest-of-Honour Mr. Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State for T<u>rade and</u> Industry and Education.

27th September 2018 (World Tourism Day), marked two significant milestones: The Singapore Hotel Association (SHA)'s 57th and SHATEC's 35th Anniversary. It sure was a whirlwind evening filled with gastronomical delights and indelible

A stunning round of dishes created by six SHATEC Alumni chefs, from appetizer to desserts, replete with exciting lucky draw wins, commanded the attention of over 500 quests.

The dinner featured a star-studded guest list including notable personalities, accomplished hoteliers and industry leaders, from GOH Mr. Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Education, Mr. Albert Teo, President of Singapore Hotel Association, Mr. Loh Lik Peng, Chairman of SHATEC, to celebrity host Justin Misson with his quickfire humour.







friends to surprised guests



"Advice for these young people, they would

have to be very creative, very dedicated,

passion, it just doesn't happen."

have lots and lots of passion. Without the

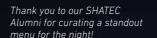
– Mr. Noel Hawkes, Vice President, Engagement &

Partner Relations, Resorts World at Sentosa Pte Ltd

Mr. Albert Teo, President, SHA

A Timely Reminder

[SHA] will continue to work closely with members to be an effective liaison for the industry, engaging all our partners in the tourism ecosystem to drive beneficial outcomes for Singapore as a preferred and must-visit destination in a growing Asia.



GOH Mr. Chee addressed and their stakeholders are striving towards in the Hotel using new technologies; and

In line with SHA's strategic transformation of the will continue to nurture



A wefie not to be missed



"Celebrating 35 years of hospitality excellence is indeed a milestone for SHATEC! It has been a meaningful journey for us to be able to nurture the many talents for the industry. Even more rewarding to know is that many of them are holding key positions in the industry not only in Singapore but all over the world. SHATEC is truly the industry school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders for your support. The school looks forward to working even more closely with the industry in the years to come."

- Ms Margaret Heng, Chief Executive, SHATEC and Executive Director, SHA





Left to right: Ms. Chua Siew Beng, Director, Academic & Student Development, SHATEC; Ms. Margaret Say, Regional Director, USA Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC); Ms. Margaret Heng, Chief Executive, SHATEC.

The brightest star of the night—The 'SHATEC Globe', was unveiled, in all its dazzling glory as a show-stopping spherical croquembouche celebratory confection, representing the Association's and the school's commitment to the vision of upholding the highest standards in service

For the truly memorable night, we thank the host of culinary and hospitality professionals and students who have worked long and hard by the sidelines and behind the scenes; the hotels and tourism and hospitality stakeholders as prize sponsors; and all premium ingredient sponsors for elevating the menu in freshness, colour and splendour!



THE STORY OF THE SHA AND SHATEC JOINT ANNIVERSARY CAKE: OUR SHATEC GLOBE

A stunning array of gold-dusted choux pastries on this croquembouche symbolises the

Designed and created by SHATEC pastry chefs, Chef Amy Lee, Chef Chan Phui Yoke and

- With 357 choux pastry used, this celebratory cake weighs over a whopping 50kg! The SHATEC chefs overcame the challenge of getting the globe size and its pillar just
- It took just 3-4 days to complete! We enlisted the students' help in painting edible gold on the choux pastry and affixing them onto the globe.

- Mr. Albert Teo. President, SHA

WITH CORAL SEA HOTELS

anagement Coaching & Mentoring – a six module hospitality programme designed by SHATEC Global for executives and supervisory employees, was officially launched in the sunny isles of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in April 2018, in collaboration with Coral Sea Hotels group.

A training and development initiative by the leading group of hotels in PNG, the Professional Certificate programme marks the beginning of an exciting line up of customised training programmes with a coaching and mentoring focus, as PNG looks to Southeast Asia for the very first time to address gaps in local leadership and staff development.

Riding on Papua New Guinea's burgeoning hospitality scene, Mr. Marc Ehler, Group General Manager of Coral Sea Hotels, recognises the expertise of SHATEC Global in this strategic cooperation. The six-module programme will develop their managers' competencies in providing guest services and delivering other key performance results.

Mr. Victor Seah, Divisional Director for Business Development of SHATEC Global, draws similarities between Singapore and PNG, where there is urgency in enabling more local talents to step up and be at the forefront of helming senior management positions in the hotel industry.

Being responsible for the revamp of the Coral Sea Hotels group in Papua New Guinea, I focused on hastening the improvement of national managers in regard to technical know-how and its application, while building up the managers' confidence to apply these new managerial skills on the job. Recalling my previous experience of a similar challenge in South-East Asia, the effectiveness of SHATEC's Management Development programme, then applied to another chain of hotels, came to mind.

SHATEC, being a South-East Asian based institute offering **avant-garde hospitality know-how** delivered by its pool of **globally-experienced trainers**, is well-positioned to understand cultural sentiments that are key to the development and delivery of the high-level 6-module Professional Certification programme which Coral Sea Hotels has offered to 18 national managers in 2018. It was indeed a **great success**, with many managers already assuming more responsibilities, and making promising headway for a promotion in the future.

- Mr. Marc Ehler, Group General Manager, Coral Sea Hotels, Papua New Guinea



About SHATEC Global

SHATEC Global is the international arm set up by the Singapore Hotel Association to undertake businesses beyond the shores of Singapore, providing consultancy services for the setting up and operation of hospitality training institutes. They include training in human resources, providing the use of proprietary programmes and curricula in host countries, and offering training services in the fields of hotel operations and hospitality.

Trade Secret S-T SHATEC TIMES

Visit https://sha.org.sg/shatec_global for more information

REVOLUTIONSING HOTEL HOUSEKEEPING

SHATEC Times caught up recently with Ms. Pei Sin Yee, SHATEC Alumna (Diploma in Hotel Management, 2009), who have had almost 10 years of industry experience in professional housekeeping, to explore recent trends and the integration of housekeeping practices, old and new in the digital economy.



BEHIND-THE-SCENES HOSPITALITY

n thinking about housekeeping, generally one might associate the nature of such roles as a 'dirty job' with no progression. One could contest that such widely held perceptions are in part, correlated to a substantial number of foreign labour assuming housekeeping roles locally, while natives frequently look past this option as a career of choice in pursuit of other job passions in the hospitality field.

Treading the path where few of her fellow hotel management course mates would, Sin Yee nonetheless found great job satisfaction in her role as a housekeeping

coordinator. "Our job involves implementing hands-on procedures efficiently and finding real-time solutions," she recounted. "Staff strength has a huge implication on our preparation of room assignments in daily reports, because room attendants and their supervisors work hand-in-hand to prepare and inspect rooms. The housekeeping department has one of the strongest team dynamics in the organisation."

Impeccable service is important to the housekeeping function. While there have been occasional challenges such as language barriers or "elaborate" requests from quests (such as four dozens of bottled water and a dust-







With e-solutions covering basic guest needs, we can channel more time and manpower resources towards value-adding engagement by housekeeping staff. It also allows us to re-evaluate the areas of personalised services tended towards guests.

free room!), Sin Yee assured us that there have also been numerous instances of appreciation shown to the housekeeping department for going the extra mile.

Staff appreciation is an important part of the organisational culture, so in addition to thank-you notes from guests, supervisors like Sin Yee will also make it a point to check on staff welfare regularly through personal touches like ensuring they have ample time for meals or breaks.

Contemplating staff recognition by the hotel, Sin Yee explained, "Our brand standard is that everyone should feel welcome, across all departments. Every employee is a talent to us and we appreciate their work."

HOUSEKEEPING IN AN EVOLVING HOTEL SECTOR

Adhering to the plan outlined by Singapore's Hotel Industry Transformation Map (ITM) to foster a competitive industry and strong workforce, the burgeoning hotel sector is fast integrating industry-wide productivity initiatives with "future-proof" systems to overcome manpower shortage woes, while pushing for higher yield.

Apart from an increase in room numbers and jobs created, demands for specific service roles such as assistant housekeeping managers and guest relations officers are expected to intensify as a result of consumer needs driven by inbound tourism. There is strong focus on customer-oriented competencies, as delineated in the industry-applied skills framework and career progression re-design by SkillsFuture Singapore and Workforce Singapore.

Now in the AccorHotels' Learning & Development team, Sin Yee has aligned her service philosophy with her employer's brand promise: to make their hotel accommodation "a home away from home" for all guests.

Recent developments have seen the rise of mobile e-housekeeping applications which are automating daily operations and streamlining communications through

smartphones and tablets devices. These disruptive technological tools present opportunities for hotels which are honing in on competitiveness, increasing room occupancy and enhancing guests' experiences.

GROWTH IN HOUSEKEEPING ROLES

Learning needs and areas of employee development are quickly being transformed by these automated systems, including the advent of robots serving as digital butlers at Park Avenue Rochester Hotel & Suites.

On her L&D role, Sin Yee shared, "With e-solutions covering basic guest needs, we can channel more time and manpower resources towards value-adding engagement by housekeeping staff. It also allows us to re-evaluate the areas of personalised services tended towards guests."

Besides teaching her staff on use of robots, Sin Yee also encourages them to work on communication skills, as well as facilitates job trainings where digital savviness is key.

"Learning doesn't just stop at any one position. [Housekeeping staff] are not resistant towards such technologies – they know these tools will help them with their work, not hinder it."

Sin Yee was also quick to point out the challenges in the shift to a mobile-oriented workflow. There are learning curves to overcome and extra time required to develop digital proficiencies. The fluidity of staff movement, daily-changing duty rosters, absenteeism or even having inexperienced interns on the team are real-life work conditions which will continue to drive the need for manual systems and paper reports. Nonetheless, when balancing the fine needlepoint between having greater savings without compromising on service quality and exercising more sensitivity towards staff wellbeing, helping our professional housekeeper embrace the new digital workplace may still be the way to go.

IMBIBING SUCCESS

A Vinous Journey with Lei Dong, the Certified Sommelier

ei Dong, SHATEC Alumnus and Certified Sommelier of The American Club, Singapore, won the title of 1st Runner-Up at the Finals of the 2018 Singapore Best Sommelier in French Wines Competition on 2nd October. He will go on to represent Singapore in the 2018 Asia Best Sommelier Competition in French Wines in Seoul, South Korea this December.

We caught up with Lei Dong to find out more about his journey as a wine professional, and how he had first caught the vinous bug!

WINE EDUCATION

How did you become a Certified Sommelier?

I self-studied and prepared for half a year before flying to Auckland, New Zealand for my examination. I passed last June. In fact, many people who pursue a career as a sommelier do not go to the extent of getting themselves certified. They can follow the guidance of a mentor, such as a head sommelier and slowly gain the knowledge they need through experience.

However, if you wish to become a Certified Sommetter, you will need to pass the examinations conducted by the Court of Master Sommetiers, an organisation established in London, UK.

Did your time at SHATEC influence your interest in wines?

Oh yes! I first learned about wines when I was pursuing a Diploma in Hotel Management at SHATEC. My first wine mentor was Mr. David Chan (previous Assistant Director of Food and Beverage Studies). He was one of the most senior wine trainers in SHATEC back then. He imparted valuable knowledge which helped build my foundation as a professional sommelier today.

Is there adequate education and training opportunities for aspiring sommeliers like you in Singapore?

There are increasingly more institutions providing wine courses in Singapore. At SHATEC, there are WSET (Wine and Spirit Education Trust) courses. However, if we look at more advanced or more specialised qualifications, to be a Certified Sommelier, for example, we will have to fly to countries like Hong Kong or Australia for the examinations. These exams are usually conducted only twice a year and are usually held overseas instead of in Singapore.

Do you feel it is important for people today to learn about wines?

Definitely. Wine appreciation is very much a part of our F&B culture and a common social activity these days. Wine knowledge will give us more confidence in selecting wines, thereby enhancing our social etiquette as hosts.



HIS RECOMMENDATIONS

Having tasted so many different kinds of wine over the years, is there a particular wine region, grape variety or varietal wine you prefer?

I personally enjoy the off-dry Riesling from Alsace, France. It is a white wine with a hint of sweetness to it and goes very well with Asian cuisines. Asian dishes tend to be spicy and the sweetness in the off-dry Riesling complements that taste.

Share with us some wine etiquette tips you think anyone can take note of right now.

We should take note that when in a restaurant, parkling wines or even red wines should be opened as quietly as possible. The "pop" sound is not good wine opening etiquette. A restaurant is not a private party function and we should not be disturbing other guests. As hosts, we should also offer the wine to our guests first before pouring for ourselves.

Feeling inspired?

Check out our WSET (Wines and Spirit Education Trust) courses on http://bit.ly/shatecwinecourses to jumpstart your 'winsome' career now!

SOMMELIER AMBITIONS

Tell us what a sommelier's role entails.

A sommelier does many things! It is not just about wine service or suggesting food and wine pairings. A professional sommelier is also responsible for staff training, managing profit and loss of the outlet, handling negotiations and networking with suppliers, maintaining wine lists, and more. It is similar to what a service staff does, except that we have more knowledge about wines.

What type of red wine would you recommend for beginners?

We usually recommend light-bodied wines like Pinot Noir and Gamay which are lower in tannins and are generally more fruity, which makes them easier for beginners to accept. If we start them off with a full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon or Shiraz, beginners may not be able to appreciate them.

After being a sommelier for so long, are there any pet peeves that get to you over the years?

Many sommeliers will encounter this situation: guests who bring their own wines to the restaurant, or BYO (Bring Your Own), complaining about the corkage charge. This is definitely a pet peeve with many sommeliers!

Most restaurants will charge a corkage fee on wines usually ranging from \$10 to \$50. Sommeliers do not just open a bottle and pour the wine. We provide professional services such as maintaining wine glasses, preventing breakages and so on. The corkage charge takes all these costs into consideration.

Tell us more about career pathways for sommeliers.

We usually start off as Assistant or Trainee Sommelier, after which we can proceed to be a fullfledged Sommelier. We can step up to become Head Sommelier and eventually, clinch the spot as Wine Director

Sommeliers also go into other professions in related fields, such as Beverage Manager in hotels and Sales Manager in the wine trade. In fact, many SHATEC graduates such as Lim Hwee Ping¹ and Timothy Goh² are doing very well in the wine industry right now.

What would be your career goal?

My long-term goal is to become one of the best Wine Directors in Singapore. For now, I am working towards being Head Sommelier at my current establishment, The American Club.

- ¹ Lim Hwee Ping graduated from SHATEC (1992 1994) with the Higher Diploma in Hospitality Management. Among his many professional qualifications and portfolios, Hwee Ping is an international wine specialist, a French Wine Scholar and a Certified Wine Educator. A wine expert of numerous achievements, he was more recently recognised by the Singapore Wine and F&B industries as 'Sommelier Mentor of the Year 2017' and by the Wine Scholar Guild as 'Best Instructor French Wine Scholar Program 2017' in January 2018. He is the founding partner of WineCraft Marketing & Services.
- ² A few years after he graduated from SHATEC (2001 2003), Timothy Goh was drawn to the best cellars in Asia and joined Les Amis Group where he rose rapidly to the rank of Director of Wines. He was twice voted Sommelier of the Year at the World Gourmet Summit Awards of Excellence and awarded Manager of the Year in 2009. Timothy is currently the Director of Sales at Vinum Fine Wines.

ABOUT SHATEC

What do you feel was most special about your SHATEC experience?

I had a great experience at SHATEC, because there were very experienced trainers who imparted deep skills and really bonded with us students. My trainers were also my friends; they shared their industry experience and gave me career advice. As students, we were well-informed on industry news and this was beneficial when we first started out working.

Any word of advice for your SHATEC juniors who are aspiring wine professionals?

The SHATEC Diploma in Hotel Management is a very good starting ground for budding sommeliers. You get to take subjects such as Restaurant Service Skills, Food and Beverage Cost Control, Principles of Accounting and even Professional Development in Hospitality. which are essential skills for a professional sommelier. In F&B industry you must have patience and true passion. You work long hours - almost 10 to 12 hours a day, and diligence is a must. You must be diligent not only in work but in learning too, to achieve the goals you set for yourself.



As a sommelier, it is also essential to know about spirits, be able to make internationally renowned cocktails, and even possess well-rounded coffee and tea knowledge!

SHATEC TIMES ST The 'in' Stuff

SINGAPORE TOURISM **SCORE CARD IN** "The World's Best" 2018

he year 2018 has been an eventful one for our teeming island nation! Amid biennial mega-events like Food&HotelAsia 2018, Singapore Airshow, and yearly hot-ticket highlights like the Singapore Grand Prix, Singapore features enviably in multiple world ranking lists.

"The World's Best" is a stellar record of Singapore at her finest, a riveting medley of dining or tippling hotspots with trend-setting concepts and award-winning establishments that drive the nation's international prestige - and bring the world closer to Singapore!

In 2019, there will be greater opportunities for the economy to benefit from rebounding tourist arrivals, regional expansion and new collaborations.

The 25 Best Countries in the World 2018

TIME's 2018 World's

100 Greatest Places²

COO Boutique Hostel & Sociatel

There is certainly room for capsule hotels when you encapsulate the qualities of a dynamic backpackers' community through tech design.

Atlas Bar

Housing a wealth of spirits commanding Art Deco-style opulence. Also ranks 8th in the World's 50 Best Bars.

The 2018 World's **Best Transportation³**

Singapore Airlines

Singapore Changi Airport



International Airlines

in The Top 10 **International Airports**

The 2018 World's Best Hotels³

Raffles Hotel

A 131-year-old Singapore icon with memories abound in the Tiffin Room and Long Bar held by visitors and guests. It continues to refresh the culinary scene with 10 restaurant and bar additions due early next year.

> in The Top 100 Hotels in the World

in The 10 Best City Hotels in Asia

HOTEL

in **Overall Best Countries Ranking**

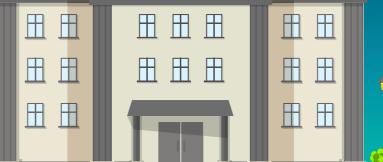
Best Countries to Travel Alone

Cultural Influence Rankings Cutting-edge centers of art,

entertainment, and fashion

Best Countries to Start a Business A market-oriented country which is a haven for capitalists, entrepreneurs

and corporations





The World's 50 **Best Restaurants**

The World's 50 Best Restaurants will hold its awards ceremony and events in Singapore next year, the first for The Oscars of global gastronomy to debut in Asia.

Restaurant

Demands a multi-dimensional participation of artful and textural proportions.

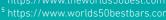
The World's

Singapore's tippling scene comes out strong this year, testimony to its ascending reputation as a world-class cocktail destination.

Manhattan, The Regent - 3rd Atlas Bar, Parkview Square - 8th Native, 52A Amoy Street - 13th Operation Dagger, 7 Ann Siang Hill - 23rd 28 Hona Kona Street - **34th**



- http://time.com/collection/worlds-greatest-places-2018



Eggs (beaten) Pandan paste 2 stalks Pandan leaves 2 slices Young ginger (sliced) Lemongrass (sliced)

Salt

5 gm

Garlic cloves

102 Infuse for 5 minutes, then strain the ingredients using a

fine sieve to remove.

Pour the coconut milk gradually into eggs and mix well with pandan paste.

Grease a baking dish with melted butter.

absorb into bread for 10 minutes.

Bake over a water bath (bain-marie) at 190°C, until the pudding is set and browned.

Sprinkle anchovies and peanuts to top it off before serving.





A SHATEC CHEF

GOES TO COPENHAGEN:

My Michelin Star Internship by Marcus Ong

Copenhagen: the capital of Denmark, a fixation for foodies the world over, meets one SHATEC culinary graduate.

Among the handful selected from a planetary pool of applicants to intern at the 1 Michelin star Restaurant 108, SHATEC alumnus Marcus Ong returns after his 3-month stint to share first-hand accounts of his breath-taking culinary pilgrimage 6,000 miles away from home.





The restaurant has high volumes nightly, averaging about 150 persons on slower evenings and hitting 250 on our busiest nights. I was only able to complete washing around 5kg of artichokes working from morning till night, which were all used up within two days.

The Changing Room

Each morning, I climbed up three storeys of steep, old wooden stairs with the rest of the interns to change into our uniforms. Our changing room was in fact the dry store, with no privacy. Side-by-side, both male and female staff (interns as well as full-timers) changed into their uniforms together. Us interns had a large plastic box to hold our belongings, which we lined up along the old wooden floor. Only full-time staff were allocated lockers.

Morning Workouts

would walk with calm and ease away from the guest into the kitchen – and once 'safely' behind the doors, rush madly to plate up for the next table!

Hygiene 101 (Times Two)

We do a thorough cleaning twice every day: once before we eat lunch where we do a full cleanse of the kitchen and set up for dinner; then again after service where we would deep clean the whole kitchen, including the stoves and kitchen countertops.

At One with Nature

On rest days, we volunteered to harvest for pine shoots, herbs, flowers or whatever the season had to offer. The foraging usually took about two or three hours in the morning.

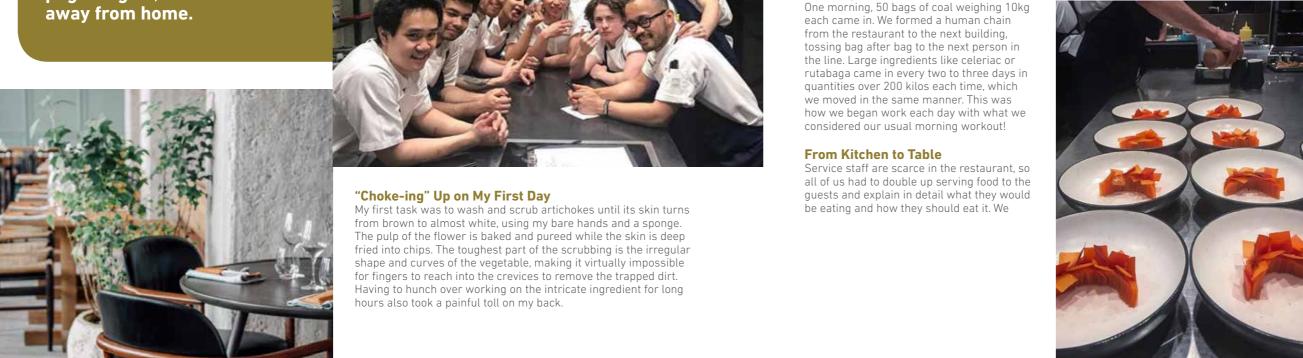


A Taste of Nordic

In making the most of our internship, we also explored Copenhagen, savouring mind-blowing pastries with coffee in the mornings and sipping fine Nordic wines in the late afternoons.

Last Day

On our last day of work, our Chef de Partie took out a few bottles of wine to celebrate with the interns. We proceeded to our favorite spot, enjoying the wine with pizza, shooting the breeze with great camaraderie until the wee hours of the morning.





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*www.skillsfuture.sg/studyawards



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We love hearing from our readers! Send us feedback or share your story ideas you think we should include in SHATEC Times. You can also share your memorable moments with us on our social pages #SHATEC #SHATECFam - we might just feature them!

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