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MAY DAY

AWARDS

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PARTNER OF LABOUR MOVEMENT

Singapore Optometric Association

Nominated by the Healthcare Services Employees' Union.

Since the signing of the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) in 2020 with NTUC U Associate (UA), the Singapore Optometric Association (SOA) has been proactively working with the Labour Movement.

During its collaboration with UA, SOA was the first healthcare association to embark on a sectorial Operations and Technology Roadmap (OTR) together with the NTUC U SME and NTUC Industry Training & Transformation departments. This enabled them to identify ways to accelerate industry transformation, develop new capabilities and optimise workforce for expanded and new roles.

Dedicated and consistent in its efforts to represent optometrists in their career advancement, and the promotion of optometry as a profession of choice, SOA recently joined the Healthcare Professionals Community (HPC) that was launched by the Healthcare Services Employees' Union (HSEU).

With a strong desire to champion the progression of optometrists' careers, SOA proactively looks at ways to develop the career pathways of Singapore's local optometry diploma holders. Part of SOA's mission is to encourage optometrists to pursue a lifelong career in the field.

After signing an MOU with HSEU, SOA has now taken their step forward to engage with their employer association members to help them to understand how the union is able to support companies in advancing their holistic interests. This effectively demonstrates how SOA endeavours to protect and promote the interests of workers by encouraging business transformation and implementing progressive workplace practices.

Being an accredited Continuing Professional Education (CPE) provider, SOA provides CPE workshops, talks and conferences for those in the optometry field. They would also seek optometric-related training opportunities for their members, regardless of whether it is employers or employees, to upskill themselves.

The ambition to promote the growth within the optometry field is further exemplified through SOA's immediate past president, Ken Tong, who is a mentor within the mentorship community helmed by U PME.

SOA has also been working closely with HSEU to advocate for optometric companies to operationalise Company Training Committees (CTC) by leveraging the CTC Grant to benefit both employers and employees. This effectively demonstrates SOA's genuine desire to uplift the wages and improve the work prospects of optometrists.