

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Gan Thiam Poh

Advisor, Building Construction And Timber Industries Employees' Union

Advisor, Singapore Maritime Officers' Union

Member of Parliament, Ang Mo Kio Group Representation Constituency

Nominated by the National Trades Union Congress, supported by the Building Construction And Timber Industries Employees' Union and the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union

Gan Thiam Poh is advisor to both the Building Construction And Timber Industries Employees' Union (BATU) and the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU). He has held both roles since 2012.

As advisor to BATU, Brother Thiam Poh helps to scrutinise the accounts and budget of the union. He also helps to review the union's portfolio mix to ensure diversification and minimise risk exposure. As BATU explored property investment, his advice ensured that the union understood its investment horizon and expected return of yields.

Brother Thiam Poh supported BATU in community service projects during COVID-19 when he rallied his grassroots volunteers to work alongside union leaders.

He also joins BATU for its regular union gatherings. He comes forward to be the guest of honour for the union's education awards ceremony. During the ceremony, he advocated for continuous learning so that union members and their loved ones could remain ready and relevant for employment.

In his capacity of advisor to SMOU, Brother Thiam Poh at the Budget 2023 debate spoke up for seafarers, particularly those under the Special Limits category. He urged the Government to build a Singapore Core in the maritime sector.

Brother Thiam Poh also spoke on the Sail Milestone Achievement Programme or SailMAP as an excellent initiative to encourage Singaporeans to pursue a sea-going career.

Furthermore, he sought the Government's support to extend the programme to seafarers under the Special Limits category. He cited their importance in providing a high service level for maritime-related activity at the Singapore port and supporting Singapore as a premier global hub port.

Brother Thiam Poh also proposed uplifting of wages to retain seafarers, and provide a holistic career to reduce dependency on foreign labour in the maritime industry.

Additionally, Brother Thiam Poh also raises issues in Parliament as a Member of Parliament on behalf of the unions and Labour Movement. These issues include NTUC's push to expand the Progressive Wage Model to other sectors, a workplace fairness legislation to ensure women are not discriminated against, flexible working arrangements, the Retirement and Re-employment Act, and the CPF Amendment Bill.