

# News from SMA Council

*By Dr Tham Tat Yean, Honorary Secretary*

## **1. SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS TO UMP**

In view of the release of UMP from provisional liquidation on 10 November 2003, SMA has written to UMP members in Singapore to advise that there was no need to lodge proofs of debt with the UMP Provisional Liquidator. Members who wanted to pursue their claims could submit them to UMP. One possibility was to send UMP a joint letter with all the collated claims. If the claims were not accepted, it would then be necessary to seek the advice of Australian lawyers on legal recourse.

Additionally, in response to requests and as a service to members, the SMA has been assisting to collate and despatch the claims that former UMP members would like to submit to UMP.

Thus far, 538 members have requested the SMA to submit on their claims to UMP. 31 have indicated that they do not wish to submit any claims. The first batch of 250 claims will be submitted to UMP by the year-end.

The SMA will update UMP members on the status of these submissions. ■

## **SMA HEALTHCARE COURSES**

SMA has been partnering the Institute of Technical Education (or ITE) to offer the ITE Skills Certificate in Healthcare (Out-patient) Traineeship Programme to SMA members. This programme allows clinics to enroll their existing staff or recruit new staff to be trained through SMA.

To participate, clinics must be able to provide at least 75% of the tasks stipulated in the ITE On-the-Job Training (OJT) Tasklist and be an approved traineeship company of ITE. ITE officers will discuss with the clinic to assess its suitability as an OJT provider, after which the clinic may submit its application to ITE. The whole process will take at least two weeks. Upon approval, these clinics will provide the OJT part of the Traineeship Programme, while the off-the-job training will be done by SMA.

Under current SDF guidelines, the OJT component is eligible for a claim of 10% of the OJT training hours at S\$6 per hour, while the off-the-job training course fees charged by SMA will be subsidised at S\$10 per training hour. The Traineeship Programme is a win-win solution for clinics to solve their manpower needs as it allows new trainees to be recruited from ITE free-of-charge, or the existing pool of full-time staff to be trained to national standards.

**Clinics that wish to sign up for the Traineeship Programme can call SMA at Tel: 6223 1264 or Mr Chin Chi Wei (ITE) at Tel: 6772 0774.**