

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SECRETS OF CLEAN & GREEN SINGAPORE REVEALED THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TOURS**

**Singapore, 28 January 2008** – Environment industry professionals and interested members of the public can now go behind the scenes to learn how Singapore maintains a clean and green environment, under the Programme for Environmental Experiential Learning.

Also known as PEEL, the programme is run by the Singapore Environment Institute (SEI), the training division of the National Environment Agency (NEA). Since its setup in 2003, the institute has trained 19000 locals and foreign officials in environmental planning and management.

Through PEEL, industry professionals will be able to expand their knowledge of environmental management through a series of educational site tours and visits to facilities, which include the world's biggest incineration plant at Tuas and the world's first offshore landfill at Semakau.

Commenting on PEEL, Ong Eng Kian, Director of SEI, said: "Singapore is recognised internationally as a leader in urban environmental management. We developed this course to share our expertise as there has been keen interest regionally to study our experience. PEEL is also meant for Singaporeans who want to learn the intricacies involved in keeping our environment clean and green."

PEEL comprises four different full-day trails based on the themes of Clean Air, Clean Land, Clean Water and Public Health. Each trail is facilitated by a specially trained guide.

The **Clean Air Trail** showcases the technologies that Singapore employs to fight air pollution at source, and the sound planning, monitoring, enforcement and education strategies that keep Singapore's air quality one of the world's best. Participants will visit, among other places, the satellite remote sensing centre which can keep track of forest fires in the region.

The **Clean Land Trail** tracks the life of a piece of trash, from the moment it leaves the workplace or home, to its fate at the incineration plant, and its subsequent final resting place at Semakau Landfill.

The **Clean Water Trail** recounts how the Singapore River was cleaned up in a massive 10-year project that was mooted by former Prime Minister and now Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew in 1977. Through a bumboat ride along the river, participants will also learn about NEA's monitoring measures to keep our waters pollution free.

On the **Public Health Trail**, participants will visit, among various destinations, a mosquito research lab at NEA's Environmental Health Institute where they will get a close look at the different types of mosquitoes and their breeding habits. Participants will also gain insights into diagnostic technologies being developed to fight dengue.

PEEL pilot tours, conducted since May last year, have attracted some 200 local and foreign participants so far and have yielded very positive responses. One of them is from Farid Emran Mohd Tajuddin, Director of Strategic Development at Nexaldes Sdn Bhd, a manufacturer and supplier of pneumatic waste collection system in Malaysia.

"I was very impressed with the PEEL tour and found the overall learning experience very informative. The Singapore Government should be lauded for its marvellous efforts in promoting a greener environment for its citizens."

Chiming in was Dr Timothy Barkham, a senior consultant microbiologist at Tan Tock Seng Hospital. "I recently attended the PEEL Clean Land Trail. I

was most impressed by the work that goes on behind the scenes to protect our environment. I would definitely recommend PEEL to my colleagues.”

The tours are open to local residents and foreigners interested in learning about Singapore’s success in environmental planning and management. They can find out more about PEEL at SEI’s website, [www.nea.gov.sg/sei](http://www.nea.gov.sg/sei).

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