



ECOFRIEND

2009 ECOFRIEND AWARDS



portfolio of recipients



Introduction

The National Environment Agency (NEA) is happy to note a growing increase in the number of proactive individuals such as school teachers, students, youth and volunteers in the community, non-government, private, people as well as public sector organizations, who have contributed selflessly to our Clean and Green environment. The EcoFriend Awards was developed by NEA to give recognition and encouragement to these individuals.

There are five categories in the EcoFriend Awards - Private sector, Public sector, Educational Institutions, Non-Government and Grassroots Organizations volunteers, and Youth and Students. The categories are aimed at covering a broad representation of individuals from the wider community, as well as acknowledging the special challenges found in each category.

NEA received an enthusiastic and overwhelming response to the call for nominations for this year's EcoFriend Awards. The 2009 EcoFriend Awards will see 10 outstanding individuals recognized for their achievements.

For more information, do visit the EcoFriend Awards website at:
<http://www.nea.gov.sg/ecofriend>





Senior Vice President
(Design & Development), CapitaLand Commercial and
Chairman, Green Committee, CapitaLand Limited

Mr Wong Hoo Wai



Private sector Category

As an architect by profession and a nature lover, Mr Wong has a passion for promoting green projects and believes that everyone can play their part in protecting the environment. Working in CapitaLand Limited, a multinational real estate company with strong top management commitment towards sustainable development, Mr Wong has ample opportunities to turn his passion into action. Since November 2006, he has been serving as Chairman of CapitaLand's Green Committee. Together with many of his like-minded colleagues from various business units, he actively promotes sustainable development and community projects in CapitaLand's operations worldwide.

Achievements:

- Establishing an ISO 14000 certified Environment Management System (EMS) for CapitaLand properties in Singapore, China and Vietnam. A key pillar of the EMS is the CapitaLand Green Building Guidelines, which advocate green best practices covering the entire lifecycle of a building.
- Promoting the "Green for Hope" project a creative recycling programme encouraging primary school children to help their less fortunate peers through recycling, and the PEEK (Providing Educational Exposure for Kids) programme featuring fun and interesting green education adventure trails in CapitaLand properties.
- Developing an Environmental Tracking System (ETS) to monitor the electricity and water usage of over 150 CapitaLand properties worldwide, with group targets for reducing electricity and water usage.
- Outside of CapitaLand, Mr Wong serves as Chairman, Building Sub-Committee of the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) and is a Member of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) Green Mark Advisory Committee. In addition, he speaks at public events such as the Asian Youth Energy Summit and 2008 NEA Conference for Environment Champions, to promote the care of the environment.
- Working with the CapitaLand Institute of Management and Business (CLIMB) to develop specialized green training programmes for staff, some conducted by Mr Wong himself.
- Conceptualising the "Building a Greener Future" programme, leveraging on CapitaLand's extensive real estate footprint to actively engage its stakeholders in protecting the environment. CapitaFrog, the specially-designed mascot for the programme, has been a huge hit with the children at CapitaLand's green roadshows.



Deputy Director
Building & Environment Division
School Of Engineering, Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Mr Alfred Tan Chin Huat



Public sector

Category

An enthusiastic volunteer, Mr Tan enjoys encouraging the youth of today to go green. He is a mentor and advisor for Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Building and Environment Division Student Green Volunteers (BEGV) and believes in investing environmental awareness and action in his young and passionate team. As a lecturer, Mr Tan sincerely hopes that his efforts will enable his students to collectively tackle environmental problems and work towards maintaining and improving Singapore as a clean and green city. His unflinching passion towards teaching and environmental protection culminates in the many environmentally friendly programmes and activities he has organised for students, colleagues and friends over the years.

Achievements:



Under the BEGV, Mr Tan has been the key driver behind the following programmes:

- An annual collaboration with Underwater World Singapore to provide an eco-camp for secondary school students, promoting nature and marine life conservation
- Adoption of Hindhede Nature Park at Bukit Timah Reserve and a 2-km stretch of Sungei Ulu Pandan
- Conducting free Native Plant Hunts and Park Walks for members of the public and schools at Hindhede Nature Park. This initiative has increased public awareness, with the number of visitors to the park growing by 20%
- Encouraged the participation of 100 BEGV volunteers to train as Water Volunteers to help families install water saving devices. With their help, BEGV has helped more than 100 families save 10 litres of water a day
- The group has taken part in exhibitions such as EnviroAsia Exhibition 2005 and community carnivals, promoting recycling and educating the community to do their part in environmental protection
- The group has participated in NEA's Recycling Day since 2004



As course manager, Mr Tan initiated "Green Vision", an elective module available to all students in Ngee Ann Polytechnic, aimed at instilling in youths the desire and passion to protect the environment.



Mr Tan has mentored many Ngee Ann Polytechnic graduates who have gone on to receive prestigious recognition in environmental protection. One of his former students, Mr Oliver Goh, is also an EcoFriend recipient this year.



President
Restroom Association (Singapore)

Ms Tan Puay Hoon



Non-Government Organisations and Grassroots Volunteers Category

Ms Tan advocates the need for hygienic sanitation in Singapore on the simple premise that everyone deserves a clean restroom. She hopes to one day be able to see people all around the world with access to basic sanitation. She has volunteered with the Restroom Association (Singapore) (RAS) since 2003 and was appointed President in 2007, leading initiatives and programmes promoting clean restrooms to the whole community, from young to old. She is also the current Chairman for the Inter-Agencies Working Committee on Clean Toilets. From the many lessons in environment protection she learnt as a child, she believes in taking social responsibility to educate and create awareness about good sanitation, in order to provide a clean environment for all.

Achievements:

Under the RAS, Ms Tan led the implementation of the Happy Toilet Programme, spearheading:

- The Happy Toilet School Education Programme (HTSE), which has participation from more than half the schools in Singapore. The programme imparts lessons to students on taking responsibility towards the usage of school and public toilets
- The development and training of volunteers to meet the Happy Toilet Programme restroom ratings under the Certified Eco-Assessors (CEA) and the Volunteer Eco-Assessors (VEA) programme. This programme not only assesses eco-friendly and water saving features in the restrooms, it also helps generate employment by hiring unemployed housewives as CEAs

Developed and launched the Let's Observe Ourselves (LOO) Campaign in 2008, a campaign that trains toilet owners with the right skills to maintain toilets and encourage proper toilet etiquette, and to recognize anyone who has contributed to help Singapore achieve a world-recognized standard of toilet cleanliness. More than 218 public toilets in tourist attractions, shopping centres, petrol service stations and government agencies have been certified with a three-star Happy Toilet rating since the launch.

Creating the Every Restroom Like Changi Airport (ERICA) programme for organisations to brainstorm for ideas on keeping cleaner restrooms, and to share how they have tackled various toilet-related problems. The programme has more than 25 organisations on board, who share their best practices quarterly.



Undergraduate, Environmental Engineering,
Nanyang Technological University and Member of the
National Youth Achievement Award Gold Award Holders' Alumni

Mr Oliver Goh Koon Jew



Non-Government Organisations and Grassroots Volunteers Category

Mr Goh spends his free time participating in and organising events that promote and advocate environmental awareness. He has decided to pursue his interest in protecting the environment after joining the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Competition, where he studied environmental disasters caused by human activities. Participating in environmental events and programmes brings him great satisfaction as it helps him educate himself about these issues as well as help impart knowledge to the public. As a young leader, he enjoys discussing and sharing ideas with people from around the world about the environment, and about creating solutions towards a better future.

Achievements:



Represented Singapore in many international youth environmental meetings and conferences such as:

- An environmental study field trip on people, government and industry environmental practices in Germany in 2005
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Environmental Governance Meeting and Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum in Sydney, Australia in November 2008.
- The UNEP TUNZA Youth Gathering Meeting at their headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, further strengthening the Southeast Asian Youth Environmental Network (SEAYEN) network with other regional youth environment networks in February 2009



Participated in the Earthwatch Whale Shark Research Project, sponsored by the HSBC and NYAAC in 2006, and collected data from fauna and flora samples in different Reserves fortnightly for the HSBC-funded Climate Change project (2006-2008).



Worked with the NYAA Gold Award Holders' Alumni to launch various environmental activities such as the Promise to Act against Climate Change Threat (PACT) Project in 2008.



Mr Goh has received many accolades including:

- The Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Award 2004
- National Youth Achievement Gold Award (NYAA) 2007
- HSBC Environmental Award (Merit) 2005



Chairman
Canberra CCC Environment Committee

Mr Peter Lo Shui Sung



Non-Government Organisations and Grassroots Volunteers Category

Mr Lo attributes his environmental consciousness to growing up with limited resources in a post World War II world. Under these harsh conditions, he learnt early on the need to minimise wastage by practicing the 3R's - reuse, reduce and recycle. Mr Lo spends much time and effort promoting recycling and conservation through initiatives such as the Canberra Recycling Exchange Project. He also works tirelessly to create awareness in the community about potential mosquito breeding areas, dengue prevention and public health concerns. He feels that a clean environment is essential for public health and encourages members of his district to maintain sanitary conditions through community campaigns and projects.

Achievements:



Under his leadership, Canberra won the Best Improvement (Public Hygiene and Cleanliness) Award in the Clean & Green Singapore (CGS) Awards 2008. Mr Lo's efforts include:

- Conducting regular patrols around the neighbourhood with the Dengue Prevention Volunteer Group (DPVG) to identify and rectify potential mosquito breeding sites. Mr Lo is also responsible for bringing in 200 new volunteers in 2008.
- Working with NEA to deploy recycling bins effectively around the neighbourhood so as to maximise their usage.
- Organising the Canberra Recycling Exchange Project, where residents are encouraged to recycle through exchanging their recyclables for practical and useful items. To date, 13,166 kg of recyclables have been collected.



Mr Lo encourages residents to discuss environmental issues such as recycling, climate change and dengue prevention, through regular talks at community events. He makes it a point to remind residents to work together to play their part, so as to be socially responsible for the environment.



Mr Lo also helped launch the Energy Audit Programme & Competition with the Northwest Community Development Council (NWCDC), National Junior College (NJC) and NEA to educate residents on monitoring and conserving energy through the use of eco-friendly products. Since then, 71% of households audited have shown a reduction in energy consumption.



Leader
Chua Chu Kang Constituency Sports Club

Mr Nagappan Garunaharan



Non-Government Organisations and Grassroots Volunteers Category

Mr Nagappan has been dedicated to raising environmental awareness in the Choa Chu Kang district through various programmes and events. He believes that getting the community directly involved encourages them to think critically about issues that affect the environment and our way of life. He organises practical programmes in line with the objectives of the Choa Chu Kang Sports Club, to help residents to stay healthy, at the same time educating them on the importance of a clean and green environment for all, through activities, sports and games. The support of residents participating in the initiatives provides him with the motivation to continue organising proactive environmental activities for the community.

Achievements:

Initiated and organised the Environment Walk Club (EWC), the first of its kind in Singapore, to pick up litter along their brisk walk routes. Since 2005, they have picked up more than 20, 000 litres of rubbish off the streets in Choa Chu Kang.

Encouraged recycling in the Choa Chu Kang district through:

- Recycle Now! @ Choa Chu Kang to reduce plastic bottles waste generated during community events.
- Festive Season Recycling Programme which encourage residents to bring along their used festive items such as cards and gift wrapping papers for recycling collections.

Actively promoted the Southwest Community Development Council's (SWCDC) Climate Change Awareness Outreach Programme to reduce the impact of climate change through the use of exhibitions, quizzes and collaterals.

Collaborated with Alpha BioFuels in the "Cash for Oil" Programme, launched in April 2009, where residents will be encouraged to bring used cooking oil to be exchanged for useful items after their weekly brisk walks. The used cooking oil will be processed into environmental friendly bio-diesel.

Mr Nagappan's contributions have helped Choa Chu Kang Constituency garner many awards such as:

- The South West Stars of The Environment Award
- The Highest Level of Ownership in the South West District Public Health Awards
- The Best Litter-Free Improvement in the South West District Public Health Awards
- A Special Tribute and Recognition Award to Choa Chu Kang Constituency Sports Club for reaching out to residents in the areas of environment and public health



Member
Ci Yuan Community Centre
Youth Executive Committee

Ms Lee Wanli



Youth & Students Category

An active volunteer, Ms Lee has spent much of her time actively initiating and organising programmes and events that help to spread environmental awareness in the community. Her deep concern for the environment has led her to play a more active role in educating students in schools, organising community recycling programmes, and conducting educational trips for the community. Ms Lee aims to instill a sense of environmental responsibility, along with a need to take action to fulfill this responsibility, in the community. She believes that we have a duty to future generations – we do not just inherit the Earth from our ancestors, but also borrow it from our children.

Achievements:

As a volunteer, Ms Lee has been involved in programmes with an outreach of more than 43,000 people in the last two years.

Ms Lee was head of the Executive Challenge Committee for the National Youth EnviroOlympics Challenge 2008 (NYEC), a nation-wide, “amazing race” style, action packed competition. She led the development, design, planning and execution of 7 different environmental-themed games with 28 games stations located islandwide.

The following year, Ms Lee was Chairman of NYEC 2009, leading the four main events – En-Mazing Race, Enviro-Cyclethon, En-Art Contest (photography and drawing competition) and Project Papyrus (Guinness World Record of the largest piece of handmade recycled paper). More than 1500 participants and young volunteers were involved in NYEC 2009, Singapore’s biggest environmental youth event to date.

In addition, Ms Lee helped to organise the YOUTHphoria eco-concert, a music and dance extravaganza featuring performances by local artistes and environmental messages, held in 2009.

Some of the distinguished awards Ms Lee has been recognised with include:

- Ci Yuan CC YEC Colours Award for Outstanding Leadership 2009
- The Youth Environmental Envoy: Certificate of Achievement 2009
- Northeast Community Development Council (NECDC) Colours Award for Outstanding Leadership 2008
- NECDC Award for Commendation 2008
- NECDC Award of Distinction for Outstanding Leadership 2008



Chairperson
Raffles One Earth
Raffles Institution (Junior College)

Mr Samuel Lim Yong Peng



Youth & Students Category

Mr Lim has a passion to help people understand more about waste management. He hopes that everyone will have a greater sense of responsibility about the amount of waste they generate, and that we will all take action to ensure that we use our resources in a sustainable way. Under the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Programme, Mr Lim developed his “LOWaste Indicator Waste Management Project”, which helped to educate the layman on the amount of waste produced in an average person’s daily life, in order to encourage waste minimisation.

Achievements:

Having a keen interest in nature conservation, Mr Lim conducts tours of the Fragile Forests exhibit at the Singapore Zoo, and completed a scientific research study entitled, “Conservation of Limpet Species at Labrador Beach”. This study was later used to create a public education programme.

Mr Lim also worked under the Singapore Environment Council to organize beach cleanups for students from his school’s environmental club

As a volunteer with the Environmental Challenge Organization (ECO) Singapore, Mr Lim has

- Worked as the Director of Operations for RELive@Atrium, a public awareness event held by ECO Singapore at Atrium at Orchard in 2008
- Organized the ECO Trail, an exhibition of Non-Governmental Organization booths focusing on environmental and conservation issues in Singapore
- Helped with the organizing of the Green Mile, a fun-walk around the Central Business District in town to highlight the importance of commuting by foot within the city centre.

He has been an invited representative for several youth conferences including:

- The Youth Dialogue Session with the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources in 2007
- The IMCSD Public Forum in 2008
- National Youth Environmental Forum in 2008
- MGS Regional Youth Forum
- The Young Environmentalists Forum in 2006
- South East Asian Youth Environmental Conference 2007

Mr Lim holds many accolades and awards to recognise his efforts in environmental conservation and protection:

- Environmental Champions Programme Gold Badge Award recipient
- The Raffles Merit Award 2008 for his service to the Green Earth Club
- Raffles Academic Training Award (Environment)
- Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Award



Principal
Marsiling Secondary School

Mr Loke Chee Pheng



Educational Institutions

Category

As principal, Mr Loke has helped transform Marsiling Secondary School into a leading green organisation. What started as a programme for renewable energy gradually transformed into various opportunities for Mr Loke to encourage students and teachers to be more proactive towards the environment. Believing strongly in teamwork, he feels that being environmentally friendly should be a combined effort, as we are collectively, as human beings, responsible for our own planet. He leads the way for his staff and students by implementing pro-environment policies in the school and getting his students to learn more about environmental-related topics as part of the curriculum.

Achievements:

Conceptualised the initial framework for the Environment Education Programme (EEP) implemented in 2005.

Implemented Environment Education modules in the curriculum for lower secondary students in 2006.

Led Marsiling Secondary School to be awarded the Centre of Excellence for Environment Education in 2007. The school has partnered with Applied Materials South East Asia Pte Ltd to open an Environment Hub Exhibition Centre, reinforcing their status as an environment learning hub for other schools and visitors.

Organised the Solar City Competition, an annual nation wide competition held in conjunction with the Singapore Schools' Carnival since 2006. Marsiling Secondary School has been one of the top runners, winning awards in the last 3 consecutive years.

Cultivated environmental consciousness in the wider community through sharing the Environment Education framework and module to local and international audiences, such as the 2008 The World Association of Lesson Studies (WALS) Conference in Hong Kong and the 2008 Environment Seminar at Science Centre Singapore, organised by the Singapore Teachers Association.

Helped Marsiling Secondary School achieve accolades such as The Sustained Lotus Award 2008, Water Efficient Building 2008 and Sustained Award in Recycling Outreach Programme 2009.



Curriculum Head
Curriculum and Pedagogy Unit
Raffles Institution

Mrs Yak-Foo Sheau Yang



Educational Institutions

Category

An optimist by nature, Mrs Yak-Foo would like to make impossible ideas real, through making green lifestyle changes as an individual and advocating others around her to do the same. She deeply appreciates the beauty that nature offers, and feels that everyone should take on the responsibility to care for the environment, for the benefit of our future generations. Mrs Yak-Foo's efforts in the Raffles Institution (RI) Humanities – Earth Club, as well as her actions and support for her students, friends and colleagues, encourage them to lead a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. She feels that there is a need to educate the public on the need for action, in addition to making them aware of environmental problems.

Achievements:

- Nurturing her students with the help of experts to conduct research projects such as:
 - The Green Roof Project 2005 which enabled her students to work with RI architects to explore the implementation of green features in school buildings
 - The Hydroponics Rice 2005 where they worked with Dr Yin Zhong Chao, Associate Director of Molecular Plant Pathology from Temasek Life Science Laboratory, affiliated to National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University.
- Working with Hitachi Global Storage, RI organised a 3-day Special Programme "Speed Singapore 2008" for 450 Secondary One students on balancing economic gains from the Integrated Resorts and Formula One races with the need for conservation of green spaces and natural resources in Singapore.
- Partnering Hitachi Global Storage to sponsor all the staff in RI with a set of eating utensils so as to eliminate the use of disposables in the school canteen, as part of continued efforts to create a more environmentally friendly lifestyle through everyday school practices.
- Organizing The Green Game, an annual competition on a national level for all schools at the Clean and Green Singapore Schools' Carnival, under NEA's Corporate and Schools Partnership Programme, since 2005.
- Helping her former school, Nanyang Girls' High School from 2000-2002 in receiving the Green Audit Award (Lotus) in 2002/3.

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