

SECLITE

JANUARY TO MARCH 2016

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear readers,

You are among the first to be reading this inaugural SEC quarterly e-newsletter, aptly named "SECLITE"! You are assured of fun and informative, bite-sized chunks of practical yet useful material.

Why an e-newsletter? Because we believe in being with you on-the-go, and catering to your schedule. Having an e-newsletter means you can catch up with us on-the-move, even when you are off the Internet, which comes to why we ended up with "lite". Like lite-beer or lite-salt, SECLITE promises short and snappy digestible snippets which will be easy on the eyes. Expect the full flavour however, as our team works really hard to deliver the platter of tidbits that is sure to arouse your curiosity and stimulate your mind. And like a lighthouse, we are on-guard all the time, shining our "light" to keep the environment safe, especially within Singapore's shores.

Tackling environmental sustainability continues to be our priority in 2016. Make it yours too. Store this pdf file on your mobile device and share it.

If you want to see a change, BE that change.



Singapore
Environment
Council



INSIDER

SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL FOR ALL A POSSIBILITY

Palm oil is cheap to produce and is a versatile ingredient in many household products. It's in our chocolates, cosmetics and even in soaps. The growing demand for this ubiquitous ingredient is putting pressure on our tropical rainforests and contributing to climate change.

The expansion of oil palm plantations has been the leading cause of deforestation in Indonesia and Malaysia, two of the top producers of palm oil in the world. Cutting and burning these forests result in the loss of wildlife habitats, and can affect the cultural identities of communities that have for decades depended on the rainforests. The process also increases the severity of haze in the South East Asian region.

However, palm oil as an agricultural commodity can be sustainable. Compared to other vegetable oil sources, palm oil plantations produce higher yields from less land and require far less fertilisers and pesticides. Consumers should therefore not boycott palm oil but demand for its sustainability, as replacing it means having to use more land, thereby compounding deforestation.

Companies, being the key drivers of a sustainable palm oil industry, need to be transparent and proactive in stimulating green consumerism, rather than wait for consumers to react with distrust and scepticism after the occurrence of a crisis.

There have been positive developments in the private sector, where companies representing about 60% of the global palm oil production have pledged to eliminate palm oil-related deforestation from their supply chains. As consumers, it is paramount that we demand transparency and sustainability from the whole supply chain. The globally-recognised Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification helps by providing a robust and stringent certification platform in identifying sustainable products.

In producer countries where deforestation is legal, regulatory reform is required. Transforming the RSPO Principles and Criteria into law can be a start to put a framework in place. The development of scientific tools and financial incentives can be critical in creating a holistic and sustainable structure in the palm oil industry.

With smart collaborations, groups with different perspectives can find common ground and turn a rapidly growing industry into a successful model for sustainable development. While it is commendable to see a host of celebrities coming together to address palm oil-linked deforestation, you and I must also send a message to retailers, suppliers and organisations. Regardless of whether we manufacture, retail or consume, we are all standing on the same side – the same planet.



Kavickumar s/o Muruganathan
Head (Eco-Certification) / Lead
Environmental Engineer



VOICES

Q&A WITH MR MELVYN HO,
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

(HEAD OF SINGAPORE OPERATIONS GROUP), CANON SINGAPORE PTE LTD



Canon

Delighting You Always

1. Why is sustainability becoming an important component of Canon's strategic thinking?

Sustainability has always been a key element of our strategy.

Canon's corporate philosophy is kyosei – living and working together harmoniously for the common good. This philosophy is entrenched in our internal processes to ensure that our business practices and those of our partners are responsible to the communities and environment we operate in for harmonious co-existence.

As an innovative technology leader in imaging, we aim to develop products and solutions that help reduce organisations' ecological footprints while increasing productivity and efficiency. We achieve this by providing cutting-edge green technology solutions, thus meeting the sustainability needs of businesses, the environment and society.

Examples include the imageRUNNER ADVANCE¹ series, a range of business network multi-function devices (MFD) which helps businesses achieve key objectives of increasing productivity and efficiency while simultaneously reducing ecological impact with perceptive solutions. Canon's print software solution uniFLOW enables users to accurately monitor usage for print accounting and track cost savings, complementing the goals of high standards of internal processes.

2. Canon has received the Green Technology Award – Large Enterprise, at the 2015 Singapore Sustainability Awards. What are your thoughts on sustainable development being the key driver of innovation?

We are proud to be recognised as a green technology enabler and delighted that our efforts to facilitate green practices has gone some way in the business community and heighten awareness of maintaining ecological balance.

The award is a testament of Canon's commitment to help consumers and businesses alike make a positive difference to their lifestyles and businesses through user-friendly technology while becoming more environmentally friendly.

Harmonising environmental commitment with our business activities is a reflection of our corporate philosophy of kyosei, and we firmly believe that maintaining this harmony while driving innovation is essential for sustainable business cycles.

3. What role do you see for the private sector in addressing environmental challenges?

Private sector companies have to be aware that they have the powerful ability to contribute to the local community and shape environmental awareness. At the basic level, it is through their products and services. These also include the green practices they impart to the local community under their employment.

At the next level, private sector companies also have wide-ranging options to work with the government bodies and voluntary organisations to champion the environmental causes they believe in. I'd say that there is a lot that private sector firms can do but it is hard to give specifics without considering a company's corporate philosophy, technological strengths, and motivations, among others.

At Canon, we are clear that sustainable businesses have to go hand-in-hand with a sustainable environment. We reinvest about 10% of our revenue in research and development, pursuing exciting developments in green technology that will benefit both our customers and the environment while actively participating in green activities to help drive awareness among the community.

¹ Canon imageRUNNER ADVANCE 4251 / 4245 / 4235 / 4225 and imageRUNNER ADVANCE C5235 / C5240 / C5250/ C5255



4. Canon has been a client of SEC since 2004. What are the opportunities in having your products Singapore Green Label certified?

By having our products Green Label certified, it is an additional platform for Canon Singapore to benchmark our best practices. It also opens up many opportunities for Canon to communicate that level of awareness that our products are from sustainable sources.

Canon is committed to creating and delivering truly environmentally conscious products to more customers around the world and we hope to accelerate the development of products that contributes to the realisation of a low-carbon society. To accelerate the development of environmentally conscious products, Canon has constructed a Lifecycle Assessment system into its product development process.

The Singapore Green Label, with Canon Singapore's good sustainability practices, will enable us added validation and visibility to further our sustainability intentions. This will create differentiation, contribute to our brand value and ultimately advance Canon's business profile. Especially when we are operating in a region where countries are plagued with environmental issues (e.g. haze), highlighting the sustainability technology in our products and practices will gain positive attention and generate value add proposition to our customers.



All Natural Biodegradable Product (Biological Solution)
SAiON-EM Effective MicroOrganisms (Non-SLS)



Instant Odour Elimination Management
Non-scented & Non-masking

Authorised manufacturer and distributor under license from Sanko Sangyo Co. Ltd (Japan)

**CALL 66598789
AND MENTION
SEC TO RECEIVE
EXCLUSIVE OFFER**

BENEFITS:

- Repels pests and insects
- Controls corrosion
- Breaks down sludge/oil
- Removes odours from cooking, cigarettes and urinals
- Provides a clean, shiny and non-sticky surface



APPLICATIONS:

- Households
- Commercial/Industrial
- Bin Centres
- Toilets
- Carparks
- Grease-interceptors
- Agriculture
- Animal husbandry
- Aquaculture

**CONTACT US FOR
FREE DEMONSTRATION ON-SITE:**

6659 8789

Email: general@saion-em.sg
Website: www.saion-em.sg



GET YOUR SUSTAINABILITY ADVANTAGE



Doing our part to help sustain this precious environment for future generation is becoming increasingly important in our daily consumables.

New KLEENEX® and SCOTT® Paper Towels with AIRFLEX* technology offer an innovative solution. Manufactured with sustainability in mind, we think it will revolutionize the future of hand drying.

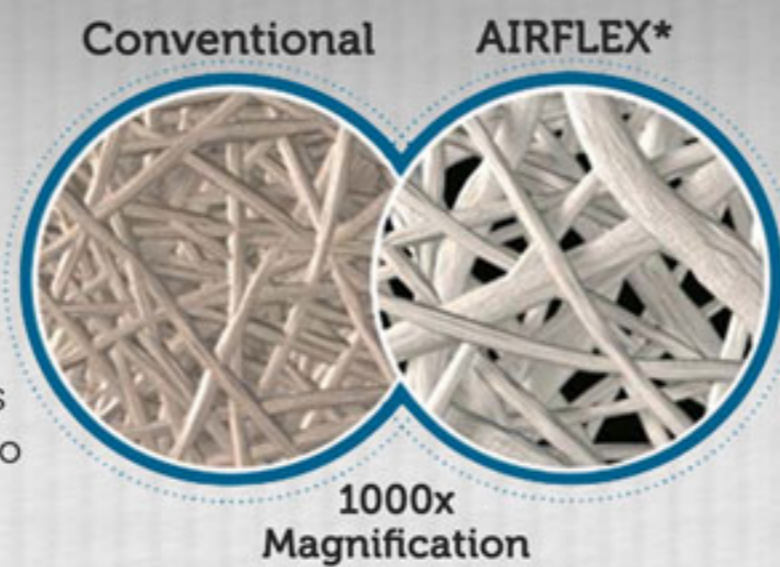
With Kimberly-Clark's sustainable fibre procurement policy and AIRFLEX* technology, you can be assured that all KLEENEX® and SCOTT® tissue products are made only from certified sustainable sources¹. All this results in increased user satisfaction, long-term cost savings and reduced impacts on the environment.

AIRFLEX* paper hand towels reduces demand on natural resources with up to 25% less fibre² used in production and reducing the amount of waste diverted to landfills.

Technology & Impact on Performance

Ordinary Paper Towels have tightly compressed fibres which cause water to sit on top of the Towel, taking longer to absorb.

AIRFLEX* Paper Towels have specially spread fibres creating absorbency cells to quickly draw the water in.



Faster absorbing for more effective drying



Softer for a more luxurious feel



Stronger when wet so they won't break up



Made with less natural resources for a more sustainable choice

Learn more about AIRFLEX* paper hand towel from Kimberly-Clark Professional * and how we can help your business become more sustainable [here](#).



THE AIRFLEX* ADVANTAGE



Faster Absorbing



Soft Texture



Stronger when Wet



One Sheet is Enough

Kleenex® **Scott**®

AIRFLEX*
FABRIC WITH ABSORBENCY CELLS

Watch the benefits
of Airflex* here

Claim your
FREE demo

¹http://www.cms.kimberly-clark.com/UmbracoImages/UmbracoFileMedia/Fiber_Procurement_Policy_umbracoFile.pdf
²compared to conventional paper towel

©*Trademarks of Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. © 2014 KCWW. All rights reserved.

SPOTLITE

BREATHING GREENERY INTO YOUR WORKPLACE

By Rachel See, Environmental Engineer (Training and Education)



If you feel that your workplace needs a little sprucing up, try putting up some planters on your desk or around your office. Researchers from Cardiff University have found that overall productivity improved by 15% within three months upon the introduction of plants in the office!

Common indoor plants are rather effective in the fight against air pollution. NASA scientists have discovered that these plants are excellent in absorbing indoor pollutants, which include Volatile Organic Compounds such as Benzene, Trichloroethylene and Carbon Monoxide.

Getting random plants off-the-shelves in their little brown pots may do the job, but here are some ideas to consider to inject a personal touch to your personal green partner.

Understand that your plant is like your companion. Find one which complements your availability to care for them. For example, if you have a busy schedule, get the Aloe Vera as it stays strong without needing much attention. If you can afford time to nourish your plants, Orchids and African Violets can stand out more with their colours to brighten up your day. Do not forget however, that plants need sunlight from time to time.

Stand out more by upcycling! Use your typical plastic take-away container and personalise it with paintwork and stickers.

Give your plants the right soil. On top of a potting soil mix, things like moss, charcoals, rocks or pebbles can aid the plant in its growth, while providing a pleasant, zen-like and stress-free environment.

And if you want more than just a plant but a talking point around upcycling, join us at our workshop and find out what it is really all about. You will learn the finer points of how to make your very own upcycled planter from the simplest of materials which we often overlook as rubbish and trash. For your company's next green activity, contact us at training@sec.org.sg or call 6337 6062 to experience different and more enjoyable forms of play which will benefit your organisation, your staff and our environment!

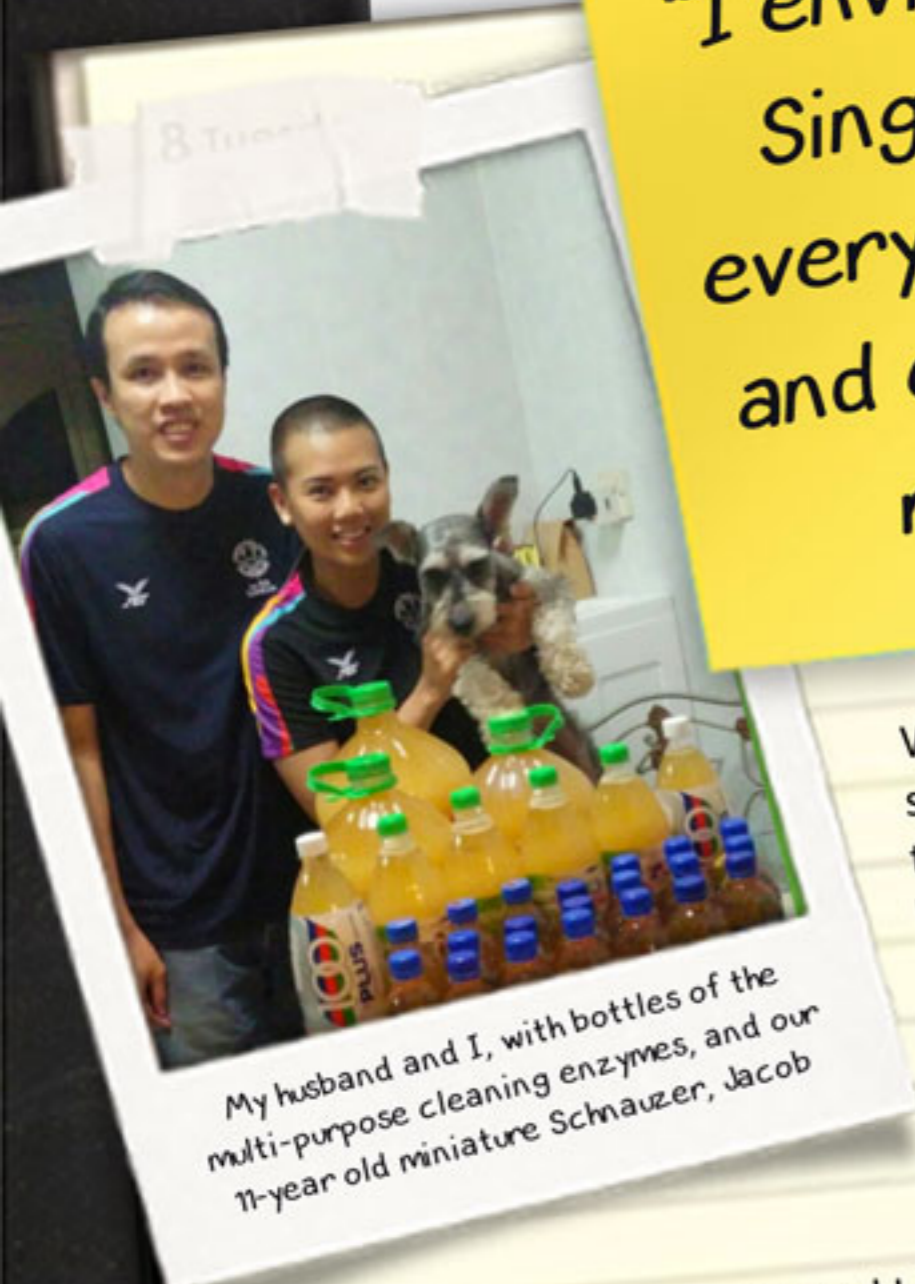


ECO-LIFESTYLE

CLEANING WITH HOMEMADE ECO ENZYMES

By Audrey Ho Yoke Yee, Earth Helper

"I envision living in a Singapore where everyone is gracious and environmentally responsible."



My husband and I, with bottles of the multi-purpose cleaning enzymes, and our 11-year old miniature Schnauzer, Jacob



My colleague learning to make the enzymes, after discovering how useful and environmentally-friendly they can be

When my mother passed away, she left behind among other things, two pails of enzymes she had previously prepared. As I harvested the fruits of her labour, it became a meaningful activity to carry on, as a remembrance to her and the environmental values she stood for.

It has since been two years and I continue making the eco enzymes today, which my family uses to clean our toilets, kitchen sinks and floor. We also make extra to give out to friends and colleagues, who love its eco-friendliness and effective characteristics. Simply add 50 ml of the eco enzymes to a pail of water and that will result in a pleasantly scented cleaning agent, especially if you use pineapple peels.

The preparation is 100% organic, biodegradable, and non-toxic to the environment. My husband helps out by collecting empty bottles to store the enzymes, which is a superb cost-effective replacement for off-the-shelf cleaning agents.



Homogenising the 3-month old enzymes just before harvesting

ECO ENZYMES RECIPE:

(Dr Rosukon Poompanyong, an alternative healthcare practitioner from Thailand)

Mix 3 kg of fruit peels and 1 kg of sugar with 10 litres of water in a pail. Seal the lid tight and leave it for three months, occasionally stirring it. After three months, filter the solution, and be sure to squeeze every drop of enzyme from the fruit peels. Let the solution sit for a couple of weeks, before removing the sediment and filling them into 500 ml bottles.

UPCYCLING

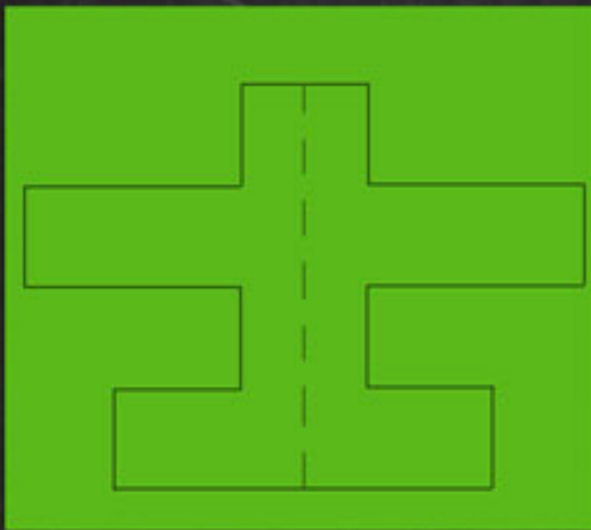
USHERING GOOD LUCK by Claudience Cheh, Earth Helper

This year, the Lunar New Year falls on 8 February. Many will spring clean their homes to usher in good luck, and decorate with auspicious symbols for prosperity and wealth. Here is how you can make a lantern-shaped decoration based on the Chinese character “吉”, which means good luck.

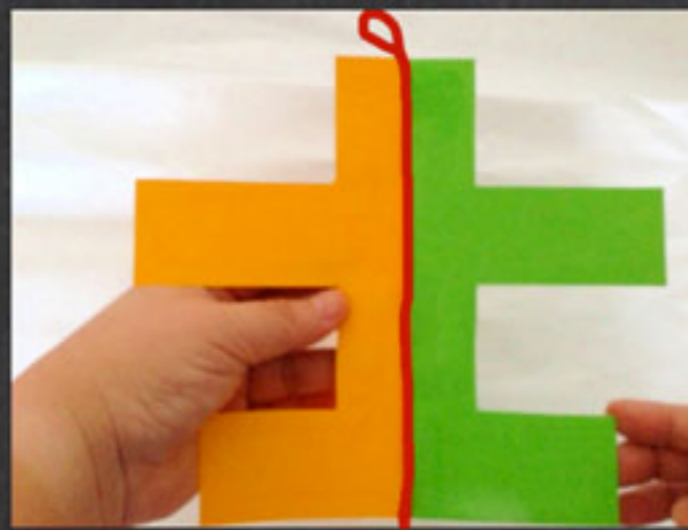
WHAT YOU WILL NEED:



A4-sized coloured paper/cardboard/file dividers – 3 pcs
Rectangular red packets - 5 pcs
Red thread – 50 cm
CNY ornament
Glue
Stapler
Scissors



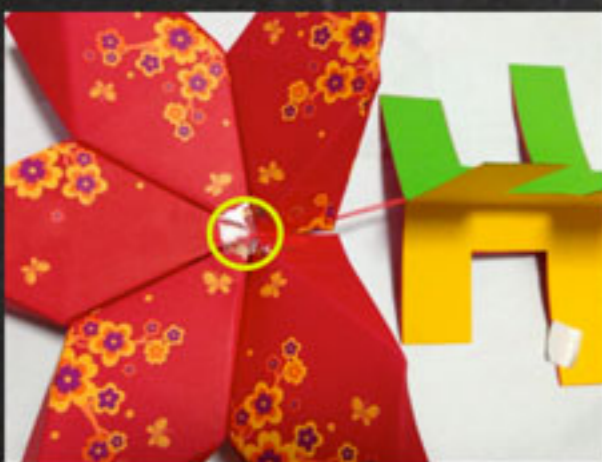
Step 1: Trace the design on all 3 sheets of coloured papers. Cut out to form the “吉” shape and fold into half along the dotted line. Height: 17.5 cm, longest width: 20 cm.



Step 2: Glue the halves of each coloured character to another half, forming a 3-dimensional “吉”, remembering to place the red thread through the middle (with a loop at the top), so it can be hung. The cross section view should look like a “Y”.



Step 3: Using the centre on each side of the red packet (indicated by arrows) as a guide, fold all four corners inwards. Align all 5 red packets as shown but staple only 4 corners together. The red packets will form the lantern.



Step 4: Run the longer end of the red thread down from “吉”, and string through the centre of the base of the red packet lantern (circled in yellow), before taping it down.



Step 5: To hold the lantern in place, cut out a small square from the leftover paper. Fold it into half and staple along with thread onto the red packet.



Step 6: Fold inwards and staple all remaining corners to complete the lantern.



Step 7: Attach the ornament to the end of the red thread.