

# SECLITE

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## WE NEED A HERO

By Shirley Chua, Director, Communications

With Joseph Schooling having a medal to his name, there's no doubt over the pride Singapore feels. Overnight, every parent probably wishes for their 5-year-old to be like Schooling and say "I want to go to the Olympics".

The good news is, of course they can. If 5-year-olds today have the dream, perseverance and determination to be in the games at the age of 21 just like their idol, it will then be the year 2032 – just in time for the XXXV Olympiad.

The bad news is, we may have to search harder for a host city that will be able to boast positive media exposure of among others, reasonably unpolluted air and waters. Some may have spotted less-than-perfect, postcard-pictures of past Olympic venues, and that should ring bells and alarms. Fault cannot be put squarely on any host country, but on us – the people.

Will our Olympic-honed children perform their best in polluted waters? Can our prodigies run their fastest mile with smoggy air? Countries excluded from being considered as hosts of the Olympics purely on the grounds of pollution can be a real scenario, if we do not come to realise the harm we do to our environment.

Everyone recognises Schooling today because he is the Olympic Hero who beat Phelps. We ourselves, must be recognised from today as Environmental Heroes who will beat the odds.



# INSIDER

## OUR INTERNAL AFFAIR



By Rahima Ashrafi Tori and Charmaine Sim, Executive Assistants

Getting our diploma was a priority after school. We couldn't decide on a course and found ourselves taking up Environmental Science perhaps by random, followed by an internship at the Singapore Environment Council.

Through facilitating Biodiversity Trails and CSR projects which brought us to unique places like Jurong Island and Lazarus Island, we experienced for the first time, Singapore's environmental protection and upcycling efforts.

At SEC, we had to practise what we preach. We would bring the food stall's plates and cutlery to our desk during lunch-ins (yes, that meant burning some calories to return them), and order takeaways with our reusable containers to avoid the deathless Styrofoam boxes.

Our plastic bag usage and food wastes were also consciously reduced by two thirds, and we walk instead of taking motor vehicles for parts of our journey. All this fuss can help reduce our carbon footprint by approximately 120 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions per person in a year.

We thought people appear apathetic when it comes to environmental conservation because of the cumulative nature of its true extent. Besides, it was always more convenient to "follow the crowd" which more often than not, happens to be not-so-eco-conscious.

The past 20 weeks here have helped open our eyes on how we can help open YOUR eyes on environment issues. We've concluded from our personal experience, that actions really do speak louder than words. We witnessed for ourselves the beauty and the destruction mankind brings upon itself, by its own actions.

**EXPERIENCE THIS FOR YOURSELF.** Spend a weekend cleaning the beach. While this will actually make a small difference to the beach in the short term, it will make a big difference to you and your family in the long term. Trust us on this.

In hindsight, we chose Environmental Science because we appreciate the world we live in. And we now realise that it is indeed going to be difficult to work through. But for our future generations who will bear the brunt of the cumulative nature of each of our actions today, it is worth it.

### CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS PER DAY PER PERSON



**OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT:  
330G OF CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS SAVED EACH DAY**



**UPCYCLING WITH STUDENTS FROM LEE KONG CHIAN GARDENS SCHOOL**



**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT THE NORTH WEST ECO TRAILS**  
Photo credit: North West Community Development Council

# VOICES

**RICOH**  
imagine. change.

Ricoh is an active advocate in the environment scene, and a long time valued partner of the Singapore Environment Council. Congratulations to Ricoh for receiving the prestigious President's Award for the Environment. Their success serves as an inspiration for other organisations to come on board and take action in steering environmental leadership towards a sustainable and liveable Singapore.



MR KAZUHISA GOTO, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF RICOH ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD RECEIVING THE PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM MR TONY TAN, PRESIDENT OF SINGAPORE.



OUR PANELLISTS WITH MR MASAGOS ZULKIFLI (THIRD FROM RIGHT), MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT & WATER RESOURCES AT THE ECO ACTION DAY PANEL DISCUSSION & AWARDS CEREMONY HELD ON 3 JUNE 2016



RICOH'S ECO-CHAMPIONS AT THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS CEREMONY HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER.

Photo Credit: Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

## ECO – TIMELINE

- Current: Translated the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint Storybook by the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resource into Japanese to reach out to local Japanese schools
- Current: Received ISO 14001 Certification for Environment Management System (since 2004)
- Current: 1st private company to receive the Project: Eco-Office certification from SEC (since 2004)
- Current: Received the Singapore Green Label certification from SEC (since 2005)
- Current: Organised the inaugural Eco Action Day (since 2007)

- Current: Supporting partner of WWF's Earth Hour (since 2011)
- Current: Supporting partner of PUB's Singapore World Water Day (since 2014)
- 2014: Became an official Friends of Water and adopted Marina Reservoir for the next 3 years
- 2010: Initiated the Butterfly Trail @Orchard project with Nature Society
- 2009: Adopted Tanjong Pagar Park (since 2005)
- 2008: Initiated the inaugural "Tee for Trees" golf-and-tree-planting for Barclays Singapore Open
- 2005: Organised "From Waste to Wow" competition in collaboration with Green Volunteers Network



# SPOTLIGHT

## Q&A WITH YASMIN SIM,

Secondary 4 Student at Bukit View Secondary School, a School Green Awards participant

### QUICK FACTS ON BVSS

- Recipient of the President's Award for the Environment 2016.
- Participated in the School Green Awards since 2001.
- Won the 2016 SEC-Lee Foundation Singapore Environmental Achievement Award (Public Sector) from SEC.
- Developed Clean Energy and Environment Technology as part of the school's Applied Learning Programme. Students from Secondary 1 to 3 learn about alternative energy and even get to design and build devices powered by solar energy as well as programming a sea perch to measure water quality.
- Organises the annual Responsibility to Society Forum, where BVSS shares values-in-action and environment education programmes for primary schools.
- Conducts eco-trails for primary school students, facilitated by members of the Environment Club.



Teaching students how to identify the different types of water plants.



Guiding primary school students at the butterfly garden.



### 1. You are the youngest awardee of the HSBC-NYAA Youth Environmental Award. What made you interested in conserving the environment?

It started with a simple nature walk in our school eco-garden with my club members and the teachers-in-charge which opened my eyes to the amazing trove of biodiversity our little red dot is home to. I'm also very fortunate to have a group of inspiring educators like my environment club teachers Mrs Toh-Liang Kai Poh and Mr Heng Chong Yong, who inspired us with their passion and energy.

### 2. Tell us about your experience in the environment club.

Conducting the eco trails let me step out of my comfort zone and overcome my inhibitions. My confidence grew with the encouragement from my teachers, and now I help and train other members in leading eco trails.

The amazing thing about biodiversity is its dynamic nature. Despite the many eco-trails I conduct in school, there is always something new to discover each time, be it a spider or a beetle. That makes the trail really exciting, and I have had participants come up to thank me personally, saying how they actually felt my energy and enthusiasm in appreciating our environment. Someday, I hope to be able to conduct eco trails around Singapore, and reach out to an even wider audience.

As environment club members, we always find ways to encourage our friends and family to care for the environment. The School Green Awards organised by SEC serves as a great encouragement to my fellow students. I am indeed proud of my school for having achieved the Lotus Sustained Achievement Award for 6th consecutive times, serving as a testimony to our effort and a reminder to us all, to keep up the momentum.

### 3. Do you have any words of inspiration so that people can care more about our environment?

No matter our age, we can always contribute to the environment in our own ways. I was deeply affected by the environmentalist Robert Swan, who once said, "The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

# ECO-LIFESTYLE

## ANTARCTICA – A MESSAGE OF HOPE

By Quang Nu TUONG Nhan, Earth Helper

In April, I had the privilege to join the International Antarctica Expedition lead by polar explorer, Mr Robert Swan, where I embarked on a journey witnessing the impacts of climate change at one of Earth's last wilderness.

At each landing, we boarded a small rubber Zodiac boat and cruised alongshore, admiring the beautiful, vast landscape of different colours. I was overwhelmed by nature which reminded me of mankind's minuscule presence, being just one small part of the great system.

We got up and close with the adorable penguins, sat back and observed the magnificent whales and fun-loving seals swimming alongside our boats. The animals were extremely approachable, sparking intimate experiences and unforgettable moments which also fire up my desire to protect them.



**MY FIRST ICEBERG!**  
Photo Credit: Tuong Nhan



**AN INSPIRATIONAL LEADER, MR ROBERT SWAN**  
Photo credit: Wang Hai Zhou, 2041Foundation



**BEGINNING AN ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME**  
Photo credit: Oliver Wheeldon, 2041Foundation



**AREN'T THEY LOVELY?**  
Photo credit: Oliver Wheeldon, 2041Foundation



**UP, CLOSE AND PERSONAL**  
Photo Credit: Tuong Nhan

Eco-Lifestyle continued on Page 6

# ECO-LIFESTYLE

Their habitat lies in a strictly protected part of the earth. According to the Antarctica Treaty Protocol, only scientific research programmes, tourism, and activities subject to environmental control procedures, are allowed in this region.

Despite these measures, such animals are still very vulnerable to human impact and are especially sensitive to the rising temperatures. The mean annual temperature of the Antarctica peninsula has increased by 3°C over the last 50 years. Since 1974, 13,500km<sup>2</sup> of ice shelves have broken off due to warm sea currents, many of which were in place for the past 12,000 years!

Besides suffering the wrath of global warming, animals face constant threats from human activities. Recently, a sperm whale was found dead on the German North Sea, with its stomach filled with plastics, fishing gear and even an engine cover! With only 15% of the 300 million tons of plastics produced each year recycled, such deaths are no longer surprising. Researchers have warned that 700 marine species will face extinction due to plastic because of the risk of entanglement, pollution and ingestion, and by 2050, it is estimated that there will more plastics in ocean than fish.

Nonetheless, history has taught me to be optimistic. In the early 19th century, hundreds of thousands of whales were killed at Whalers Bay where their oil were used for lighting. With the invention of electricity, the whole whaling industry ceased, and today, biodiversity has recovered. This is symbolic because it displays our innovative capability to change and adapt. Our expedition team was made up of 140 people from 30 countries, including environmentalists, businessmen, students, scientists and artists. The solidarity spirit of my team made me believe in the momentum of collective power and that together, we are always very capable of crossing hurdles if each of us start making small changes.

Together, we can reverse the trend of global warming. Nature too, is resilient, and will always have the time to wait for us to take action.

Unfortunately, we – the human race, do not have the time to wait.



**DISCOVERING ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE IN NATURE**  
Photo credit: Oliver Wheeldon, 2041Foundation



**SPLASH!**  
Photo credit: Oliver Wheeldon, 2041Foundation



**EXPLORING THE VAST LANDSCAPE OF ANTARCTICA**  
Photo credit: Oliver Wheeldon, 2041Foundation



**OUR AMAZING TEAM!**  
Photo credit: Oliver Wheeldon, 2041Foundation

# IN APPRECIATION

SEC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING BOARD DIRECTORS AND COMPANY SECRETARIES FOR THEIR VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.



**SEC CHAIRMAN MS ISABELLA LOH  
PRESENTING A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION  
TO MS LINDA DOROTHY DE MELLO**  
Board Director (2011–2016)



**MR GEORGE HUANG**  
Advisory Committee Chairman (2009–2016)



**MR TAN WEE HOCK**  
Board Director (2008–2016)



**MR KANG CHOON HWEE  
ALBAN**  
Company Secretary  
(1999–2016)



**SEC CHAIRMAN MS ISABELLA  
LOH PRESENTING A TOKEN OF  
APPRECIATION TO MS SUSAN  
MARY DE SILVA**  
Company Secretary (1995–2016)



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