

## School Green Awards captures entire education cohort

*Programme will now cover all schools from preschools to tertiary institutions*

**Singapore, 27 February 2014** – The School Green Awards enters its 14<sup>th</sup> year with the launch of the School Green Awards (SGA) 2014 - a holistic environment programme for all schools in Singapore. The Singapore Environment Council's (SEC) objective of reaching out to students at every phase of their journey takes on a stronger influence with the introduction of a customised audit questionnaire for students from Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL), which includes local and private universities, polytechnics and Institutes of Technical Education (ITE). Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC, Er Dr Lee Bee Wah, officiated the launch at the Singapore Institute of Management (Namly Avenue) as the Guest-of-Honour.

“Reaching out to students from Institutes of Higher Learning and securing their buy-in is critical - they are undoubtedly agents of change as future leaders in society. With IHLs on board, all bases are covered - from preschools all the way up to polytechnics, ITEs, universities as well as schools for students with special needs. Every student is now exposed to positive environmental influence,” said Mr Jose Raymond, Executive Director of the Singapore Environment Council.

Today's launch also coincides with one of the many ENVision dialogue sessions to gather and understand Singaporeans' common vision and values for their environmental future, as part of the review of the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint (SSB), announced by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in October 2013. Over 50 students and teachers have come together in today's 4<sup>th</sup> dialogue session to envisage an environmental vision for Singapore. The list of the participating schools and artwork contributed by these schools can be found in Appendix A and B respectively.

Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC, Er Dr Lee Bee Wah said: “I am very glad that students and educators have given much support to the environmental cause by coming together to exercise their minds and imagination to generate ideas and solutions of Singapore's environmental story of the future. The youths today are creative and have high aspirations, and I believe their involvement in today's dialogue session will generate fresh concepts and viewpoints. All of us have a stake in this field. The younger people instinctively understand that they have a bigger stake in a sustainable future, as they are going to inherit the world that we will leave behind.”

The new audit questionnaire features a stronger focus on pertinent environmental topics within the Singapore context. These include mitigating the excessive use of plastic bags, encouraging the recycling of electronic waste and reducing food wastage. These new topics will be incorporated into the School Green Awards booklet, alongside topics such as green transport and green lifestyle tips. The booklet aims to inculcate positive behaviour at home as well and will garner an estimated 1.4 million readers in 2014. The booklets contain handy tips and facts that pertain to all members of the family, and will be translated into Chinese, Malay and Tamil.

“The Council relentlessly strives to make the programme more valuable and relevant in order to empower students to make a difference through their daily habits. Supporting partners recognise the importance of reaching out to our youths and do not hesitate to show their strong support. This year, we are heartened to have the support of many new partners from the public and private sectors,” added Mr Raymond.

“Club 21 is proud to support the Singapore Environment Council’s School Green Awards for the second year running, now expanded to include polytechnics, private and public universities. The Awards reward schools for encouraging environmentally-friendly daily habits in their students, thus making them active partners in their own sustainable future,” said a spokesperson from Club 21.

Ms Chin Soo Fang, Head of Corporate Communications and CSR, Singapore Press Holdings said: “We are proud to continue our support for the School Green Awards 2014. The programme is a meaningful one which instils green lifestyle habits in students and their families which, when added up, can make a big difference.”

“We all need to play a part in preserving our natural environment,” said Ms Jeannie Ong, Chief Marketing Officer, StarHub, “and there is no better time to start going Green than when one is young. After all, it is the youth who will inherit the earth.”

In addition to being a new partner of the School Green Awards, StarHub has already been engaging the community to go Green through initiatives like MyStarHub e-bill, to save paper, and the StarHub E-Waste Recycling Programme. With 38 bins at 17 locations around Singapore, StarHub’s E-Waste Recycling Programme is still the only channel for customers to responsibly recycle their electronic waste, regardless of whether they purchased it from StarHub or not.

“Environmental stewardship is everyone’s responsibility. We share SEC’s goal of mitigating climate change through awareness and action, and we are thus delighted to support the School Green Awards. Students can become effective agents of change, and positively influence their family members, peers and the larger community to care for our environment,” said Mr Yuen Sai Kuan, Director, 3P Network Division, National Climate Change Secretariat.

Through engaging schools, the SEC is on track in reaching out to over 1 million people by 2015. Actual figures after submissions by the participating schools for SGA 2013 showed an outreach of close to half a million students.

The awards ceremony will be held on 4 November 2014. Interested parties should visit [www.sec.org.sg/sga](http://www.sec.org.sg/sga) for more information on eligibility, application guidelines, and to submit applications. Applications for SGA 2014 close on 30 September 2014.

**\*\* END OF MEDIA RELEASE\*\***

#### **Appendix A**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1	EtonHouse Pre-school
2	Global Indian International School
3	Kinderland Preschool (Ministry of Education)
4	Kinderland Preschool (Ministry of Manpower)
5	PCF Sparkletots Childcare Centre @ Cashew
6	CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel
7	Zhangde Primary School
8	Balestier Hill Primary School
9	Chong Boon Secondary School
10	Queensway Secondary School
11	Woodgrove Secondary School
12	Yuying Secondary School
13	MINDS - Lee Kong Chian Gardens School
14	Rainbow Centre - Yishun Park School
15	ITE College West
16	Nanyang Junior College
17	National University of Singapore

**Appendix B**

Artwork contributed by school children

Tricia Chong – Kinderland Pre-School	Sim Wang Seng – Kinderland Pre-School
 <p>We can Recycle by sending used papers to Recycling Centre. - Tricia chong -</p>	 <p>We can Reduce by not wasting papers. - Sim Wang Seng -</p>
Craftwork done by the students from MINDS – Lee Kong Chian Gardens School	'Garden in the City' from MINDS – Lee Kong Chian Gardens School
	

Quotes and Poems by school children

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“I Wish You”</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">I wish you a world With bright sun and blue sky I wish you a world, a clean round world With white clouds and good air.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I wish you a world With comfort and love And mama and papa and lovely flowers I wish you a world, a beautiful world With happiness and health and care always.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Collaborative effort by N2 Thinkers EtonHouse Preschool Kathleen, Cole, Aayush, Kaelyn. Chloe, Si Zhe, Xavier, Yan Yu, Xin Hui, Malika, Tetsuaki, Hao Zhi Daniel Paul, Alize and Munia</p>	<p>As <a href="#">Mahatma Gandhi</a> says,</p> <p>“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.”</p> <p>And as <a href="#">Theodore Roosevelt</a> says, “Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”</p> <p>And I wish everybody would be ECO-friendly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bryan Ng Primary 6 Graciousness Zhangde Primary School</p>
<p>“I wish that we could all work together to save Mother Nature. The world would be a better place if it was greener and healthier. Saving the environment should be everyone’s top priority. I hope that everyone will play a part to save Mother Earth. Together, we will succeed.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Celest Teo Zhangde Primary School</p>	<p>“I want a world where there is a meadow with hills around with lots of daisies and children playing happily with kites.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Stephanie, K2 EtonHouse Preschool</p>

## NOTES TO THE EDITOR



## ABOUT THE SCHOOL GREEN AWARDS


The School Green Awards (SGA) is a simple environmental audit programme for schools. This programme gets students to work in teams to audit their school in order to submit a report on their environmental efforts. Based on the score, the school is eligible for one out of the four awards annually – the Palm, Hibiscus, Orchid, or the top level, Lotus Award. Schools that receive the Lotus Award for at least three consecutive years will be honoured with the Lotus Sustained Achievement Award. Since 2013, schools for students with special needs and pre-schools too, are eligible to participate in the SGA. For more information about the SGA, please visit [www.sec.org.sg/sga](http://www.sec.org.sg/sga).



## ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-government organisation that nurtures, facilitates and co-ordinates environmental causes in Singapore. SEC's work is founded on three pillars of action – Firstly, partnership with the people, private and public sectors of Singaporean society, to nurture a culture aligned with sustainable development concepts. Secondly, SEC rewards environmental excellence through awards schemes and product endorsement programmes, such as the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme. Thirdly, the SEC collaborates with partners to develop and implement training and learning programmes to build competencies in environmental sustainability within companies, thus keeping our business leaders ahead of the curve. Visit our website at [www.sec.org.sg](http://www.sec.org.sg).

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 [SingaporeEnvironmentCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/SingaporeEnvironmentCouncil)

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