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Media Release



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News Editor

YOUTH TO LEAD CLIMATE ACTION IN SCHOOLS

- Climate Action reigns in school-based environmental programme
- Boot camp for youth with opportunities to testbed student-driven ideas and prototypes for environmental sustainability
- Focus on energy-efficiency in light of 2018 being the year of Climate Action
- New curriculum to promote tray return in the community and inculcate civic-mindedness in youth

Youth in the South West District are well-poised to develop green habits and awareness, with school-based environmental programmes providing a solid foundation for green learning and opportunities to pilot and lead projects. Organised by the South West Community Development Council (CDC) and National Environment Agency (South West Regional Office), **Green Schools @ South West** promotes environmental responsibility and co-ownership among youth in the South West District with a tailored curriculum to kick-start their eco-journey.

2 Under the programme, school-nominated student leaders, known as Junior Environmental Ambassadors (JEAs), will take the lead and champion ground-up green initiatives in their schools, spreading environmental awareness to their peers and encouraging more to take action towards

environmental sustainability. The programme, which was launched in 2007, has reached out to more than 40 schools annually and close to 300,000 youths in the district.

Immersive camps that hone empathy and conviction

3 The JEAs go through a one (1)-day boot camp where specially designed activities hone environmental stewardship and initiative, through hands-on learning as well as opportunities to testbed student-driven ideas and prototypes. Beyond theory and textbook, the JEA Camp provides an immersive experience where environmental sustainability is practised in every way. For example, the students will be asked to keep any rubbish they generate across the course of the day as a visual reminder of their environmental footprint. No disposable items will be provided and the students are required to bring their own cutlery and utensils for use during the camp, putting principles into action. Close to 400 JEAs from 44 Green Schools @ South West will be taking part in this year's boot camp.

4 "I enjoyed the JEA camp as it gave me a lot of knowledge about how to save Mother Earth," shared 11-year-old Nur Hanis bte Md Hardi, who took part in last year's JEA camp. "It was fun to learn about how we can save the environment through simple actions that we can do every day, such as taking short showers of not more than two minutes, and seeing new uses for recyclable materials. Once I came home from the camp, I shared these tips with my family and friends, and encourage them to put these into practice," said the Westwood Primary School student.

5 The craft side of being green is what Nur Hanis loves the most. "I make a lot of new things with recyclables, such as my own games from Ferrero Rocher boxes and egg cartons. It's also fun to create new games with recyclables with my friends and instructors at school."

Energy efficiency in the spotlight

6 With 2018 as the Year of Climate Action¹, the Green Schools @ South West curriculum will spotlight energy efficiency and climate change. To complete the Green Schools @ South West curriculum, students will need to organise outreach initiatives or create collaterals to raise awareness of energy conservation among their peers as a compulsory module.

Inculcating civic-mindedness from young

7 Another new element of the programme is the incorporation of the 'Box My Scraps' activity, which seeks to encourage tray return habits, in support of the national tray-return movement. Designed to spark students' interest and awareness in public eatery cleanliness, as well as help civic-mindedness take root from a young age, students will fold boxes from magazine papers and distribute them to eateries in the neighbourhood. These boxes will be used to collect food scraps and other rubbish, and encourage eatery patrons to be civic-minded and keep the environment clean. Students will also be encouraged to rove into the community to spread greater awareness of the tray-return movement.

8 As part of keeping the environment clean, the South West CDC will also be working with Public Hygiene Council to launch a Clean Pod in the district. Clean Pods are cleaning stations which stock tongs and other cleaning tools for residents' collaborative consumption. These Clean Pods will be located in public places, and can be used for individual cleaning, such as cleaning up after a barbeque, or for organised group cleaning, such as beach cleaning activities. A mobile version is also in the works, allowing the Clean Pods to rove to different locations with high foot traffic. Clean Pods will be introduced to the JEAs at the Green Schools @ South West 2018 Launch and Appointment Ceremony.

¹ <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/Singapore/Singapore-to-declare-2018-year-of-climate-action-9414346>; <https://www.mewr.gov.sg/about-climate-action-sg>

9 South West District Mayor Low Yen Ling said, “What we do today to fight climate change will influence the world we have tomorrow. The youths play a key role in complementing our community’s green efforts. By nurturing in them a zero waste lifestyle and the daily 4Rs of refusing, reducing, reusing and recycling, we inculcate in them green habits for a sustainable future. We hope that this programme will equip our youths with practical skills they can use to spearhead green initiatives in their own spheres of influence. They are our young green warriors who can lead the next generation against climate change.”

10 Details of the event are as follows:

Event : Green Schools @ South West 2018 Launch and Appointment Ceremony
Date : Tuesday, 13 March 2018
Time : 2.15 pm – 4.30 pm **(Media is invited at 2.45 pm)**
Venue : Hillgrove Secondary School
10 Bukit Batok Street 52, Singapore 659250
Guest of : Ms Low Yen Ling
Honour Mayor of South West District

11 We would like to invite your reporter and photographer/TV crew to the **Green Schools @ South West 2018 Launch and Appointment Ceremony**. Interviews can be arranged upon request. Please contact our media liaison officer for queries. We look forward to receiving you and your crew/photographer.

Media Liaison Officers

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About the South West Community Development Council (CDC)

The South West Community Development Council (CDC) was formed on 24 November 2001, with the mission to Assist the Needy, Bond the People and Connect the Community.

Through local help programmes, the South West CDC provides assistance to help the less fortunate in our community. The CDC also organises projects and programmes to promote community bonding and social cohesion. The South West CDC adopts the "Many Helping Hands" approach to encourage community ownership among residents, community partners and corporations to realise its vision of "Owning Your Community".

PROGRAMME

Time	Programme
2.15 pm	Arrival and Registration of Guests
3.00 pm	Arrival of Guest of Honour (GOH), Mayor Low Yen Ling
3.05 pm	Welcome Address by Mayor Low
3.15 pm	Presentation of Green Schools @ South West 2017 Awards by GOH
3.25 pm	Presentation of Green Schools @ South West Sustained Achievement Awards by GOH
3.35 pm	Appointment of Green Schools @ South West 2018 by GOH
3.40 pm	Tour of Junior Environmental Ambassadors Camp Activities
4.20 pm	Reception <i>*Media interview can be arranged upon request</i>
4.30 pm	Departure of Mayor Low