

[Embargoed till Thursday, 26 July 2018, 7.30 pm]

# Media Release



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25 July 2018

News Editor

## **SOUTH WEST CDC REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES WITH LAUNCH OF FUTURE-CENTRIC SOUTH WEST SPEAKER SERIES**

- **South West CDC to communicate, engage and rally wider community towards collective future with expert sharing on key challenges**
- **South West District reports higher participation rate in community programmes, including local assistance schemes, youth and corporate volunteerism and overall donations as it prepares for the future**

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament, will launch the inaugural South West Speaker Series aimed to engage the wider South West community in building a future-ready district together at the annual South West District Meeting (DM) 2018 come this Thursday, 26 July 2018.

### **Launch of South West Speaker Series**

2 Ongoing uncertainties and complexities in today's VUCA world makes it imperative for a community to stand in unison and build a collective future together. In response to the ever-changing environment, the South West Community Development Council (CDC) will be rolling out the South West

Speaker Series to stay ahead of changes and address different areas of concerns of the community. As part of the series, subject experts from different sectors will be invited to share their insights and perspectives on the five (5) South West Future Plan (SWFuture Plan) pillars, namely SGCares, SG Health, SkillsFuture, SG Secure and Sustainable Singapore, conceived in alignment with the national priorities to address evolving social needs and to future-proof our residents. These dialogue sessions will be used as a platform to consolidate community efforts in ensuring a sustainable future for the nation.

3 The CDC is honoured to bring Speaker Tan to launch and kick-start the South West Speaker Series with the spotlight on SG Cares. Mr Speaker has deep interest in social issues, and champions the SG Cares movement which was launched in 2017 to support the efforts in building a more caring and inclusive Singapore for all. The first-of-its-kind Speaker Series will be rolled out to corporates, schools, IHLs and social service organisations as part of the wider community.

### **Celebrating Key Achievements in FY2017/2018 – Journeying as One**

4 The CDC will be celebrating its coming-of-age 21<sup>st</sup> birthday with a look back on its efforts with corporate and community stakeholders to Assist the Needy, Bond the People and Connect the Community in the last FY. As we journey as one, the CDC remains committed to uplift our vulnerable with holistic and resident-centric assistance and build stronger communities.

#### **(i) Fast and Furious: Swift Response to Emerging Community Needs**

5 To ensure that emerging needs are addressed in an increasingly volatile society, the CDC has rolled out a total of 14 new and enhanced initiatives the past year, uplifting more than 14,000 lives in the South West District throughout their journey in life. An example is the Huggies Singapore Diaper Bank @ South West, the first diaper bank in Singapore, to provide additional support for vulnerable families in the district. As part of the programme, a million diapers will

be given away to 3,000 families in the district, over three (3) years, to defray their parenting cost.

6 In response to the evolving economic landscape, the CDC rolled out a series of SkillsFuture initiatives in the district, including SkillsFuture Advice workshops and SkillsFuture Advice & Career Roadshows, to future-proof our residents through reskilling and upskilling. More than 160 workshops and roadshows were conducted over the past year.

7 The CDC has also put in place resources to ensure current caregiving needs are met through Caregiving @ South West, a three-pronged approach conceived to Celebrate, Support and Empower caregivers in the district in response to emerging needs from an ageing population. A series of community-based roadshows were rolled out to raise awareness of caregivers and debunk myths related to caregiving.

#### (ii) Shifting Trends in Volunteerism

8 Promoting a culture of volunteerism and philanthropy within the district has always been a mainstay of the CDC. The past year saw a major shift in volunteering trends; with more focus on direct assistance in comparison to previous years. FY2017/2018 saw an unprecedented close to 50% increase in first-time corporate volunteers stepping up for the community and an increase of number of volunteers by 40%. In addition, in-kind donations have also increased by 30% to \$113,000. These trends are good indicators of how the community is working together in contributing directly and meaningfully to the vulnerable in the district, underscoring our 'Many Helping Hands' approach.

#### (iii) Mix and Match: Promoting Skills-Based Volunteerism in the District

9 Given shifting volunteerism trends, skills-based volunteerism has become critical in ensuring mutually beneficial outcomes that meet both the needs of volunteers and the community. The CDC has placed greater focus in identifying community needs and to match volunteers based on their skills and expertise.

HP Inc. Singapore and CrimsonLogic Pte Ltd are examples of how corporate volunteers have pooled their skills and time to help seniors in the district keep up with emerging digital trends such as usage of mobile applications and cashless payments through workshops and fun activities.

10 “In today’s fast changing climate, strong communities form an even more important part of our shared wellbeing and sense of security. Through the launch of the new Speaker Series, South West CDC hopes to communicate, engage and connect residents to our collective future. With an aware, active and caring citizenry, we can tackle evolving needs and collectively create the society we wish to have.” says Mayor Low.

11 Details of the event are as follows:

Event : South West District Meeting 2018  
Date : Thursday, 26 July 2018  
Time : 7.00 pm – 9.30 pm (**Media is invited at 6.00 pm**)  
Venue : Jurong Town Hall, Auditorium  
9 Jurong Town Hall Road  
Singapore 609431  
Guest of : Mr Tan Chuan-Jin  
Honour : Speaker of Parliament  
Host : Ms Low Yen Ling  
Mayor of South West District

12 We would like to invite your reporter and photographer/TV crew to the **South West District Meeting 2018**. Interviews will be arranged prior to commencement of the event. Please contact our media liaison officer for queries. We look forward to receiving you and your crew/photographer.

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## Media Liaison Officer

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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	Administrative Programme
6.00 pm	Media is invited
6.20 pm	Arrival of Mayor Low Yen Ling <i>*Doorstop interview will be arranged</i>
7.00 pm	Arrive of Guest of Honour
7.30 pm	Commencement of South West District Meeting 2018
7.35 pm	Opening Act: Reading "A Bilingual Mouse" Together @ South West
7.45 pm	Presentation of South West CDC Report FY2017/2018
8.05 pm	Speech by Mayor
8.25 pm	Launch of South West Speaker Series
8.35 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> South West Speaker Series
8.55 pm	Commencement of South West Conversation

<b>Time</b>	<b>Administrative Programme</b>
9.30 pm	End of Programme