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Media Release



19 April 2019

News Editor

BEYOND CLASSROOMS – SEEDING LEARNING AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN GREEN SPACES @ SOUTH WEST

- **300 jobs across the landscaping industry e.g. gardeners, landscape technicians and landscape supervisors for South West residents**
- **New partnership between LIAS and the South West CDC to enhance learning opportunities for volunteers and residents**
- **Hands-on activities and mini competitions related to landscaping and the green sector to attract the wider community**

As part of enriching and broadening horizons for residents in the South West District, the South West Community Development Council (CDC) will be collaborating with the Landscape Industry Association Singapore (LIAS) to bring learning and job opportunities in the environmental sector to residents.

2 Residents will be able to participate in fun games, observe the mini competitions, as well as explore close to 300 job opportunities in the environmental sector at Green Thumbs 2019, a biennial event organised by LIAS and supported by the South West CDC, National Parks Board, SkillsFuture Singapore, Workforce Singapore, Workplace Safety and Health Council, Employment and Employability Institute and various tertiary institutions and trade unions. This is the 8th edition of Green Thumbs 2019 to engage the community on landscaping.

3 Through the series of games and mini competitions, such as competitions on topiary pruning, plant display and tree climbing, LIAS seeks to raise awareness of landscaping in the wider community through fun and hands-on interaction, especially the youth. To engage youth and educate them about an enriching and exciting career in the landscaping industry, the carnival activities have been designed with youth in mind and students from tertiary institutions have been invited to participate in the competitions. These institutions include the Polytechnics, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, ITE College East and Association for Persons with Special Needs Tanglin School.

4 Green Thumbs 2019 will be part of a new partnership between the South West CDC and LIAS to enrich offerings for community gardeners and residents under Green Spaces @ South West. These include working with LIAS to explore and expand more venue options for school tours and learning journeys that the South West CDC organises for youth and residents to broaden their knowledge and horizons, as well as for volunteer enrichment such as garden networking sessions.

5 Mayor of South West District Ms Low Yen Ling says, “Sustainability is a key priority for the South West District. Our partnership with LIAS aims to bring job opportunities in the environmental sector to the residents, as well as offer them the chance for hands-on learning about plants, greenery and landscaping. Besides going green, residents can consider careers in the landscape industry and create a visible impact on our environment.”

6 Ms. Jacqueline Allan, the First Vice Chairman of LIAS, says, “Green Thumbs celebrates the development journey of the landscape industry. We wish to involve the youth just as we have embraced the silver community. We want to share the sustainable practices our industry has undertaken to produce the beautiful greenery that we enjoy today in Singapore. Everyone has an opportunity to play this role! No matter the age! We are proud to partner South West CDC to bring landscaping into the community.”

7 Green Spaces @ South West is an initiative to transform community gardens into green spaces with Life, Learn and Love elements. The partnership with LIAS will

enrich the offerings under the 'Learn' pillar, which seeks to empower and equip residents with relevant and new knowledge.

8 Details of the event are as follows:

Event: **Green Thumbs 2019**
Date: Sunday, 21 April 2019
Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm (**Media is invited at 1.45 pm**)
Venue: Choa Chu Kang Park
Choa Chu Kang Drive
Singapore 688845
Guest of: Ms Low Yen Ling
Honour Mayor of South West District

9 We would like to invite your reporter and photographer/TV crew to **Green Thumbs 2019**. 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 South West 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
2.00 pm	Arrival of Guest of Honour Ms Low Yen Ling Mayor of South West District
2.05 pm	Tour of Exhibition Booths at Green Thumbs 2019
2.50 pm	Viewing of Job Opportunities
3.05 pm	Departure of Mayor