

HAPPY HANDS

Building An Endearing Home



HDB Senior Heartland
Ambassador Mr Chong Teng Kok
on sharing stories with a smile

Get creative in redesigning
public spaces through URA's Our
Favourite Place programme

Find out how AVA and animal
welfare partners collaborate to
rehome adoptable animals



It's **Not Just Us**
Living Here

N. Sivasothi on mobilising communities
to safeguard our natural heritage.



Mr N. Sivasothi
Chairperson, Friends of Chestnut Nature Park Community
Member, Otter Working Group

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SHARE A STORY

Share with us a story today! We would love to hear your inspiring stories and personal journeys about volunteering with the MND Family. Whether it is in the form of an article, an illustration or a photograph, we welcome your contributions. Do drop us a note at happyhands@mnd.gov.sg!

FEEDBACK

Tell us how we are doing! Did we meet your expectations? Do you have suggestions that could help us make this newsletter interesting and relevant to you? Let us know via happyhands@mnd.gov.sg!



Image: National Parks Board

Eight-year-old Pulau Ubin volunteer Yong Zhe Dian showing Chairman of the MND Family Volunteer and Alumni Network, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development Desmond Lee, and Grassroots Adviser for East Coast GRC (Siglap) Dr Maliki Osman around Teck Seng's Place. Conserved as a model of a Chinese kampung house, it was unveiled during the event to celebrate Ubin's heritage on 3 Dec 2016.

Dear Friends of the MND Family,

Happy New Year! 2017 will be an exciting year as we explore even more opportunities to work with you – our volunteers and partners, citizens and communities – on causes that we all care about.

Every year, we try to create meaningful new programmes and improve and expand existing ones so that everyone can get involved in various areas of our work. Last year, we started the *Friends of the Parks* communities for Chestnut Nature Park, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, our Park Connector Network and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. They are driven by dedicated members of the community who come together to find ways for everyone to enjoy our green spaces in harmony with nature and other users. We will continue to grow the *Friends of the Parks* community so that more passionate people can join us as stewards of our green spaces.

I am inspired by our many volunteers who show that, with passion, it is never too early or too late to get involved. Recently, I met Zhe Dian – one of our youngest volunteers at just eight years old – who led us on a guided tour of a conserved model of a *kampung* house on Ubin. Young volunteers like Zhe Dian fill us with hope that our future generations will equally appreciate and cherish the things that we hold dear. Mr Chong Teng Kok, who is featured in this issue, is a 64-year-old with a heart and talent for sharing stories. As a Senior Heartland Ambassador with HDB, Mr Chong shares with residents about green and gracious living in the heartlands. Many working professionals too have come up with creative ways to bring communities together, for example, by coming together to organise street closures and host vibrant community events with support from URA's *Streets for People* programme.

So have a look around your own neighbourhoods, schools, and work places. If there is a change you would like to make for your community, we want to help you bring your ideas to life. I look forward to working with more of you on many meaningful projects – let's gear up for a busy year ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Desmond Lee
Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development
Chairman of the MND Family Volunteer and Alumni Network

SPECIAL FEATURE

MND Huddle 2016

50 volunteers and alumni were recognised for their dedicated service and outstanding contributions to the MND Family at the annual MND Huddle appreciation event held on 10 November 2016 at the Gardens by the Bay, Flower Field Hall.

MND Awards Presentation Ceremony

Among the recipients of the MND Medallion for Distinguished Service were Chairpersons of MND Family agencies who had stepped down in the past year. They include former AVA Chairman Mr Koh Soo Keong, former BCA Chairman Mr Quek See Tiat, founding President of CEA Mr Greg Seow, former HDB Chairman Mr James Koh Cher Siang and Ms Rita Soh, former President of the Board of Architects.

Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong also presented the first ever MND Dedicated Service Award for 30 years of service within the MND cluster to Dr Liu Thai-Ker. The founding Chairman of MND's Centre for Liveable Cities Advisory Board, Dr Liu is recognised as one of Singapore's most illustrious urban pioneers.

In his [opening remarks](#), Minister Lawrence Wong thanked all MND Family volunteers and partners for their work with MND agencies in driving meaningful projects throughout the year.

Recognising our Valued Volunteers and Partners

Much like MND Family agencies' work, the contributions of MND Family volunteers and partners span across a wide range of areas. They are involved in diverse areas of MND's work, from serving on MND agencies' boards, committees and advisory panels to supporting our community programmes.

Inspiring stories of five passionate MND Family volunteers and partners were featured in this year's appreciation



Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong welcoming MND Huddle guests and thanking all volunteers and partners for their contributions to the MND Family.



Dr Liu Thai-Ker, founding Chairman of the Centre for Liveable Cities Advisory Board, received the MND Dedicated Service Award from Minister Lawrence Wong for 30 years of sterling service within the MND cluster.

MND Huddle guests enjoying an exclusive guided tour and preview of the Merry Medley Christmas display in the Gardens by the Bay Flower Dome conservatory.



Minister Lawrence Wong greeting MND Huddle guests.

Enjoying musical performances by homegrown talents from the *Play It Forward Singapore* public piano movement.



video "[What change will you make?](#)", which showcases how individual acts and contributions can go a long way towards helping to build a more vibrant, green and endearing home in Singapore.

Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed violin and piano performances by local musicians from [Play It Forward Singapore](#), a public piano movement initiated by a group of passionate local artists and designers to transform old, unwanted pianos into art pieces and place them in public spaces for everyone to enjoy. *Play It Forward*

Singapore is supported by URA's [Our Favourite Place](#) programme, which supports ground-up initiatives that foster community interactions and enliven public spaces.

Supporting our local industry partners

The dinner menu featured ingredients sourced from some of MND's partners in the local farming industry. These included *nai bai* and lemongrass from [Quan Fa Organic Marketing](#), seabass from [The Fish Farmer](#), eggs from [N & N Egg Farm](#) and aloe vera from [Kin Yan Agrotech](#).



Local produce featured in the evening's menu included *nai bai* from Quan Fa Organic Marketing.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

It's Not Just Us Living Here

Environmentalist and long-time NParks volunteer N. Sivasothi mobilises communities to safeguard our natural heritage.



“
As our society matures, there should be more mechanisms for citizens to engage on issues that we care about.
”
N. Sivasothi
Chairperson, Friends of Chestnut Nature Park

When he is not busy guiding young environmentalists as a Biological Sciences senior lecturer with the National University of Singapore (NUS), N. Sivasothi's many passions include cycling around Singapore, taking action to safeguard our natural environment and keeping tabs on our population of otters and other mammals. Siva regularly blogs about his various interests at otterman.wordpress.com. A founding member of the Festival of Biodiversity, organised with the National Parks Board (NParks) and other members of the Biodiversity Roundtable, Siva also coordinates the 'NUS Toddycats!' volunteer group of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (LKCNHM). Last year, he was appointed chairperson of the Friends of Chestnut Nature Park Community as part of a new initiative that aims to engender community stewardship of our green spaces.

How did you first get interested in nature and how did you start out being a nature advocate?

I was interested in nature even as a child. There weren't many local guidebooks available then, so I read about international wildlife from the books on hand and by observing the environment around me including, during my Army days, the jungle terrain!

Advocating for nature came naturally as I worked on mangrove and otter research as a student at NUS. In 1996, some former postgraduate students from the Department of Zoology and I got together to set up The Habitat Group. We led groups of students and members of the public to learn about our rich nature areas. When I joined the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research (RMBR, now LKCNHM) in 1999, I evolved The Habitat Group into the NUS Toddycats! and mobilised undergraduate volunteers to drive year-round activities to raise awareness and take action on biodiversity conservation. I also started a website (habitatnews.nus.edu.sg) to share nature news and upcoming nature activities.

Tell us about your experience leading research efforts and raising awareness about the ecological significance of Chek Jawa in 2001.

In early 2001, as reclamation plans for Chek Jawa were announced, NParks approached the RMBR about conducting salvage collections for the area. As such operations are usually conducted as a last resort to leave at least a scientific memory of a threatened ecosystem, it was with an air of resignation at the impending loss that we spent the next few months documenting what we could and sharing

the findings with NParks. Meanwhile, we launched RMBR's Public Gallery in June. Deciding to share more than just specimens from Chek Jawa, we began conducting guided walks for members of the public there. We saw people's interest and fascination grow through the walks and amplified through media coverage and online photo galleries, and we shared this information with the Ministry of National Development. Finally at the end of 2001, during a meeting with then-Minister for National Development Mah Bow Tan, we discovered that Chek Jawa had been granted a reprieve! The Chek Jawa Working Group was then set up and worked for five years with NParks culminating in the launch of the public boardwalk there.

Since then, has the way that citizens and agencies engage on nature issues evolved?

In the past, people were used to the government rolling out policies and programmes without broad consultation. Chek Jawa proved to be a turning point in shifting mindsets about citizen participation and our ability to weigh in on issues. Over the years I think the government realised the need to consult the public a lot more and collaborate with more stakeholders than in the past.



Image: International Coastal Cleanup Singapore

Siva (leftmost) leads volunteers in clearing up litter at mangroves and coasts as national coordinator of the International Coastal Cleanup Singapore since 2001.



Siva (rightmost) with Senior Minister of State Desmond Lee (leftmost) and Mayor Dr Teo Ho Pin (centre) on the hiking trail at Chestnut Nature Park (South) during the opening of the park on 2 April 2016.

Citizens are also increasingly interested in being actively involved in decision-making processes. As our society matures, there should be more mechanisms for citizens to engage on issues that we care about.

You are one of the founders of the Festival of Biodiversity, co-organised by NParks and the Biodiversity Roundtable. How did this come about?

I set up the Biodiversity Roundtable in 2011 with Linda Goh of NParks' National Biodiversity Centre after suggesting the idea at the Biodiversity of Singapore Symposium, as a platform was needed for regular private dialogues between members of the biodiversity community and NParks. We also co-organise a major annual public event, the Festival of Biodiversity, to showcase Singapore's rich natural heritage and conservation efforts.

As chairperson of the Friends of Chestnut Nature Park Community, what is your vision for the park?

Friends of the Parks started as a way to build camaraderie and understanding among members of the park community with different, perhaps competing, interests. By coming together to find a balance among various interests, we are better able to understand other members' concerns. The northern portion of [Chestnut Nature Park](#) was opened on 25 Feb 2017, bringing it to its full size of 81 hectares. I hope the park will fulfil its primary purpose as a green buffer to protect the Central Catchment Nature

Reserve, and at the same time serve as a recreational space enjoyed by nature lovers, hikers and mountain bikers alike.

Tell us more about some of your other partnerships with NParks.

I have been involved in various working groups with NParks. The working groups are great for bringing together interested parties with different perspectives and expertise to develop and implement strategies for specific conservation issues. For example, the Singapore Freshwater Crab Working Group was set up after research by Daniel Ng, an NUS student at that time, highlighted declining populations of the endemic species. Last year, supported by research by primatologist Andie Ang, a working group was convened for the critically endangered native Raffles' Banded Langur. The Otter Working Group, which started as an informal group of otter watchers, was also formalised last year for members to better coordinate efforts in responding to otter-related issues.

Our smooth-coated otters have captured the public imagination in recent years. How should we co-exist with otters and other wildlife in our urban environment?

When then-Minister for National Development Khaw Boon Wan announced the sighting of a pair of otters that had made their way from Johor to Gardens by the Bay, he asked visitors to appreciate and watch them from a

distance. This remains the principle that should be adopted for encounters with otters and any other wildlife — if the animal needs to adjust itself in response to your presence, it means that you are too close.

Would you consider yourself a pragmatist or an idealist?

Being an idealist is an important source of motivation to keep working. And although I have had to be pragmatic in accepting the fact that much of our nature areas are lost and will not return, we are fortunate at least that green and blue areas are an integral part of our urban planning, where core nature areas are identified and conferred protection. So while we work together to protect our core biodiversity areas, we also try to recover areas that have experienced degradation, through habitat restoration and rehabilitation initiatives.

How can Singaporeans get actively involved in caring for nature?

The first step is to experience nature yourself. Explore your neighbourhood and its parks. Learn from communities online by following Facebook pages run by nature groups such as the [Nature Society \(Singapore\)](#), where members regularly share news and information on ethics and techniques for interacting with nature. And come visit us to learn more at the Festival of Biodiversity!

This year's Festival of Biodiversity will be held on 27 and 28 May 2017. For more information, visit www.nparks.gov.sg/festivalofbiodiversity

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Best smile forward for gracious heartland living

Retired long-serving police officer Mr Chong Teng Kok, 64 years old, now helps to build friendly and resilient neighbourhoods as an HDB Senior Heartland Ambassador.



Image: Housing & Development Board

Mr Chong (rightmost) bringing students from Victoria Junior College and seniors from GoodLife! Seniors Activity Centre on a guided tour of Punggol Town.

How did you first get involved in HDB's Heartland Ambassador Programme for Seniors?

I first came across a talk conducted by HDB three years ago which showcased vibrant heartland living. It also highlighted glimpses of the past, which inspired me to sign up as a volunteer under the HDB Heartland Ambassador Programme for Seniors so that I can share such stories with others as well.

Personally, what is the best part of heartland living for you?

Good and friendly neighbours. Even simple acts of kindness like greeting one another along the corridors or helping to keep an eye

on your neighbour's property when they are away can go a long way towards creating a more pleasant neighbourhood.

What motivates you as a Senior Heartland Ambassador?

After many of our formerly rural areas were transformed into denser modern living environments to meet the increasing demand for housing units, most of our younger generation lost the chance to experience *kampung* life.

From catching spiders in the bushes to fishing in the streams, catching crabs during low tide and climbing the plentiful fruit trees to reach rambutans, guava, mangoes,

coconuts and more, our childhood days were simple but filled with joy. I think it is good to share stories about life in the past so that young Singaporeans can better appreciate what we have today.

What do you hope to inspire in participants?

I hope that after hearing about my personal experiences with good and friendly neighbours, participants will be inspired to think about how they can be more gracious neighbours too. For example, if your neighbour's children go to the same school as yours, you could suggest a car pooling arrangement.

Group photo of Senior Heartland Ambassadors with HDB staff during an appreciation gathering at HDB Hub.



Mr Chong and other Volunteer Leaders from MND Family agencies during a learning journey to multiple award-winning HDB project The Pinnacle@Duxton as part of the MND Family Volunteer Leadership Seminar in July 2016.

What often surprises participants to learn during the Punggol Town Tour?

Many are surprised to learn about Punggol's past. One of Singapore's oldest settlements, Punggol used to be filled with many types of fruit trees, birds and reptiles. Most people are also not aware that the old Kangkar fishing port and market, which was moved to Punggol in 1984, was a key source of livelihood for many villagers and fish mongers in Singapore.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

Being a Senior Heartland Ambassador has been a learning experience for me. I learnt that, compared to the past when the HDB focused on rapid construction of basic housing units, new developments these days such as Treelodge@Punggol incorporate eco-features that are environmentally sustainable like rain water harvesting and energy-saving lighting. It has been amazing to learn how far we have come in our public housing journey!

Heartland Ambassador Programme for Seniors

If you are 55 years old and above, enjoy sharing your stories and interacting with people, we would love to hear from you! Email us at hdb_community_partnerships@hdb.gov.sg. Training will be provided for all Senior Heartland Ambassadors.



PROGRAMME (URA)

Creative hacks for public spaces

URA's Our Favourite Place programme makes it easy to get involved in redesigning our shared spaces.

Creative hacks to public spaces are emerging, whether these are re-purposing void deck spaces, the patch of grass opposite our homes or a side alley.

And more are doing it, with the help of active groups like Participate in Design and COLOURS, as well as support from URA's Our Favourite Place programme.

Co-designing the public space

Founders of Participate in Design, Jan Lim and Mizah Rahman, say involving residents in determining the types of public spaces they want can throw up new ideas. The non-profit group working to empower citizens in co-designing community spaces did something different for Tampines Changkat's Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in 2015 as then Member of Parliament Irene Ng wanted to involve her residents more.

Instead of just surveying residents and checking off key facilities and spaces as part of upgrading the public housing estate, the team got residents to tour their neighbourhood, mapping out existing issues and drawing up proposals themselves. And they came up with a whole host of upgrading ideas, including turning part of their park into a nature playground for kids.

Visit the Participate in Design website (participateindesign.org) to find out more about what they do.



For Tampines Changkat's Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in 2015, residents got involved in co-designing their community spaces.

Images: Participate in Design

“

If we had started from the survey, unless you had it written down, 'Park play with nature', that would not have come up because there was no room for things that did not belong to the standard, such as link ways and pavilions ... But because we had a workshop [with the residents], we had room for innovative ideas.

Jan Lim
Co-founder, Participate in Design

”



Images: Participate in Design

Founders of Participate in Design Jan (leftmost in the image on the left) and Mizah (centre in the image on the right) work with residents on community design projects.



Images: Urban Redevelopment Authority

NTUC Health's SilverCOVE Senior Wellness Centre was designed by COLOURS together with Marsiling Rise seniors, who came up with designs and solutions for what they would like to have in the senior activity centre.

Instilling a greater sense of place

Founders of Collectively Ours (COLOURS), Chong Keng Hua and Kang Fong Ing, who are currently assistant professor and adjunct assistant professor respectively at the Singapore University of Technology and Design, see the co-design process as a way for residents to find new meaning in ordinary common spaces around them.



Images: Urban Redevelopment Authority

Keng Hua (left) and Fong Ing (right) hope to raise the community's sense of ownership for shared spaces through co-design.

For one of their projects, the team worked with senior residents in Marsiling Rise to design NTUC Health's SilverCOVE Senior Wellness Centre. Although there was no space for a full-scale garden, the residents longed to have a garden in the centre, so the team found a way to transform a 40-centimetres wide window ledge into a unique gardening wall of assorted plants.

Everyone can play a part

Says Keng Hua, "A lot of times we feel that the responsibility lies with whoever

has the authority. That probably was right in the past because we needed to move very fast and solve a lot of urgent issues. Today, "responsibility" needs to be redefined from having the "power to respond" to the "ability to respond", and every one of us can play a part in designing our spaces."

On top of producing creative hacks for public spaces, community participatory design efforts show that working together builds

communities, helps people realise the complexity of issues, and see from the perspective of others.

Visit the COLOURS website (col-ours.com) to find out more about their work.

This is an abridged version of an article originally published in Going Places Singapore at goingplacessingapore.sg/project/2016/PublicSpaces.aspx. For more stories about rediscovering our city, visit goingplacessingapore.sg

Our Favourite Place Programme

The Urban Redevelopment Authority's Our Favourite Place programme supports projects initiated and implemented by the community to enliven public spaces across Singapore to build community interactions and create shared memories. Share with us your ideas on activating public spaces in your neighbourhood and apply for support to implement them at www.ourfaveplace.sg

PARTNERSHIP (AVA)

Wanted: Fur-ever Homes

AVA and animal welfare partners continue collaborative efforts to rehome adoptable animals and promote responsible pet ownership.

For the past five years, animal welfare groups have been working together with various agencies such as MND, AVA and HDB on rehoming projects, public education on animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.



Image: Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority

Kevin Neo from Exclusively Mongrels with Ollie, who has been rehomed under Project ADORE.

Second chances for Singapore Specials

In 2011, an initiative was mooted by the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Action for Singapore Dogs (ASD) to explore rehoming of medium-sized local crossbreeds, affectionately termed Singapore Specials, with owners residing in HDB flats. Project ADORE (ADOPTION and REHOMING of dogs) was launched as a pilot project in collaboration with MND, AVA and HDB in 2012. Prior to that, dog breeds permitted in HDB homes included only small-sized dogs. Project ADORE has since been formalised into a permanent programme and, with more partners - Save Our Street Dogs (SOSD), Exclusively Mongrels and Causes for Animals Singapore - on board, about 500 dogs have been successfully rehomed from shelters to HDB flats under this scheme.

To determine the suitability of the dog, adopter and home environment, potential adopters first meet with adoption counsellors from animal welfare groups and are required to pass a home assessment test.

With great companionship comes great responsibility

Besides collaborating on rehoming projects, AVA and animal welfare groups also work together to promote greater responsible pet ownership in Singapore. Most animals that are taken in by animal welfare groups have been abandoned or were unwanted by their owners. In some cases, owners were unable to continue caring for their pets after the litter had expanded beyond a manageable size. To prevent unwanted breeding, pet owners are encouraged to sterilise their pets. Most importantly, anyone considering getting a pet should understand that it entails a lifelong commitment of time, resources and care.

Pet abandonment is considered an act of animal cruelty and should never be an option. Neither should pets be released into parks, ponds, nature areas and reservoirs as the introduction of non-native species disrupts the delicate ecological balance of these environments. Contrary to the misconception about releasing animals into the wild to “free” them, domesticated animals often lack the instincts or skills to fend for themselves and are unlikely to survive in unfamiliar environments.

AVA, Save Our Street Dogs, People’s Association and grassroots leaders on a community walkabout in Punggol in Jul 2016 to create public awareness on stray dog encounters.



Image: Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority



(From top left, clockwise) Veterinarians Dr Jeffrey Ling, Dr Grace Heng, Dr Paul Mitchell and Dr Chong Lip Ren volunteering at AVA's Free Pet Health Check at Punggol Waterway Point in Dec 2016 as part of an initiative to inculcate the importance of routine veterinary care for pets and educate pet owners on preventative pet care.

Compassion for pets, and neighbours too

Pet owners are responsible for ensuring that their pets are not a nuisance to others. Noise and cleanliness are common complaints from neighbours. These can be avoided by not letting pets wander outdoors, keeping the pet areas and environment clean, and ensuring that pets receive adequate attention and training to prevent them from making excessive noise.

For more tips on responsible pet ownership, visit www.petsforlife.com.sg

If you are considering adopting a pet, get in touch with AVA's animal welfare partners:

- [Agency for Animal Welfare](#)
- [Animal Lovers League](#)
- [Action for Singapore Dogs](#)
- [Cat Welfare Society](#)
- [Causes for Animals Singapore](#)
- [Exclusively Mongrels](#)
- [House Rabbit Society of Singapore](#)
- [Humane Society \(Singapore\)](#)
- [MercyLight Adoption](#)
- [Noah's Ark CARES](#)
- [Purely Adoptions](#)
- [Save Our Street Dogs](#)
- [Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#)
- [Voices for Animals](#)



Image: Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority

AVA's Chief Executive Officer Tan Poh Hong (5th from right) hosting an appreciation lunch in Oct 2016 for animal welfare partners to celebrate five years of projects to rehome adoptable animals and promote responsible pet ownership.

IN THE NEWS



Image: National Council of Social Service

Minister for Social and Family Development Tan Chuan-Jin (centre) at the soft launch of the SG Cares national movement, held in conjunction with Giving Week 2016.

Soft launch of SG Cares

To support and inspire more Singaporeans to care for one another, the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre and National Council of Social Service initiated the SG Cares national movement on 30 November 2016, in conjunction with Giving Week 2016. The movement came about after the SGfuture engagement sessions, held from November 2015 to July 2016. SG Cares aims to empower the caring instinct in Singaporeans and bring together people and organisations who wish to make a difference. It will be launched officially this year and start with efforts focused on social causes. Join the movement to foster a more caring, compassionate and inclusive society at:

www.sg/SingaporeCares



Image: Building and Construction Authority

Senior Minister of State Desmond Lee (centre) presented the top prize for the Climate Innovation Challenge 2016 to (from left to right) Justin Soh, Pang Li Yuan, Tan Yuan Xia and Muhammad Danial Israwi.

Leveraging technology for green solutions

Singapore's first climate-focused hackathon, the Climate Innovation Challenge jointly organised by BCA, JTC Corporation and the National Climate Change Secretariat, was held from 12 to 14 August 2016. 31 teams of 137 participants from 13 to 63 years of age brainstormed and developed ways to leverage data and technology for enhancing sustainability in non-residential buildings and outdoor spaces. The top prize went to a team of youth who created a smart socket with built-in radio-frequency identification technology that can track individual users' electricity consumption through their daily activities and shape energy-saving habits in the office environment. Find out more about the Challenge at: youtu.be/LivHZILRAYA



Image: National Parks Board

Han Jok Kwang (pictured) is a member of the Active Mobility Advisory Panel whose recommendations on cycling and the use of personal mobility devices are put into effect through the Active Mobility Bill.

Paving the way for safe and harmonious path-sharing

Recommendations submitted by the 14-member Active Mobility Advisory Panel to facilitate safe and harmonious sharing of paths have been put into effect by the passing of the Active Mobility Bill on 10 January 2017. This makes it legal for cyclists and other personal mobility device (PMD) users to share footpaths with pedestrians. It also spells out the rules governing the use of PMDs and introduces stiffer penalties against errant users. Besides regulations, Panel member and avid cyclist Han Jok Kwang emphasised that "cultural norms and habits will still need to change. All of us should learn to share common spaces and to be more considerate, more gracious and safety-conscious." For more details on the Active Mobility Bill, please see LTA's factsheet at: <http://bit.ly/2kfljsj>

EVENTS & CONTESTS

My Ideas for Public Spaces Competition 2017: Pop-Ups

Have an idea for a pop-up project that can engage, delight and bring public spaces to life?

Submit your ideas to us! The best ideas stand to win \$1,000 each and winners may be invited to work with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) to implement the ideas for our public spaces.

Visit www.ourfaveplace.sg for more details. Submissions close on 12 April 2017.



Image: Urban Redevelopment Authority

An idea submitted in a previous edition of the competition, the colourful “umbrella trees” at Hindoo Road in Little India provide shade and inject life into a previously unused public space.

Pet Expo 2017

14 – 16 April 2017
11am to 8pm
Singapore Expo Hall 7

\$5 for a day pass; \$12 for a 3-day pass
Free entry for children below 12 years old
Pets are welcome

Pet owners and animal lovers can look forward to three days of exhibitions, seminars, competitions and adoption drives at Singapore’s largest pet-educational fair, Pet Expo 2017.

Join the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) to learn more about responsible pet ownership and meet the animals that will be up for adoption. AVA and animal welfare partners will also be back with Season 3 of Pawfect Match, a speed-dating adoption drive for dogs and potential adopters!

For more information and to buy tickets, visit <https://petexposg.com/>



Images: Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority

Urban Planning Festival 2017

Specially curated for secondary school and pre-university students, the Urban Planning Festival 2017 will be held in March and April 2017 at The URA Centre. It will include exhibitions, talks, workshops and tours to enrich students with in-depth planning knowledge, while providing a platform for youths to showcase their talent and vision of future Singapore.

For updates, visit: www.facebook.com/CUBEStudentWorkshop

EXHIBITIONS

(14 March to 7 April 2017)

CUBE

CHALLENGE FOR THE 2016
URBAN & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

CUBE Workshop 2016
Buona Vista Node

Exhibition showcase of projects on urban planning for Buona Vista Node by our budding Architects and Planners.

NEW

My Urban Backyard Stories:

A 'Pasar Malam' of Urban Visioning Projects collected from schools.

Exhibition showcase of a series of urban planning and design exploration projects, showing their dream and visions for a sustainable Singapore.

NEW

Documenting Serangoon Road
(13 March to 29 April 2017)

A photography project that ran over the course of a year, participating students put together this showcase of their best works in capturing the colour and beauty of this historic district.

TALKS



Young Planners' Forum
(22 March 2017, 1.30-3.30pm)

An interactive and engaging session with a URA planner, students will be able to exchange ideas on planning issues.

NEW

A Career in
Urban Planning and Design
(28 March 2017, 4-5.30pm)

A holistic career opportunity talk about the Urban Planning industry through a sharing session with URA Planner/Architect and networking session with related industry people (NUS & SUTD Design courses).

For more MND Family News:



Brought to you by:

