

HAPPY HANDS

Building An Endearing Home

A lifetime of blooming passion

For over 60 years
Mr Syed Yusof Alsagoff has
been sharing his expertise with
the Singapore Botanic Gardens

Mr Syed Yusof Alsagoff
Long-serving volunteer, Singapore Botanic Gardens



Volunteer leader Deborah Lim
on forging connections between
youth and the elderly

Discover how volunteers
transformed a neighbourhood
street into a community festival

Find out how AVA collaborates
with students and businesses to
support homegrown produce

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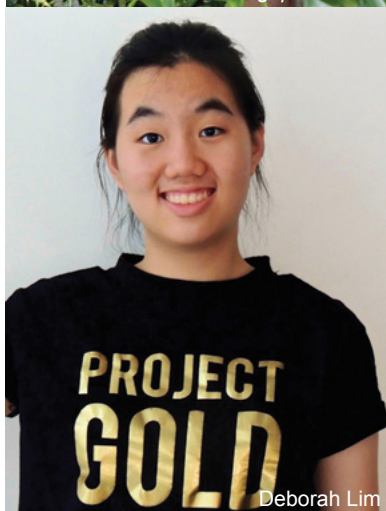


Cover Image of Mr Syed Yusof Alsagoff by Lianhe Zaobao
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A friend in-deed



Deborah Lim



Image: Urban Redevelopment Authority

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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

President Tony Tan and Chairman of the MND Family Volunteer and Alumni Network, Senior Minister of State for National Development Mr Desmond Lee, viewing live specimens of marine biodiversity with a Seashore Ambassador at the launch of the Sisters' Island Marine Park Public Gallery on 15 July 2015.

Dear Friends of the MND Family,

What an eventful year it has been! Individuals, communities, indeed the entire nation came together to commemorate Singapore's Golden Jubilee in a whole variety of creative ways. From multimedia projects documenting the many facets of our history and heritage, to community service initiatives that look out for those in need and heart-warming tributes to our Pioneer Generation, Singaporeans from all walks of life found ways to express their love and pride in Singapore as well as honour our pioneers who made it all possible.

The MND Family joined in the celebrations too. We launched the crowd-sourcing SG Heart Map project to map out 50 special places that Singaporeans hold dear. The new Jubilee Bridge at Marina Bay was opened for public access early to facilitate the lining up of many people who came to bid their final farewells to our late founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew. The largest scale Tree Planting event to date is being held island-wide over three months to commemorate our greening legacy and involve the community in creating our green spaces alongside the government. The MND Family also came together for the first time to organise a roving exhibition, "50 Years of Transforming Our City, Our Home", to showcase the work of our pioneering officers in building this city that we are proud to call home.

For me, some especially memorable moments of 2015 include the inscription of our very first UNESCO World Heritage Site - the Singapore Botanic Gardens - as well as the honour of having President Tony Tan officiate the opening of the Sisters' Islands Marine Park Public Gallery at Singapore's very first marine park dedicated to research, education and conservation of our rich native marine biodiversity. Truly a labour of love for all involved, our volunteers, partners and public officers came together with a shared vision to conserve our heritage and share it with the world.

As SG50 comes to a close, I believe the can-do spirit and camaraderie shown by Singaporeans in this milestone year is here to stay. Even as we look back at all we have achieved together over the past fifty years, let us also look forward to many more years of working closely together with one another to continue making Singapore an endearing home for all.

Yours sincerely,

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

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A lifetime of blooming passion

Mr Syed Yusof Alsagoff, 80, has been volunteering with the Singapore Botanic Gardens since the 1950s and continues to contribute his expertise in orchid breeding till today.



© Singapore Press Holdings Limited

Recalling how difficult it was for me when I began, when there were so little material and resources available, compels me to help and encourage young orchid breeders.

**Mr Syed Yusof Alsagoff
Expert Orchid Breeder**

Mr Syed Yusof Alsagoff's volunteering journey started at the Singapore Botanic Gardens in his teenage years, even before the formation of the National Parks Board (NParks). He sat on the first NParks Board and was instrumental in the development of the National Orchid Garden, which today houses the largest and most comprehensive permanent tropical orchid display in Asia. Mr Yusof's involvement in the Singapore Botanic Gardens' orchid programme since the 1960s and his work on heritage orchids contributed to the successful inscription of the Gardens as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As a self-taught orchid breeder, the early challenges that Mr Yusof faced in learning how to cultivate orchids motivates him to share what he knows with others.

How did you first get interested in orchid cultivation?

My grandfather was the one who first got me to help out with the garden in our home at Nassim Road. I loved the roses there but they never seemed to last long. Then, I saw some orchids and noticed that they were hardier and the flowers long-lasting. That is where my interest began. I wanted to learn whatever I could about growing orchids, and luckily for me the Singapore Botanic Gardens was a short

walk away. I visited the library there and read whatever texts there were on orchid cultivation, but there wasn't much at the time – just one simple book. I spoke to many of the Gardens' staff, and we became friends. With my basic school knowledge of biology and the invaluable knowledge I gained at the Gardens, I learned that you can create new hybrids of orchids. From then on, orchids became my passion.

What drives your passion after all these years?

The creation of new hybrids has always been an exciting challenge for me. I find it therapeutic and very satisfying when I succeed in creating something new. I have

been in the orchid world for over 60 years now, and I still enjoy it today. The possibility of creating new hybrids never ends. There is always room to create.

What motivates you to be a mentor to budding orchid enthusiasts?

In the early years, especially in the 1950s, it was not easy to learn how to cultivate orchids. There was very limited information available and many of the knowledgeable experts in orchid cultivation were inaccessible to a novice like me. But I really wanted to pursue this, so I learned through trial and error and taught myself. I managed to successfully carry out asymbiotic culture, which is



Image: Syed Yusof Alsagoff

Mr Yusof assisted NParks in organising the inaugural Singapore Garden Festival in December 2006.

necessary for all orchid seeds to grow. That first success, which I achieved on my own, was truly memorable. I managed to produce plantlets, grow them, and create hybrids in my lab at home. I persevered and did not let my frustration get to me.

Recalling how difficult it was for me when I began, when there were so little material and resources available, compels me to help and encourage young orchid breeders. The number one thing you need in orchid cultivation is patience as it takes time for the orchid culture to develop compared to other flowers. With patience, you will succeed. Because of my experience, I promised myself when I joined the orchid society that I would impart whatever knowledge I had to other members.

You were President of the Orchid Society of South-East Asia (OSSEA) for 17 years. Tell us more about this.

I joined OSSEA in the early 1950s. I attended the numerous orchid shows and society meetings, got to know people from around the world who work with orchids, and served in numerous positions as a committee member. As President of OSSEA, what I was most interested in was maintaining a strong relationship between OSSEA and the Singapore Botanic Gardens. OSSEA and the Gardens organised many successful orchid shows together. Through OSSEA, with the support of NParks, Singapore had the privilege and honour to hold two World Orchid Conferences in 1969 and 2011.

How has your volunteering journey with NParks evolved?

My personal relationship with the Singapore Botanic Gardens started in my teenage years in the 1950s, even before my involvement with OSSEA. I have always had a close relationship with them, and was already helping and involved with the Gardens. When NParks was formed I was roped in by my very close friend, Dr Tan Wee Kiat. He invited me to become a board member of NParks. During that period, I assisted with the development of the National Orchid Garden, from the planning stage all the way to completion. I helped NParks and the Singapore Botanic Gardens with training of new staff in orchid breeding and imparted my knowledge in orchid breeding to them. I also helped to source for better quality stud plants (for breeding), both locally and internationally. After my retirement from official positions, I continue to do whatever I can to assist.

Please share with us your experience as a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Management Committee.

One of the main things we focused on was heritage orchids, some of which had been lost over the years. Heritage orchids are especially sought-after orchids that are internationally recognised or named after renowned persons. One example is *Pararachnis* Eric Holttum, which is named after a pioneer in

orchid cultivation and Director of the Gardens from 1926 to 1949. One must understand that the lifespan of an orchid is not very long, and there needs to be continual effort in maintaining them, which is not easy. Together with NParks, we have been trying to conserve heritage orchids by mericloning. For those that have been lost, I am helping to source for them and bring them back to the Gardens. That was my main contribution to the UNESCO bid.



Image: Syed Yusof Alsagoff

The *Aranda* (formerly *Mokara*) *Zaleha* Alsagoff took Mr Yusof over 20 years to produce and is the only orchid hybrid that has been awarded the First Class Certificate by the OSSEA to date.

What is the most memorable moment in your orchid cultivation journey?

It makes me happy when I hear that people appreciate my new hybrids. I'm grateful to have received awards for my hybrids, but a particularly memorable success in my life was producing the *Aranda* (formerly *Mokara*) *Zaleha* Alsagoff in 1991. To date, it is the only orchid hybrid that has been awarded the First Class Certificate in the history of OSSEA. It took me over 20 years to develop this orchid, and it was a mix of knowledge and chance. You need to get the right size, colour, and purity of colour. I was trying to create yellow, but the funny thing is that when you cross pure yellow with white, you get a dirty brown or grey. By chance, I crossed a green and white, and managed to produce a few that were golden in colour. I named the new hybrid after my wife.

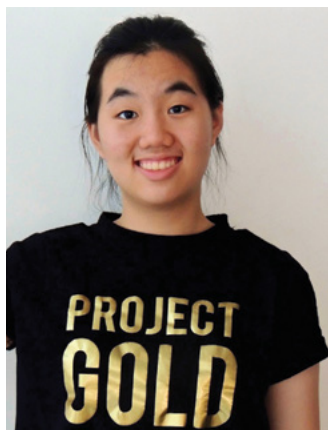
Some advice for those keen to start cultivating orchids?

There is a lot of room for young enthusiasts to create something new for urban environments, such as mini orchids for high rise apartments. It's time for the new generation to take over from us and improve. You should not be discouraged, thinking that a large garden is needed to go into orchid breeding. Creating miniaturised orchids is one area which we can explore further. New things can always be created. The possibilities are endless.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A friend in-deed

After participating in Project SPHERE, Deborah Lim, 18, continues to serve the community by organising meaningful activities for elderly residents as a Friend of SPHERE.



Do what you love and love what you do, as volunteering in an area that you are passionate about keeps you going even in the busiest of schedules.

Deborah Lim
Volunteer Leader, Friends of SPHERE

Deborah Lim first participated in a Housing & Development Board (HDB) Project SPHERE activity organised by her school in 2012. Thereafter, she continued to follow her passion to serve the community through the Friends of SPHERE programme. Deborah set up Project GOLD to inspire more people to join the cause. The group has since reached out to 14 other rental blocks and engaged the elderly residents in meaningful activities. Deborah has participated in MND's volunteer leaders development programme, including a workshop in May 2015 where she and other volunteer leaders from across the MND Family picked up communication techniques for better engaging other volunteers.

How did you get involved with HDB's Project SPHERE?

In 2012, I volunteered at a Chinese New Year celebration for the elderly which had been organised under HDB's Project SPHERE. I was deeply moved by the plight of the lonely elderly living in one-room rental flats and began befriending them. Since then, I have been involved in numerous activities with Project SPHERE and am grateful to be able to give back

to our pioneers who were instrumental in Singapore's nation building.

Tell us about joining Friends of SPHERE and setting up Project GOLD.

The aims of Friends of SPHERE resonated with me. It is a meaningful platform to cultivate a network of enthusiastic volunteers who would engage needy elderly residents. Joining Friends of SPHERE provided me with opportunities to inspire fellow youth to dedicate time to care for the elderly in our community.

To garner greater support for my cause, I shared my experiences with many friends and schoolmates and sought to create awareness of the needs of the disadvantaged elderly in Singapore. I believe many came on board the project due to their shared belief in making a difference and creating truly golden years for the elderly. I have also had the opportunity to share my cause at various secondary schools and on a 938LIVE radio broadcast to generate interest in elderly-related projects in the wider Singapore community.



Image: Deborah Lim

Deborah encouraged her friends to join in a meaningful cause of engaging needy elderly residents through HDB's Friends of SPHERE programme.

What do you do as a Friend of SPHERE?

I organise and conduct activities for financially disadvantaged elderly at Senior Activity Centres. These range from mooncake making to scrapbooking and aim to promote active ageing among the elderly whilst fostering inter-generational bonding through the elderly's interactions with the youth volunteers. I also attend HDB's community events and share my experiences working with the elderly to encourage more people to join Friends of SPHERE and engage the elderly in their own neighbourhoods.

What do you enjoy about working with elderly residents?

Learning from the elderly makes my experiences with them extremely memorable and enjoyable. Initially, I thought I would be in a position to teach the elderly. Instead, I received their wise teachings too – lessons of gratitude and resilience in the face of hardship are among many lessons I enjoy each week. What makes my work extremely satisfying is the building of friendships and exchange of ideas with the elderly.

Please share a memorable experience you have had.

During one session, the elderly were tasked to work in teams to build the highest tower out of straws and toothpicks. In my conversations with an elderly aunty, she shared with me the importance of building a strong foundation for the tower and advised me to do likewise, to live my life rooted in strong values and a sturdy moral foundation. And just as her group rebuilt their tower as it toppled again and again, she reminded me to persevere through life's challenges. The parallels she drew were especially heartening and her reassuring words and sincerity touched me deeply.

What advice would you share about balancing between school and volunteering commitments?

Do what you love and love what you do, as volunteering in an area that you are passionate about keeps you going even in the busiest of schedules. Most importantly, do not discount the time you put into volunteering, no matter how large or small, as your efforts truly go a long way in making a difference in someone's life.



Deborah and other volunteers interacting with residents during the annual Broom It! Day 2015.



Volunteers lead residents in simple physical exercises.

About Project SPHERE and Friends of SPHERE

Project SPHERE (Students, Singapore Pools & HDB Enriching and Reaching out to the Elderly) is a community programme initiated by the HDB with support from the Ministry of Education, Singapore Pools and new partners Nippon Paint Pte Ltd Singapore and Esplanade-Theatres on the Bay. As part of Project SPHERE, students from participating schools adopt an HDB rental block or Studio Apartment and work towards enriching the lives of the elderly residents there. Through organising activities for the elderly and interacting with them, the students develop a stronger commitment to serve the community, society and nation.

The Friends of SPHERE programme is an extension to Project SPHERE, for students who had previously participated in Project SPHERE activities to continue engaging the elderly residents as volunteers. These volunteers will be entrusted with the autonomy to plan and implement initiatives to benefit and bring cheer to the elderly residing in rental blocks. To learn more about these programmes, do send an email to programmes@mailbox.hdb.gov.sg

MEET OUR VOLUNTEER MANAGER

Forging bonds and learning life lessons

As a Gardens by the Bay volunteer manager, Beverly Ho enjoys building rapport with volunteers to better understand their motivations and needs.

Working with the volunteers has taught me so much, especially in terms of gardening knowledge, but also about volunteerism and even life lessons.

Beverly Ho
Volunteer Manager, Gardens by the Bay



How did you start out as a volunteer manager?

I started out working with volunteers on several projects when I joined Gardens by the Bay a few years ago. It was through these experiences that I gained the experience working with volunteers and eventually became a volunteer manager.

What does your role entail?

My role is to ensure that our volunteers enjoy what they do here and are well taken care of. I do this through planning, scheduling and implementing various activities and programmes, such as horticulture training in the conservatories and nominating some of the volunteers for MND's volunteer leaders development programme, as well as other programmes. For the new volunteers, I conduct orientation sessions and bring them around for site familiarisation walks.

But it's not just all work and no play. I also engage our volunteers through "extra-curricular" activities such as horticulture workshops, field trips to nature reserves and farms and floral display replanting sessions during popular festivals like Tulipmania and Mid-Autumn. Such activities enable the volunteers to get to know one another better and gives me the opportunity to interact with them more personally.

How would you describe your volunteer management style?

I strongly believe in building good rapport with the volunteers, not just on a working level, but also on a personal basis. This enables me to better understand their motivations and needs.



Image: Gardens by the Bay

Beverly (leftmost) is inspired by the knowledge and passion that volunteers bring to the Gardens.

Every volunteer's needs and personality is unique and I think it is important to interact and understand them genuinely. A volunteer manager needs to be like a chameleon - flexible and adaptable - to work well with different volunteers and in different situations.

What would you say makes Gardens by the Bay volunteers special?

We have many people from all walks of life who have joined our volunteer family, as well as volunteers from various schools, tertiary institutions and corporate organizations. They come together and dedicate their own personal time to create an enjoyable experience for all who visit the Gardens.

Many of our volunteers have great passion and interest in plants and nature. They play an essential role in promoting the Gardens not only as a world-class tourist attraction but also a leading model for sustainability and conservation efforts. The Gardens is a great place for these like-minded volunteers to get together. What makes our volunteers special is that not only are they knowledgeable, they seem to have boundless amounts of energy to contribute to the Gardens!

Tell us more about your experience working with the volunteers.

I enjoy interacting with people and it has been an absolutely delightful experience working with the volunteers. Many of them are passionate about gardening, so we learn from one another and exchange gardening tips as I am also a plant lover. It is very encouraging to see the volunteers sharing their knowledge with their fellow volunteers. Working with the volunteers has taught me so much, especially in terms of gardening knowledge, but also about volunteerism and even life lessons.

Over time, I have had the honour of developing close friendships with many of our volunteers. The sense of pride that our



Image: Gardens by the Bay

Beverly (rightmost) finds that a volunteer manager needs to be like a chameleon - flexible and adaptable - to work well with different volunteers and in different situations.

volunteers have for the Gardens motivates me more in my job and their effervescent care, concern and support makes my role very enjoyable.

Please share with us some of your memorable experiences.

On one occasion, I was involved in a late night event at the Supertree Grove. Suddenly, without warning, torrential rain hit us and many of us were trapped inside the gazebo tents. The staff had to escort guests who were also trapped with us to proper shelter as soon as possible. Some of the volunteers who were on duty braved the heavy rain with us, and together we ferried the guests safely with umbrellas to proper shelter. We all got drenched, yet everyone did it with smiles on our faces.

I was also recently down with a very bad bout of influenza. Some of the volunteers, knowing that I was feeling unwell, brought me lots of herbal tea and lozenges! I was extremely touched by their care and concern for my well-being.

We also had a great experience recently when we had the opportunity to visit several farms at Kranji Countryside. Not only did we pick up valuable knowledge about the local farming industry from local farmers, but also had a great time shopping for locally produced products and teaching one another how to make use of the produce. It is this sense of camaraderie that truly makes experiences like these wonderful memories for me.

To find out more about the Gardens by the Bay volunteer programme, please visit the [Gardens by the Bay website](#).

PROGRAMME (URA)

Streets for People

The new Streets for People programme invites the public to transform neighbourhood streets into meaningful public spaces for the community.



Image: Urban Redevelopment Authority

Volunteers transformed this quiet back lane in Everton Park into a bustling street festival for a day.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)'s [Streets for People programme](#) invites the public to think about how we can transform our neighbourhood streets into meaningful spaces that capture the true kampong spirit of community.

The Streets for People programme provides support for initiating and implementing short-term or regular car-free zone projects that enhance the neighbourhood and create more spaces for the community to enjoy. Successful applications may receive up to \$5,000 of seed funding to cover the purchase of small value items and printing costs incurred in the delivery of the project. Other available support include supply of Road Closure Essentials such as safety barriers and signages.

For more information about this programme and how to apply, please send an email to ura_publicitysg@ura.gov.sg

Door to Door Project at Everton Park

Three friends who tapped on support from the Streets for People programme demonstrated that the possibilities are limited only by the imagination. Aletheia, Sean and Daniel were inspired by the quirky back doors found in the Everton estate to set up the Door to Door Project. Their aim? To rejuvenate an under-utilised back lane in Everton Park into a place for the community to come together and enjoy the neighbourhood.

With the help of more volunteers from among their friends and the community, the trio spent two weeks preparing and engaging residents and businesses in the community. And on 1 May 2015, they had transformed the quiet back lane into the inaugural Everton Park Labour Day Street Festival. As vibrant hues of hand-sewn cloth bunting and booths set up along the street welcomed passers-by with merry cheer and festivity, many spontaneously joined in free juggling lessons and tried

their hand at bowling at a make-shift alley made of wooden planks, water bottles and a coconut. There was something for everyone to enjoy, from a face-painting station to a graffiti wall, mini reading area with piles of books, and even free hair-cuts offered by a mobile barber. Throughout the day, residents dropped by with their friends, families and pets to enjoy the lively atmosphere and get to know others in the community.

Encouraged by the response, the three friends organised a second edition of the Everton Park Street Festival on 20 June 2015. To find out more, visit the [Door to Door Project website](#).



Image: Urban Redevelopment Authority

(Top left to right) Organisers Aletheia, Sean, Daniel and other revellers brought their community street festival to life on 1 May and 20 June 2015.

“

We had two main objectives for the Door to Door project. First was the simple desire to get to know our neighbours better and for members of the community to get to know one another. We also wanted to show that building kampong spirit does not take much money or material items. We are quite proud of the fact that we spent less than \$100 for each event.

A pleasant surprise was when residents spontaneously set up their own booths at the festival - from a puppy adoption and doggy area, to a live sketching section and even a mini juggling school, everyone wanted to contribute to making the event a success. As more members of the community joined in and got involved, the livelier the festival became!

Sean, one of the organisers behind the Door to Door Project

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PROGRAMME (AVA)

Pick Fresh, Get Local

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) collaborates with students and businesses to encourage support for homegrown produce.

As the saying goes, “you are what you eat”. Huda, Jamie, Louise and Matthias certainly think so. Earlier this year, the then-final year students from NTU collaborated with AVA on the launch of a new campaign “We are Singavore” in support of locally grown produce. The four friends share a philosophy that it is important to know what goes into the food we consume and how they are produced.



Images: We Are Singavore

“Support Local, Eat Local” is the message the students hoped to bring across at their roadshows to the NTU campus, the National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University earlier this year. The We Are Singavore team worked with a food truck vendor to treat visitors to complimentary samples of dishes specially created using locally farmed produce including eggs, barramundi and spinach.

Visitors were encouraged to pledge their support for local produce either on-site or on online. Many also took home their own planter kit to try their hand at growing their own food. At SMU, a gardening workshop was also conducted by Edible Gardens and the National Parks Board.

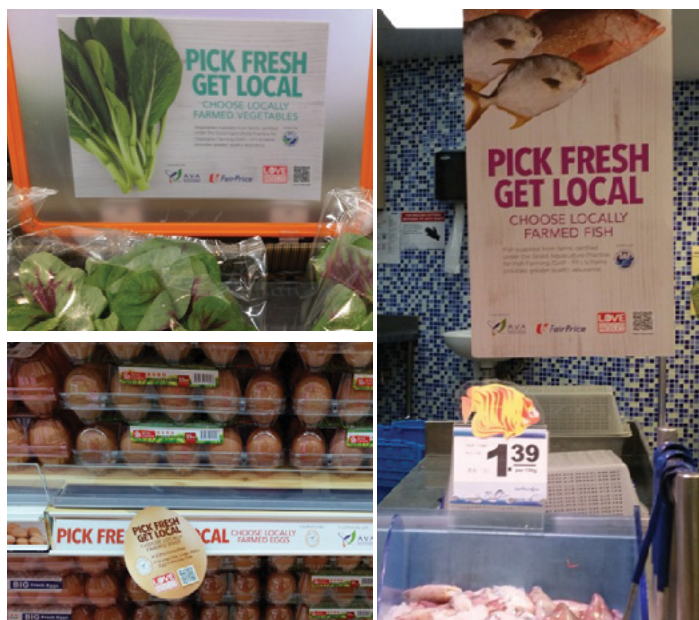
The students also partnered with 10 restaurants who work with locally grown ingredients to design a unique “Singavore Specials” menu. Some of the delicacies included a *Mushroom Melody on Edible Soil* and *Pan-Seared Pulau Ubin Sea Bass*. The participating outlets either sourced their ingredients from local farms or grew their own herbs.

Spreading the love for homegrown produce

Building on the students’ successful campaign and a growing local produce movement, AVA continues to spread the love for [homegrown produce](#). AVA has partnered with local radio stations to organise ‘Office Invasion’ sessions where radio

deejays and AVA staff distributed delicious free lunch bentos made using locally farmed eggs and vegetables to office workers.

Restaurants and supermarkets have also come on board the campaign to support local produce. 50 restaurants participated in Singapore Restaurant Month 2015 when they each featured a special dish using local produce on their menus, and NTUC FairPrice is putting up signs and posters at over 100 of its retail outlets to help shoppers easily identify local produce.



Images: Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority

IN THE NEWS

Making life easier together

On 20 Aug 2015, about 190 student and Singapore Pools volunteers came together to spring clean the homes of elderly residents living in rental blocks in the Southeast District as part of Broom It! Day 2015. They also distributed the EASY Table, which is a bed-side table customised to suit the daily needs of an elderly person. The EASY Table was specially designed and fabricated by ITE College Central students in collaboration with HDB and in consultation with elderly residents. An annual initiative under HDB-led Project SPHERE, Broom It! Day provides youth the opportunity to interact with and care for the elderly, building bonds with them and creating a close-knit community. This year, new partners Nippon Paint Pte Ltd Singapore and Esplanade-Theatres on the Bay were welcomed on board Project SPHERE.



Image: Housing & Development Board

**Senior Minister of State for National Development
Mr Desmond Lee with ITE College Central students explaining
the elderly-friendly features of the EASY Table to a resident.**

Students for a green built environment

On 2 Sep 2015, more than 100 tertiary students took part in the inaugural “Build Green: Student Edition” team-based game organised by BCA as part of the Singapore Green Building Week 2015. The one-day event held at the Marina Bay Sands saw students participate in a multitude of activities to learn about sustainability in the built environment, through a concept similar to the popular Korean reality game show “Running Man”. Congratulations to e-LEMON-ators from National University of Singapore (first), Dubdew from Ngee Ann Polytechnic (runner-up) and E.G.G from ITE College West (second runner-up) for winning this competition!



Image: Building and Construction Authority

**More than 100 tertiary students participated in conferences,
explored green features of Marina Bay Sands and built green
city prototypes at BCA’s “Build Green: Student Edition”.**

Putting down roots to conserve our mangroves

On 5 Oct 2015, NParks established a new mangrove arboretum (a collection of trees) at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve Coastal Trail. Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport Mr Khaw Boon Wan launched the arboretum by planting one of the first 200 trees together with Mr Yuzaburo Mogi, Honorary CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors for Kikkoman Corporation and His Excellency Haruhisa Takeuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Singapore. Over the next two years, students, volunteers and other community partners will be invited to plant over 2,000 mangrove trees along a 500m stretch of the trail.



Image: National Parks Board

**Student volunteers from Ngee Ann Polytechnic,
River Valley High and ITE College East planted over
200 mangrove trees in the new arboretum.**

UPCOMING EVENTS & CONTESTS

MND Family SG50 Roving Exhibition

50 Years of Transforming *Our City, Our Home*

Take a peek into the windows of our past...

See how far we have come,

Get a glimpse into an exciting future



www.mnd.gov.sg/OurCityOurHome

#MNDSG50

#EndearingHome

#DistinctiveGlobalCity

6-12 August 2015
Jem, Level 6

30-31 August 2015
ITE College East,
Admin Block

4-15 September 2015*
The URA Centre,
Singapore City Gallery

*Closed on Sundays and PHs

18-22 September 2015
Woodlands Civic
Centre, Concourse

16-20 October 2015
Toa Payoh HDB Hub Mall

20-24 November 2015
Gardens by the Bay,
North Colonnade

Rail Corridor Request for Proposal Exhibition

URA will be holding an exhibition to showcase the awarded Rail Corridor Request for Proposal Concept Master Plan and Concept Proposals. This includes two special interest areas for an urban-green-blue tapestry at Choa Chu Kang and the adaptive reuse of the former Tanjong Pagar Railway Station (image shown on right).

The public is invited to share their feedback on the proposals during the exhibition period. URA will work with the successful design team(s) to refine the proposals, taking into account the public and community's feedback.

Date: 9 - 27 November 2015

Time: 9am - 5pm, Mondays to Saturdays

Venue: The URA Centre, Singapore City Gallery Level 1



School Holidays Nature Keeper Camp

Designed to stimulate children's interest and inculcate in them an appreciation of our forests, the Nature Keeper Camp will be held at Labrador Nature Reserve this November. The one-day nature camp aims to nurture young minds in active protection and conservation of our natural heritage.

Date: 23 November 2015 (Monday)

Time: 9am - 5pm (registration begins at 8.30am)

Venue: Labrador Nature Reserve

Target Level: Primary 1 - 5

Fees: \$25 per child

Please send an email to Jeanne_Tan@nparks.gov.sg or Lim_Siew_Hong@nparks.gov.sg to register by **30 October 2015**. Spaces are limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Image: National Parks Board

Good Neighbours Project 2016

Do you have a good idea to bring your neighbours together? How about starting a Good Neighbours Project (GNP)? The GNP is an initiative by HDB, supported by the Singapore Kindness Movement and the People's Association, to facilitate and inspire ground-up initiatives that encourage interaction and bonding among neighbours. If your submitted proposal is shortlisted for implementation, you may receive seed funding of up to \$1,000. You will also get the opportunity to share your project during the HDB Community Week 2016. The Good Neighbours Project is open to all Singapore residents in the Community category and Youth Category (full-time students).



Image: Housing & Development Board

Visit [this website](#) for more details and submit your application by 31 Jan 2016!

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