



# PH Times

IT'S NOT A JOB, IT'S OUR HOME



Editor's Note

*Gloria Tan*

Executive Director

Dear Readers,

To commemorate Quarterly SG Clean Day on 31 July and World Cleanup Day on 17 September, we observed that more people were willing to come forward to take personal responsibility for public cleanliness by conducting clean-up activities. We believe that with increased frequencies and constant reminders through our initiatives, everyone will start to take positive action and be the positive change in making our environment truly clean.

An inaugural Youth Action Group (YAG) has been set up to allow members to play an active role in helping to nudge youth groups, chapters and members to step forward and be part of the clean environment movement. Hope you are as excited as we are to learn more about the upcoming projects that the YAG members embark on!

Stay tuned!

## Clean Up & Care for our Environment

Singaporeans are now more aware of environmental issues, as more and more of us have started adopting environmentally friendly habits.

Be it practising the 3Rs, or opting for greener shopping choices, these are becoming a common sight of our lifestyle now. While people are starting to care for our environment, it is a pity that not many associate littering as an environmental issue.

Littering is not only an eyesore. It degrades our living environment. Litter tend to attract pests, and pests in turn spread diseases. The infestation of these potential public health hazards is a cause for concern.

A badly littered city is also the perfect breeding ground for viruses. The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us that as a densely populated city, we are especially vulnerable to public health threats. We cannot afford to lower our guard when it comes to public health issues.

What we can do is to be more mindful of our actions, as well as the environmental consequences. While a piece of litter may seem harmless and insignificant, it represents the disregard of the potential public health threats that come with it.

We can also start taking action by making sure that we always bin our trash, and participating in clean-up activities. Cleaning up is also a powerful tool to combat littering. Besides clearing away the trash, clean-ups also serve to educate the public on the detriments of littering.

When volunteers see how much trash is collected after each clean-up, they are often inspired to make litter-free part of their lifestyle, and spread the word to others.

Clean-ups also help us empathise with the work of the cleaners better. When we experience the difficulty in clearing trash off our city, we are more likely to make it a point to bin our trash.

**So, it's time we roll up our sleeves and start cleaning up now!**



WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



# Public Hygiene Council Retreat



The Public Hygiene Council (PHC) organised a retreat on 12 July 2022 to deliberate and determine the strategic plans for the council.

Attended by PHC members, as well as senior representatives from the National Environment Agency (NEA), and the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE), participants spent the morning discussing and charting out future plans for PHC to elevate hygiene and cleanliness standards beyond civic advocacy.

Following the retreat, the council had an informal coffee session with Minister Grace Fu on 25 July 2022, to align some of the key discussion points such as method of assessment, certification tiering, business model, frequency of recertification and potential lead sectors to pilot the enhanced quality mark.



## WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



The coffeeshop operators and community Volunteer groups were presented the token of appreciation for their contribution in the NTCG pilot phase.

## The Closing of the Neighbourhood

## Toilets Community Group (NTCG) Pilot Phase



SPS Baey Yam Keng, Jurong-Clementi Town Council Chairman cum Grassroots Adviser Xie Yao Quan, and PHC Chairman Edward D'Silva acknowledged the participation of MEETUP@494 coffeeshop with the NTCG Decal.

The Public Hygiene Council (PHC) concluded Singapore's first pilot Neighbourhood Toilets Community Group (NTCG) on 31 July 2022 at MEETUP@494 Coffeeshop located at Block 494 Jurong West Street 41.

Mr Baey Yam Keng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, together with Special Guest, Mr Xie Yao Quan, Chairman of Jurong-Clementi Town Council and Grassroots Adviser to Jurong GRC Grassroots Organisations joined PHC Chairman, Mr Edward D'Silva to mark the closing of the NTCG pilot.

To express appreciation to the coffeeshop operators and community volunteer groups participating in the pilot phase, SPS Baey presented them with tokens of appreciation. A NTCG decal was also displayed at the coffeeshop to raise awareness on the initiative.

To better assess the effectiveness of the initiative, the PHC conducted a two-week dipstick survey at the 3 participating coffeeshops. With the support of the Jurong-Clementi Town Council, more than 150 responses were obtained. The survey findings showed that the key objectives of the pilot phase were met:

- Increase public awareness. Majority of the respondents agreed that it is important to maintain clean public toilets, and it is the joint responsibility of the coffeeshop operators, cleaners and users to keep public toilets clean.
- Reinforce premises operators' understanding that they play a critical role in maintaining public toilet cleanliness



With the conclusion of the pilot, PHC has engaged the Restroom Association Singapore (RAS) to conduct audits at the 3 coffeeshops. This is to ensure they will sustain their efforts over the next 3 years. The PHC will continue to expand the programme to more coffeeshops and also scale it up to include food centres managed by the town councils.



## WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

# 31 July 22 CleanPod Launch @ Jurong Central

Mr Xie Yao Quan, Chairman of Jurong-Clementi Town Council and Grassroots Adviser to Jurong GRC Grassroots Organisations and the Public Hygiene Council (PHC) Chairman, Mr Edward D'Silva launched the Estate CleanPod located at Blk 431 Jurong West Avenue 1 on 31 July 2022.

Following the launch, residents from Jurong Central conducted a litter-picking along the pavements near the CleanPod. The CleanPod is fully equipped with litter picking tools such as tongs, pails, and pushcarts to support clean-ups. It also promotes reduction of wastage by reusing these tools for future clean-ups.

This new Estate CleanPod provides a platform for the residents to take ownership on the cleanliness of shared spaces, while taking a long-term perspective of conserving resources and championing a more sustainable way of life.



The latest Estate CleanPod was launched at Jurong Central.



Residents joined Grassroots Adviser Xie Yao Quan to clean up Jurong Central.



Residents came together for litter picking activity in Jurong Central



## WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



4<sup>th</sup> August 2022

# 10<sup>th</sup> RISE Champions Network Meeting

# RISE

10<sup>th</sup> RISE Champions Network meeting held on 4 August 2022.

During the 10<sup>th</sup> RISE Champions Network meeting held on 4 August 2022, the PHC presented the programme for the evening which included updates on the PHC inaugural Youth Action Group as well as presentations by Coastal Natives, Tian San Shipping, Ocean Purpose Project and Stridy.

RISE partners were given an overview of the context behind the setting up of the PHC Youth Action Group (YAG) team, which is meant to buttress PHC's efforts to reach out to more youth to take action for a clean environment in Singapore.

The two Co-Chairs for the YAG, Mr David Chua and Ms Samantha Thian, introduced themselves and shared the vision, objectives, and layout of the YAG, which comprise of a Learning Pillar and Action Pillar. RISE members were welcome to come onboard the YAG and to contribute meaningful ideas to drive the YAG forward.

There were also presentations by Adeline Ang from Coastal Natives, as well as from Nick Chung from Tian San Shipping who shared details on Tian San's work that involves removal of flotsam and marine litter clearing in Singapore waters and shores. Tian San runs a fleet of garbage collection vessels across various anchorages in the Singapore Port. He shared that flotsam in Singapore is typically a mix of natural and man-made marine debris, such as consumer waste plastic and domestic refuse. Mathilda D'Silva shared how she founded her environmental group Ocean Purpose Project, which spurred her on to do more for our environment and the marine landscape in Singapore.



RISE members participating in the discussion on marine litter



Youth Action Group Co-Chair Samantha Thian briefing participants on the Youth Action Group's Initiatives

Samantha Thian from Stridy also provided an update on Stridy's preparation ahead of World Cleanup Day that was happening on 17 September. She encouraged fellow RISE members to contribute their clean-up data via the Stridy app for World Cleanup Day events.

The next RISE Champions Network meeting will be held on 27 November.



WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

# 9 August 2022 Anti-littering outreach @ Marina Bay on National Day



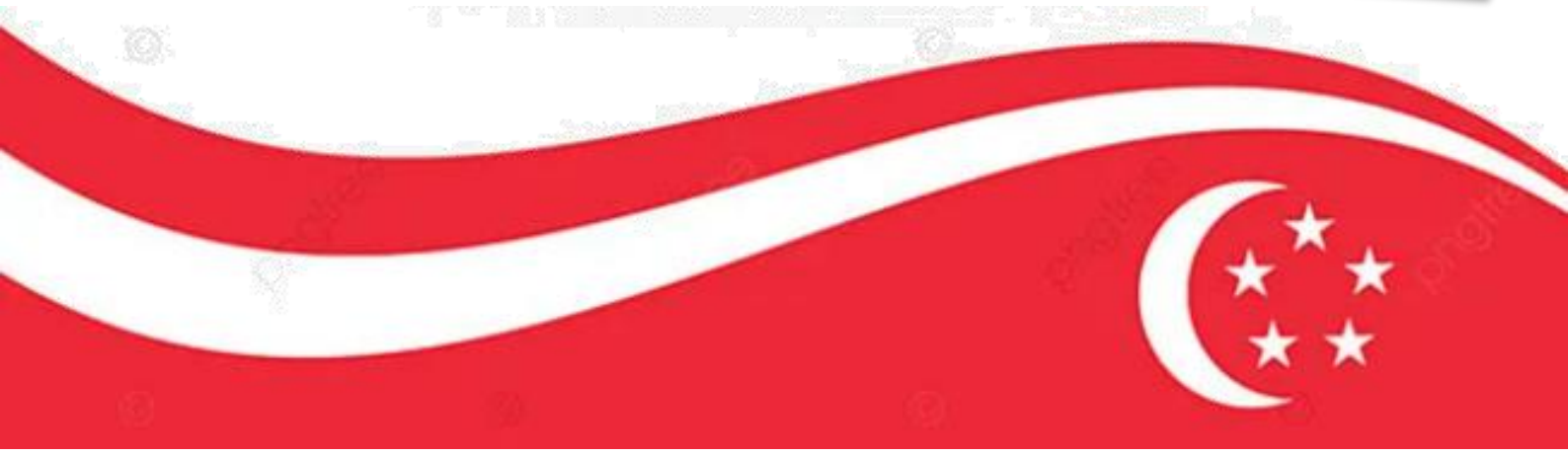
*Volunteers from Lions Club of Singapore (Mandarin) joined PHC to recognise and thank members of the public who displayed good civic behaviour and kept the Marina Bay promenade litter-free.*

In Singapore, we are fortunate to have a relatively clean and hygienic environment to live and grow up in. To commemorate Singapore's 57<sup>th</sup> National Day, PHC teamed up with 40 volunteers from Lions Club of Singapore (Mandarin) to encourage members of the public soaking in the National Day festivities and atmosphere at Marina Bay to keep our beloved country clean and litter-free.

Throughout the day starting from 4.30pm till the end of the fireworks festivities at 8.30pm, the PHC's Keep SG Clean volunteers engaged and reminded the public to pick up after themselves, and also picked up litter that they encounter. Let us all take a huge salute in appreciation of Singapore's 57<sup>th</sup> National Day and the great work of our #KeepSGClean volunteers!



*Volunteers from Lions Club of Singapore (Mandarin) engaging members of the public to keep the Marina Bay area clean and litter-free.*







# IT'S NOT A JOB, IT'S OUR HOME

WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

## Re-activate Visits to School

The Public Hygiene Council (PHC) has reactivated its visit to schools following the latest relaxation of the COVID-19 community safe management measures. PHC visited the following schools in the last quarter:

1. First Toa Payoh Primary School
2. Kong Hwa School
3. New Town Primary School

The visits enabled PHC to better understand the challenges faced during the Covid-19 pandemic and how the schools have strengthened their sustainability efforts to align with the national agenda of keeping Singapore clean and green.



We thanked Mr Chua Choon Guan (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Principal of First Toa Payoh Primary School for hosting our visit.



A group photo at Kong Hwa School



A great conversation with the senior leaders of New Town Primary School to better understand their sustainability efforts.

## World's first Global Hygiene Summit to take place in Singapore in 2023

The Public Hygiene Council (PHC) plans to collaborate with the Reckitt Global Hygiene institute and local partner National Centre of Infectious Disease on the Global Hygiene Summit 2023. As one of the key drivers in raising Singapore's public cleanliness and hygiene standard, the PHC will present the Singapore's Hygiene journey with its key initiatives, showcase many successful case studies and best practices at the summit.



Global Hygiene  
Summit 2023



A gathering with NCID team to discuss PHC's partnership in the Global Hygiene Summit.





29 August 22

Meeting with Municipal Services Office

# for “Adopt A Hood”



Representatives from MSO and PHC at the meeting for the “Adopt A Hood” initiative.

The Public Hygiene Council recently met up with representatives from the Municipal Services Office (MSO) to learn more about their latest initiative, the “Adopt A Hood” programme. Under this programme, MSO partners with schools and other stakeholders within the community to keep an adopted area in the neighbourhood clean, tidy and neat. This arrangement is done on a long term basis of at least 2 years, and is meant to foster a greater sense of belonging and ownership for the cleanliness of their community.

During the online meeting, the PHC shared that many residents in the community are already heavily involved in community clean-ups at residential areas and neighbourhoods around the estate. By combining our efforts and encouraging more residents, schools and students to be onboard the Sustainable Bright Spot programme, it would play a complementary role to the Adopt A Hood initiative and help to entrench the message of keeping Singapore clean. By coming together as one voice and sharing ideas on how we can address public cleanliness issues in Singapore, we hope to move ever closer to our goal of having a truly clean and litter free Singapore.



Mass clean-up at Tampines on SG Clean Day



## SUSTAINABLE BRIGHT SPOT

### New Partners Onboarded

The Public Hygiene Council (PHC) successfully onboarded 2 new partners on the Sustainable Bright Spot (SBS) programme – Potong Pasir Constituency and Pioneer Constituency. The programme aims to create a culture where residents are empowered to be advocates within their neighbourhoods, and take ownership of the cleanliness of shared community spaces by cleaning up after themselves. The PHC also invited the SBS partners to organise clean-ups in support of its flagship campaign Keep Clean Singapore and the Quarterly SG Clean Day.



Residents of Bukit Batok were waiting eagerly to join the litter picking led by Grassroots Adviser Murali Pillai.



## KEEP SINGAPORE CLEAN



PHC Deputy Chairman Andrew Khng joined the participants in the meaningful clean-up at East Coast Beach

Credit: European Union Delegation to Singapore

Mr Andrew Khng, Public Hygiene Council (PHC) Deputy Chairman, joined 100 participants from Europe and Singapore, including children as young as 3 years old, to kick start #EUBeachCleanUp 2022 activities in Singapore. The event was organized by the European Union Delegation to Singapore.

Cleaning a part of the East Coast Beach, they collected 1 skip-fill of litter. These included a huge fishing net, over 70 styrofoams and in excess of 60 plastic bottles.

Says EU Ambassador to Singapore Iwona Piorko: "I was delighted to welcome such a diverse crowd to launch #EUBeachCleanUp 2022 here. It was particularly heart-warming to see children involved in the activity. Some may feel our clean-up is a lone droplet in an issue as vast as the ocean but every action counts. Allow me to remind you of our motto: United against marine litter. Together, we turn the drop into a blue wave of change." (IwonaPiorkoEU – Twitter)

Our 2022 edition is made all the more special as it is in the European Year of Youth. This morning several youth and climate activists reminded us of the urgent need to act decisively. These youths are agents of change and we have been proud to partner with the youth-led NGP Seven Clean Seas for today's initiative.

#EUBeachCleanUp 2022 raised awareness of the ecological impact of marine litter. We highlight the initiatives contributing to a sustainable future. From 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September the EU Delegation to Singapore participates in the Sustainability Film Festival, together with the French Embassy, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, and the Swedish Embassy. Expect to see critically acclaimed documentaries introducing you the passionate fight of young climate activists.

## 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 #EUBeachCleanUp2022 led by the European Union Delegation to Singapore

### ABOUT #EUBeachCleanUp:

#EUBeachCleanUp is a European success story. It was first led by Estonia in 2018 to counteract a grim reality. There are 500 times more microplastics in the oceans than stars in our galaxy. From the beach to the seabed, marine litter affects all levels of marine ecosystems. Our oceans are the origin of life, the living colour of our blue planet. The EU is spearheading global efforts to reduce and avoid plastic pollution, including marine litter. Next to ambitious reuse and recycling target, EU policy helps reduce single-use plastics and microplastics as well as lost fishing gears. #EU4Ocean #YouthforOcean #BeGreenGoBlue



KEEP SINGAPORE CLEAN

# South East Family Cleans Our East Coast Park

Image: Residents and organisers gathered for a group shot before commencing the day's activities.

Organised in conjunction with the World Clean-up Day 2022, residents from South East District came together on 17 September 2022 to pick up litter along the coastal shore, and some participating in kayaking along East Coast Beach to collect marine litter.

The event was jointly organised by South East District Mayor Mr Fahmi Aliman, MPs of the East Coast GRC Mr Heng Swee Keat, Mr Tan Kiat How, Ms Jessica Tan, Ms Cheryl Chan, MPs of Marine Parade GRC Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, and MacPherson SMC Ms Tin Pei Ling.

Participating ECO booth partners, The Re-Purpose Collective (TPRC), Just Keep Thinking and Marine Stewards Singapore (MSS) were also there to showcase some of their innovative ideas on recycling and sustainability. Residents had learned much about the significance of upcycling as they were demonstrated on how collected waste can be repurposed for greater use.

The event ended off with Tree Planting, followed by litter picking along coastal shore and marine litter picking.

MP of East Coast GRC and DPM Mr Heng Swee Keat, with PHC Chairman Mr Edward D'Silva and NParks Assistant CEO (Park Management & Lifestyle Cluster) Mr Tang Tuck Weng preparing the soil for tree planting.

MP of East Coast GRC and DPM Mr Heng Swee Keat, together with PHC Chairman Mr Edward D'Silva gathered with residents for tree planting.

From left: PHC ED Ms Gloria Tan, South West Mayor Mr Fahmi Aliman, MP of East Coast GRC (Kampong Chai Chee) Mr Tan Kiat How, PHC Chairman Mr Edward D'Silva and PHC Deputy Chairman Mr Andrew Khng.



# KEEP SINGAPORE CLEAN



## Everyday

## Responsibilities @ New Town

To inculcate good life habits and values, *Everyday Responsibilities @ New Town* provides students with opportunities to take ownership and be responsible of the shared spaces in school. In addition to daily duties to keep their classrooms clean and conducive for learning, the school sets aside the last five minutes of each day before school dismissal for everyone to contribute actively in cleaning of shared spaces. Students look forward to the upbeat music played over the public announcement system to signal the start of cleaning and wipe-down routines.

Affirming the collective efforts of the students goes a long way in inculcating good life habits. In New Town Primary School, we empower our student Environment Monitors who will visit an assigned classroom to conduct a weekly Inter-Class-Cleanliness-Inspection (I.C.C.I.) on Thursday mornings. The Environment Monitors would look out for positive aspects such as a litter-free floor and neatly arranged tables, and also rate the level of cleanliness and orderliness in the classroom via an online form. They also provide words of affirmation and snap photographs of good practices they observed.

One of the highlights our students look forward to at the end of every term is the Sparkling Classroom Award. Assessed by the Year Heads, it recognises the cleanest classroom at each level observed during the 'Spotless Checks'. During these checks, the Year Heads would also record their observations on a chart pasted on the front door of the classroom. Students then know which areas are their strengths and areas of improvement.

CHECKS ON BELOW:	NUMBER OF STARS
Clean the whiteboard	★
Sweep the dirt off the ledge of the whiteboard into the bin	★ ★ ★
Sweep the floor	★ ★
Wipe down the cabinets and shelves	★
Pick up any trash around, clear the bins and replace with a new trash bag	★ ★ ★ ★
Sanitizer area is dry and clean	★
Tidy up the library or other learning corners	★ ★ ★
Recycling is evident in the class	

Snapshot of how the Spotless Check Chart looks like

An article contributed by

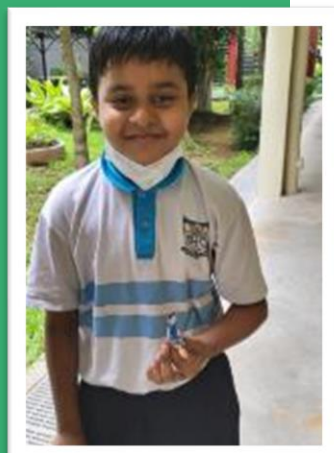


**NEW TOWN**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
光道小学



The school also partnered with the Public Hygiene Council to conduct the Buddy Cleaning Workshop for Primary Four students in August 2022. Our Primary Four students learnt about the consequences of littering and worked in groups to learn how to use various cleaning equipment to clean their classrooms and common areas. Our students also learnt about the value of teamwork and the importance of everyone playing a part to keep the school environment clean.

**“It is our responsibility to keep our school clean. This is where we study, we play and we build friendships. It is our home away from home. Let’s all keep our school environment clean!”**



Fardeen from P5-4, picking up a piece of trash after reminding his peers to do the same.

**- Fardeen, Primary 5-4-**





## Youth Action Group

### An introduction to the YAG



Recognizing the growing aspirations of our youth as well as the many ground-up efforts being made by youth groups for sustainability initiatives towards the environment, the Public Hygiene Council recently convened the inaugural PHC Youth Action Group (YAG). The YAG comprises of 5 youth members led by Co-Chairs, PHC Council Member Mr David Chua and Seastainable founder Ms Samantha Thian.

The YAG will comprise of two key pillars, a Learning Pillar and an Action Pillar. YAG members can participate and contribute to either pillar. The YAG pillar committees will then work with participating youth to come up with meaningful initiatives and programs to help promote PHC's Keep Singapore Clean Movement among youth in Singapore

The youths today have many ideas to offer and YAG will play an active role in helping to nudge youth groups, chapters and members to step forward and be part of the environment movement.

As mentors for their peers, YAG members can provide mentorship and consultancy to the action project teams, and then adopt the solutions if viable.



## Introduction to Tian San Shipping

Tian San Shipping is a veteran harbour craft company in Singapore with over 50 years of professional experience in island logistics and port essential services. It operates more than 60 vessels of various sizes and types to support the marine industry in Singapore. Despite being the only MPA-appointed vessel operator to oversee the cleaning up operations of Singapore sea, it is also expanding its footprint into the regional clean up space to help make our waters and seas a cleaner and more livable space for all.

Tian San is also involved in marine clean-up operations and clears over 120km of our coastline & almost 200km<sup>2</sup> of sea space daily to keep our waters clean and free of navigational hazards. Often, the flotsam in Singapore comes into our waters during the change of the monsoon seasons i.e Northeast monsoon from Dec to Mar and Southwest monsoon from Jun to Sept of every year. Flotsam in Singapore is typically a mix of natural and man-made marine debris. Natural flotsam can consist of trees, branches, leaves, twigs, animal carcasses and barnacles while man-made flotsam is often litter generated from human activities that have found their way into the sea. Till date, Tian San has cleared 24 million kilos of waste from our waters with more being collected each day. By partnering with the public, private and social sectors, we hope to minimize and hopefully eliminate the global marine trash issue.



# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Quarterly SG Clean Day

Sunday, 30 Oct 2022

In support of SG Clean Day on 30 Oct 2022, there will be no sweeping of selected open areas at participating partners' premises\*

\* HDB estate open areas, Marina Barrage, reservoir parks, ABC (Active, Beautiful, Clean) Waters sites, public parks, gardens, park connectors, selected major dormitories, tourist attractions, shopping malls and retailers. Nature reserves are excluded

*— SG Clean Day —*

# PICNIC IN THE CITY

**U-CLEAN, I-CLEAN, SG CLEAN**

**SUNDAY 30 OCT / SOMERSET YOUTH PARK**

**Time: 8.00am to 10.30am**  
(registration starts at 7.15am)

**FREE ADMISSION!**  
Limited spots available. Register now!

**Guest of Honour: Mr Alvin Tan**  
Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Trade and Industry

**UFM 100.3 DJs**

In support of SG Clean Day on Sunday, 30 October 2022, there will be no sweeping of selected open areas at participating partners' premises.

Join us for a fun-filled morning of activities at Somerset Youth Park!

**Programme Highlights:**

- Picnic in the City
- Scavenger Litter-hunt activity
- Litter-picking activity
- Meet & Greet Supermons
- Free goody bag including limited edition Supermons picnic mat\*

\* Redemption is only for the first 250 successfully registered participants.

Scan this QR code and sign up now!

For more information, please visit [go.gov.sg/picnicinthecity](http://go.gov.sg/picnicinthecity)

**Organised by:** PUBLIC HYGIENE COUNCIL, SG CLEAN

**Supported by:** CEC, NEA, 25th Anniversary

**Venue partner:** SOMERSET

**Partners:** CapitalLand, City Development Limited, DECATHLON, Far East Organisation, FRASERS PROPERTY, landclean, TANGS, UOL



## Welcome, Mr Iskandar Bin Abdul Sani

Get to know him better through his short message:



“I am delighted to join NEA and the PEG family.

With my latest stint in NEA EPHOG doing residence engagement and enforcement, my primary role focused in suppressing the recent dengue outbreak.

I strongly value family and friends around me. Therefore, I will always try my best to make time for them as I believe they are the backbone of my progression, when then helps shape my life journey.”





#KeepSGClean - Public Hygiene Council 2021

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