

For immediate release

Making their Mark for the Water Cause

PUB's Watermark Award honours three outstanding water champions for doing their part for water

This year will see three organisations take home the Watermark Award from PUB, the national water agency. CH2M Singapore, Fernvale Primary School and Pei Hwa Secondary School will receive the award from Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, at a ceremony on Thursday, 31 March 2016.

Advocating water sustainability

CH2M Singapore makes it part of their corporate culture to advocate environmental causes, in particular, the water cause. This is evident in their continual efforts to promote water sustainability in the community. One of their recent initiatives include providing pro-bono design and engineering services to Ground-Up Initiative (GUI), a not-for-profit organisation, in building *Kampung Kampus*. When built, this site will come with ABC Waters Design features such as a vegetated swale that will help to clean and convey rainwater runoff.

In 2013, CH2M Singapore designed two rain gardens at Woodgrove Secondary School. Through co-organised workshops with the school, CH2M Singapore continues to share the benefits of rain gardens with students from other secondary schools. To complement its efforts in sustainability, CH2M Singapore also collaborates with different partners to organise various water-related activities such as river clean-ups.

Mr Tan Ngo Chiaw, Managing Director of CH2M Water Business Group said: "We are fully aware that profitable growth of a company depends on the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of the communities the company does its business. At CH2M, how we make those profits is more important than how much we make. We are proud to receive the Watermark Award for the recognition of CH2M's contributions made to protecting and preserving Singapore's water assets."

Cultivating tomorrow's blue warriors

A firm believer of fostering a sense of water stewardship among our children from young, Fernvale Primary School added, in 2014, an Environment Education Programme into the curriculum across all levels. Since 2015, the School has been recognised for its work in water sustainability under the Ministry of Education's Learning for Life programme. Their efforts include a permanent exhibition on the Singapore Water Story and imparting good water conservation habits to students through colourful 3D water-themed artworks that don the school's staircases.

Since 2012, Fernvale's total annual water consumption has reduced by about 40%. It is now among the top 10% in terms of most water efficient primary schools in Singapore.

Mdm Balakrishna Vyjanthimala, Principal of Fernvale Primary School said: "Water is a precious resource. Everyone has a part to play in saving water. It is important to instil water

saving habits in our children and I am happy to note that saving water has become a strong part of our school culture today.”

Going the extra mile for water

In 2015, Pei Hwa Secondary School achieved PUB’s Water Efficient Building (Sliver) Certification. As a water-efficient school, it has several water saving initiatives in its bag. These include having a vertical garden with an auto-irrigation system as well as adoption of water efficient push taps and dual-flush cisterns. They also secure filled water bottles in the dual flush cisterns and adjust water pressure valves to further cut their water usage. To raise awareness and motivate the school population to save water, its water usage charts are pinned up on noticeboards in the school canteen.

Pei Hwa Secondary School’s principal Mrs Belinda Chan said: “The young may be apathetic about water issues as they have never experienced a lack of water supply. Hence it is even more important for us to nurture and instil in our students a heightened sense of water consciousness and stewardship.”

Join us as Water Advocates

PUB’s Chief Executive, Ng Joo Hee affirmed: “Our winners are sterling examples of organisations that go the extra mile to spread the message and galvanise the community to protect our precious water resource. Achieving a sustainable water supply takes more than just having a diversified water supply strategy. It requires commitment from every person, community group and organisation to use water wisely. We are heartened to see that our winners this year are leading the way in this area of water stewardship.”

Nominations for the next Watermark Award open from 1st July 2016. Interested parties please e-mail PUB at PUB_Watermark_Award@pub.gov.sg

Refer to Annex 1 for details of the winners.

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About Watermark Award

Introduced in 2007 by PUB, the national water agency, the Watermark Award recognises individuals and organisations for their outstanding contributions and commitment to protect and raise awareness of Singapore’s precious water resources. The aim is to inspire and encourage Singaporeans to take ownership of our water resources and contribute towards Singapore’s water sustainability. This year a total of 21 nominations were received.

About PUB

PUB is a statutory board under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. It is the water agency that manages Singapore’s water supply, water catchment and used water in an integrated way.

About PUB's tagline: Water for All: Conserve, Value, Enjoy

PUB has ensured a diversified and sustainable supply of water for Singapore with the Four National Taps (local catchment water, imported water, NEWater, desalinated water).

To provide water for all, PUB calls on all to play our part to conserve water, keep our water catchments and waterways clean and build a relationship with water so we can enjoy our water resources. If we all play our part, we can have enough water for all our needs – for industry, for living, for life.

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ANNEX 1

CH2M Singapore

CH2M Singapore is a global leader in consulting, design, design-build, operations and program management services. The company delivers sustainable and practical solutions to their clients, helping them to develop and manage infrastructure and facilities. Going above and beyond their day-to-day work, CH2M Singapore has been continually putting in effort over the years to engage the community. Their community outreach includes water centric activities organised with stakeholders. These include supporting World Water Monitoring Challenge, organising river clean ups and providing ongoing pro-bono design and engineering services to help build Kampung Kampus.

Some outreach initiatives of CH2M Singapore through the years are as follows: -

- In 2008, CH2M Singapore hosted students from NTU during World Water Monitoring Day. The students went on a tour conducted by CH2M and performed onsite water quality testing at Kallang River at Kolam Ayer ABC Waterfront.
- In 2011, CH2M Singapore organised wetland planting and World Water Monitoring Challenge for 70 community partners at Alexandra Canal. Participants experienced hands on learning on wetlands and performed water quality testing onsite. CH2M also developed information panels installed at Alexandra Canal on water related topics with students from Crescent Girls' School. The panels touched on the Four National Taps, ABC Waters Programme and the importance of keeping waterways clean.
- In 2011, CH2M Singapore organised a field trip for about 60 pre-schoolers and teachers from Pat's Schoolhouse to Kallang River @ Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park to teach them about the importance of clean water and features such as wetlands.
- In 2013, CH2M Singapore designed and provided pro-bono consultancy expertise in the building of two raingardens for Woodgrove Secondary School.
- In 2014, CH2M Singapore collaborated with Woodgrove Secondary School to share the purpose and benefits of raingardens, reaching out to more than 130 students from 6 secondary schools. In 2016, CH2M did a presentation on raingardens at Woodgrove's Water TAP* event to support the school's Singapore World Water Day effort and also provided sponsorship for prizes and refreshments for the event.
- In 2015, CH2M Singapore organised river clean-ups with Waterways Watch Society.
- 2015 – present: CH2M Singapore is providing ongoing pro-bono design and engineering services to Ground Up Initiative's[#], a not-for-profit organisation, Kampung Kampus project.

* About Water TAP 2016

In conjunction with Singapore's World Water Day 2016, CH2M Singapore organised Water TAP 2016 (Training, Appreciation, Participation) on 5 March 2016. First launched at Marina Barrage in 2010, Water TAP is a biennial workshop cum competition for secondary school students. This year's Water TAP event was held at Woodgrove Secondary School and saw about 60 participants.

#About Ground Up Initiative

Founded in 2008, Ground-Up Initiative (GUI) is guided by a values-based community, the spirit of innovation, resilience and grounded leadership to demonstrate an urban sustainability. GUI's 21st century kampung culture practices 6Rs - Rethink. Refuse. Reduce. Reuse. Repair. Recycle and 5Gs values – being Gracious. Green. Giving. Grounded. Gratitude. GUI is building Kampung Kampus, a low-carbon footprint community campus, sited on a 2.6 hectares land plot in Yishun, Singapore. Kampung Kampus aims to be a role model in sustainable living and a school of Life; shaping resilience and rootedness in communities, development of individuals, society and environment.

Fernvale Primary School

Fernvale Primary School is committed towards nurturing her students into 'confident, successful learners' and 'involved citizens' who express their thoughts on environmental issues, engage in critical thinking and possess a deep sense of responsibility towards the community. This vision is made possible with the implementation of good water-saving practices, the setting up of a Green Club to groom Environment Ambassadors and ensuring that all students are exposed to water-saving messages.

Fernvale Primary School's dedication to environmental sustainability is evident through the school's Environment Education Programme, Greenova, where environment education is infused into the curriculum across all levels. Since 2015, the school is recognised for her efforts in water and energy conservation under the Ministry of Education's (MOE) Learning for Life Programme.

The Learning for Life programme is a developmental programme introduced by MOE, meant to instil life skills and socio-emotional competencies in the students. With MOE's support, the school installed a permanent Singapore Water Story Exhibition cum mini pond at the school canteen. Colourful 3D-artwork containing information on the Four National Taps and good water conservation habits also line the school's staircases.

With the aim of developing Environment Ambassadors, the Green Club exposes its members to water sustainability issues as they are brought on learning journeys to widen their horizons. In 2015, students from the Green Club conducted outreach session for Kindergarten Two children of Sengkang Methodist Children Centre on water pollution.

Since 2014, the school has also been participating in Singapore World Water Day celebrations and the National Environment and Water Quiz.

The school has water thimbles placed in the faucets to reduce water flow, and the toilet flushing systems also provide the reduced flush option to save water. Good water practices are also adopted in its day-to-day operations such as watering of its eco-gardens on alternate days. To supplement current efforts in water saving, the school is looking to invest in rainwater harvesting.

Pei Hwa Secondary School

Pei Hwa Secondary School is committed to running a water-efficient campus and nurturing environmental consciousness and stewardship in its students. The school received the Water Efficient Building (Silver) Certification in 2015.

The school's water saving initiatives include:

- a vertical garden with an auto irrigation system
- the adoption of push taps and dual-flush cisterns
- self-improvised water efficient fittings in the cisterns via the use of cable ties to secure filled water bottles in flushing cisterns to further reduce water used per flush
- adjustments in water pressure valves to reduce water flow and cut water usage
- monitoring monthly water usage and putting up water usage charts in the school to encourage students to play their part to save water

Water education is an important part of the school's curriculum. Since 2013, every level is exposed to various case studies on water issues to raise awareness of the importance of water conservation and create a sense of ownership of water.

The school also actively conducts ABC Waters Learning Trail at their adopted Sengkang Floating Wetland for other schools, the community and also foreign delegates. Sengkang Floating Wetland is incorporated as one of the learning site in the Jalan Kayu Heritage Trail educational package designed by the school for the community in 2014.

Pei Hwa Secondary School has also created platforms for student leaders to participate and lead water efforts. This includes sharing of water messages during morning assembly and supporting Singapore World Water Day celebrations since 2011 by volunteering and organising events for the community.

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