

## The water that binds

*Stringing together hearts, communities and nature at Pang Sua Pond*

**Singapore, 25 March 2017:** Walking by the water will no longer be the same for residents of Bukit Panjang, now that they can “walk on water” instead to gain easy access to amenities in the neighbourhood. This is made possible with a new 480-metre boardwalk suspended up to 7 metres over the Pang Sua Pond under PUB’s Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters Programme (活跃, 优美, 清洁 – 全民共享水源计划, 简称 ABC 水源计划). Guest-of-Honour, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong officiated at the opening ceremony of this ABC Waters project this evening.

Nestled in the heart of Bukit Panjang town, Pang Sua Pond is a stormwater collection pond that serves as a source of water supply. It collects rainwater runoff from the surrounding catchment before the water is pumped to the Upper Seletar Reservoir for storage and treatment. Built in the 1990s, the pond is a forerunner of the ABC Waters Programme, having undergone transformation in its early years from a bare stormwater collection pond to an attractive wooded lake. It was one of the projects identified then to undergo landscaping enhancements to complement adjacent residential developments and encourage recreation.

Held in conjunction with the opening ceremony of ABC Waters @ Pang Sua Pond are the Chingay @ Heartlands 2017 and the opening ceremony of 3G Wellness Centre @ Bukit Panjang Neighbourhood 5 Park. More than 3000 residents attended the event.

### ***Go places with new boardwalk***

A key highlight of the revamped Pang Sua Pond is its elevated boardwalk, which offers residents a unique experience of “walking over water”. Connectivity is boosted as residents can now use the boardwalk to access several facilities in the vicinity, such as the new 3G Wellness Centre, and the popular Senja-Cashew Community Club and Bukit Panjang Neighbourhood 5 Park.

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Two lookout decks built along the boardwalk also allow residents to pause in their tracks to get closer to water and admire the beautiful waterbody. As residents traverse seamlessly to various parts of the neighbourhood via the boardwalk, a natural community focal point is born.



### ***A floating outdoor classroom that cleanses water too***

Sitting on the northern edge of Pang Sua Pond, a lush community of wetland plants form the second largest man-made floating wetland system in Singapore. Slightly bigger than an Olympic-sized swimming pool, the floating wetlands simulate nature's way of cleansing water. Rooted emergent plants such as Fragrant Pandan and Miniature Flatsedge within the wetlands help to absorb nutrients and cleanse water in the pond. By creating habitats above and below water, this ABC Waters design feature will enhance biodiversity, beautify the surrounding landscape, and serve as natural outdoor classrooms for residents and students to learn about how one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems supports a thriving community of aquatic and animal life, and why it is important to keep the waters clean. To further improve water quality, aerators are also installed within the pond.



### ***Lights, Sound, Music and more***

Overlooking the stunning waterscape at Pang Sua Pond, a multi-purpose stage that can seat more than 250 people offers endless possibilities for a diverse range of outdoor performances, community events and other entertainment options by the water and under the stars. The variety of performance acts and live fireworks display today are an example of what the community can look forward to in the near future.



“ABC Waters @ Pang Sua Pond is a challenging yet interesting project as we put in features that improved aesthetics and user experience while retaining the pond's core function as a source of water supply. The floating wetlands and aerators is a case in point where besides improving water quality in the pond, biodiversity and the overall quality of life is also enhanced. As the community enjoys a leisurely walk or jog over water and take in the panoramic scenery, we hope they will be inspired to play their part in keeping the waters free from litter so that Pang Sua Pond can continue to be a gem that all of us can treasure and be proud of,” said PUB's Chief Sustainability Officer, Mr Tan Nguan Sen 公用事业局可持续发展署署长陈元森.



### ***Community ownership is key***

Already, the latest water playground in the West has garnered attention from the community, eager to play their part for water. Six schools and Cashew Constituency have pledged to be adopters of Pang Sua Pond and have come up with innovative ways to care for the waterbody.

An active advocate for the water cause, Zhenghua Primary School will develop a trail for its Primary Four students, which will subsequently be extended to neighbouring schools. In addition, the school has plans to conduct clean-up activities at Pang Sua Pond and its neighbouring park four times a year. Members of the Environment & Science Club at Greenridge Primary School will similarly be helping to keep the pond clean, while carrying out water quality testing activities.

At Zhenghua Secondary School, its Secondary Two students would be profiling Pang Sua Pond as part of a geography project on Bukit Panjang as a town to live in. Besides performing water quality testing, the students have made sketches of the picturesque waterscape, which are showcased at the opening ceremony.

Another activist Teck Whye Primary School has completed investigative projects on water conservation as part of its Primary 5 curriculum. Its staff will help to keep the pond clean by doing monthly observation and report on littering.

Other adopters of ABC Waters @ Pang Sua Pond include West Spring Primary School, West View Primary School and Cashew Constituency who will also be conducting clean-up activities at the pond.

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### **About PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency**

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

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).

PUB calls on everyone to play a part in conserving water, in keeping our waterways clean, and in caring for Singapore's precious water resources. If we all do our little bit, there will be enough water for all our needs – for commerce and industry, for living, for life.

### **About PUB's ABC Waters Programme**

The ABC Waters Programme was launched by PUB in 2006 to transform Singapore's water bodies beyond their utilitarian purpose into beautiful and clean streams, rivers and lakes, creating a vibrant City of Gardens and Water. Over 100 potential locations have been identified for implementation by 2030. To date, 36 ABC Waters projects completed by PUB have been opened to the public.

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