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Media Release



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News Editor

SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RENEWS AND REDOUBLES EFFORTS TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS AMIDST CHANGING SOCIAL LANDSCAPE

- **South West CDC appoints its broad-based 7th Council with a good reach across grassroots organisations, corporates and schools**
- **New Council will reaffirm mission and redouble efforts to address community needs and augment national priorities**
- **Council restructuring includes brand new SkillsFuture Engage Functional Committee (FC) dedicated to bring SkillsFuture down to the ground level**

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The South West Community Development Council (CDC) will be appointing its 7th Council this Friday, 14 July 2017, which will take over the reins from the 6th Council. The 7th Council of 85 members¹, whose term commences from 27 May 2017 to 26 May 2020, comprises influencers in the private and people sectors and non-grassroots space as well as Grassroots Advisers and divisional representatives from the grassroots organisations, and have committed to support the CDC in its mission to Assist the Needy, Bond the People, and Connect the Community (ABC).

¹85 CDC members comprise 62 District Councillors and 23 Committee Members, of which, 1 in 4 CDC members will be serving their 1st term.

7th Council Composition

2 The broad-based Council will harness the vast experiences and diverse expertise of its members, to come up with innovative and relevant solutions to serve the community. Among these include new members like Mr Derrick Yap, CEO of Precision Bearings and Automation (PBA); Dr Kenny Yap, CEO of St Luke's Eldercare; Mr Gilbert Tan, CEO of Employment and Employability Institute; as well as continuing members like Dr Goh Mong Song, Principal of ITE College West.

3 Other notable new members brought into the Council include Ms Margaret Heng, CEO of Shatec and current Executive Director of the Singapore Hotel Association. "Having previously worked with the CDC on a number of programmes, it is my honour to be appointed as a Council member to serve the community at a broader level. I look forward to contributing in my respective committee, the SkillsFuture Engage Functional Committee, through my expertise and networks. I hope to enhance the development of residents by expanding the learning and training opportunities available for residents to upgrade their skills."

4 Two thirds of the Council are non-grassroots leaders, of which more than 50% are from corporate sector, to ensure that the CDC is in touch with different segments of the community. The remaining one third are grassroots leaders who will serve as the key liaison between the grassroots organisations and the CDC, to communicate and explore opportunities to integrate district-wide initiatives and services with those organised at the local level, and link various stakeholders and resources to better serve the community.

Aligning Functional Committees to Address Evolving Needs and Challenges

5 Current challenges, such as threats to national security and the need to stay relevant in an ever-changing landscape, call for a timely revamp to the

CDC's Functional Committees (FCs). Aligning the CDC's efforts to four focus areas such as SkillsFuture, SG Cares, SG Secure and building a strong, active and healthy community, the new committee structure aims to better harness the expertise and resources of its CDC members in helping Singaporeans better prepared to meet challenges.

6 A new FC, the **SkillsFuture Engage FC**, will streamline efforts to future-proof Singaporeans and benefit residents through developing pro-learning and employment partnerships, in support of the national SkillsFuture movement. Industry experts with the right set of skills and expertise, including those from the employability and training fields, are brought in to shape and advise the CDC's SkillsFuture efforts such as the SkillsFuture Engage @ South West, which will bring job opportunities that are nearby, flexible, and from growth sectors, as well as workshops for career and training advisory and awareness of SkillsFuture programmes.

7 Existing FCs have been restructured with sharpened focuses to target and align to evolving community needs, namely the **Healthy and Active Lifestyle FC**, to promote a healthy community and encourage active ageing, and the **Family and Community Resilience FC**, to promote community resilience and an inclusive and pro-family community. The two FCs are reorganised from previous FCs, namely the Healthy Lifestyle FC, Family and Active Ageing FC, and Arts and Culture FC.

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8 Welcoming the change is Mr Lim Der Shing, Chairman of the new SkillsFuture Engage FC and co-Founder of JobsCentral Group, who has been with the CDC for eight (8) years and is into his third term. "It is a privilege to be appointed the Chairman of this new FC, and together with my fellow FC members, we will focus on developing win-win partnerships with community and corporate stakeholders to help residents enhance themselves with SkillsFuture and gear the district towards a pro-learning mindset," said Mr Lim.

9 "The CDC's mission of Assisting the needy, Bonding the people and Connecting the community is even more relevant today than before. When we

stand together, we can better face a fast-changing world that is being disrupted by technology and new forces. We hope our efforts to guide and engage South West residents on SkillsFuture will open new doors to opportunities in work, personal development and skills that will gear them up for the future. When we make lifelong learning a way of life, we create a stream of fresh possibilities throughout different stages of our life. We are grateful for our committed group of CDC members who are influencers in their respective domains, for coming forward to contribute their ideas and expertise to the community. Close to 1 in 4 CDC members are first-time volunteers who will renew and refresh our community-building efforts. I look forward to working closely with the 7th Council Term as we create resident-centric initiatives for a caring and inclusive South West District,” said Mayor Low Yen Ling.

10 The CDC will also be extending its appreciation to its 6th Council. With the contribution of these members, the CDC has reached out to an average of more than 100 corporates, rolling out around 20 local assistance schemes and benefitting close to 20,000 beneficiaries each year. Through its more than 100 programmes yearly, the CDC has also reached out to an average of 230,000 residents each year.

11 New initiatives were introduced to augment national initiatives, such as Shining Star Reads @ South West which improves social mobility and last mile delivery for 120 young children in rental blocks; Power Savers-for-Charity @ South West, which rallied 450 volunteers from ITE College West and GROs to raise awareness of energy saving habits and where energy savings from 700 households went towards helping the needy in the community; and SG50 Garden Parties @ South West, a series of celebrations which brought people together to commemorate Singapore’s Jubilee whilst celebrating our green heritage.

12 The CDC also rolled out pilots to test bed new ideas to promote community ownership and active citizenry such as the Day of Service @ South West, a programme to promote a litter-free culture in young students and sense of national pride, through shared experience; and the South West Volunteer

Corp Network, an initiative to harness resources and expertise from government agencies, corporate and community partners, to make volunteerism sustainable through a deepened sense of belonging and a good volunteering experience. To date, there are more than 25 network partners and more than 300 volunteers engaged through its volunteering orientation sessions. In addition, the CDC also launched the South West Innovation Fund (SWIF+), an incubator fund to support voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs), who wish to address emerging needs/causes but were constrained by resources. The fund enables VWOs to test bed new ideas or solutions to plug community gaps on the ground that may not be addressed on the national level.

13 The CDC also enhanced evergreen programmes to make it relevant to the community. Examples are South West Emergency Relief Fund where we made changes to the criteria to cover more causes, and the introduction of the customised identity cards with personalised baby photograph under the Baby Blisscard @ South West that were given to newborns during the SG50 year, to commemorate nation building and the celebration of the national spirit.

14 Details of the event are as follows:

Event : South West CDC Appreciation and Appointment Ceremony
2017

Date : Friday, 14 July 2017

Time : 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm (**Media is invited at 6.30 pm**)

Venue : Amara Singapore Hotel

Ballroom @ Level 3

165 Tanjong Pagar Road

Singapore 088539

Guest of : Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Honour Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for Economic and
Social Policies

Host : Ms Low Yen Ling

Mayor of South West District

15 We would like to invite your reporter and photographer/TV crew to the **South West Community Development Council Appreciation and Appointment Ceremony 2017**. Interviews can be arranged upon request. Please contact our media liaison officer for queries. We look forward to receiving you and your crew/photographer.

Media Liaison Officers

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About the South West Community Development Council (CDC)

The South West Community Development Council (CDC) was formed on 24 November 2001, with the mission to Assist the Needy, Bond the People and Connect the Community.

Through local help programmes, the South West CDC provides assistance to help the less fortunate in our community. The CDC also organises projects and programmes to promote community bonding and social cohesion. The South West CDC adopts the "Many Helping Hands" approach to encourage community ownership among residents, community partners and corporations to realise its vision of "Owning Your Community".

PROGRAMME

Time	Programme
6.30 pm	(Media is invited)
6:45 pm	Arrival of Mayor Low Yen Ling (media doorstop will be arranged, subjected to media request) Arrival of Advisory Panel, Vice-Chairmen and Adviser-DCs
7:00 pm	Arrival of Guest of Honour (GOH) Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies, Adviser to Jurong GRC GROs (Taman Jurong)
7:05 pm	Commencement of Appreciation and Appointment Ceremony
7.15 pm	Welcome Address by Mayor
7.25 pm	Speech by GOH
7.35 pm	Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to CDC Members of the 6 th Council Term
8:05 pm	Tribute Video for South West CDC 6 th Council
8.10 pm	Stage performance
8.30 pm	Presentation of Certificates of Appointment to CDC Members of South West CDC 7 th Council Term
9.30 pm	End of Programme