

campus in a Garden

A Stroll through Nature and Time –
in commemoration of
Singapore Polytechnic's 60th Anniversary

Sixty **years** of . *Greening* **efforts**

Step into Singapore Polytechnic's campus and you will find yourself in a magical world of greenery so rich in biodiversity, that it would do any garden proud. Different discovery trails within its grounds lead to verdant oases and hideaways that will delight the eye while soothing the senses. Guests and residents here can traverse different pathways leading them to special places embodying SP's Green Pledge and vision.

A lush green campus garden with a wooden walkway, a bench, and a building in the background. The scene is filled with various tropical plants, including palm trees and large-leafed shrubs. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

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Foreword

One of my first impressions of the SP campus when I took over as Principal & Chief Executive Officer in 2013, was the sheer luxuriance of the vegetation. There were over two thousand magnificent trees across campus, thick foliage and a burst of flowered hues evidencing great effort to blend nature into the clean lines of the urban architecture. It inspired me to continue in the efforts of the previous principals to create a green and calm physical environment for our students and staff.

Looking at the photographs of the early years of the Dover Road campus (back in 1979) when the trees were young and short, and the architecture was strictly functional and stark, I was moved by the care and innovation over the years to create a garden setting around the campus which we enjoy today. There are magical moments in the mornings and early evenings when one hears bird songs, the cacophony of frogs in front of the main library during rainy mornings and the splash of fish in the ponds and streams, and sees the flutter of wings of birds and insects. We have created a wonderful garden, and Nature has reciprocated with these guests making SP their home. SP is indeed a Campus in a Garden.

We take this opportunity to pay tribute to staff and students who have contributed towards SP's green efforts and success. SP is proud to be recognised through the President's Award for the Environment in 2010, the BCA Green Mark Platinum Award for InnoVillage in 2010 and the NParks' Platinum Award for the Community in Bloom Competition in 2012. These awards mark SP's commitment to the long-term sustainability of our community on the planet.

As part of Singapore Polytechnic's celebration of its 60th Anniversary, we invite you to join us on a magical book tour of our 'Campus in a Garden'. Join us in our celebration of living and working amidst the fresh greenery of the SP oasis – an inspiring place for academic and professional pursuits.

Tan Choon Shian
Principal & Chief Executive Officer



Archived Photo: SP Memories - Admin Block in Dover Campus in the early 1980s

Introduction: A Vision Realised

Germinating A Green Idea

Since 1979, when Singapore Polytechnic (SP) moved to its current Dover Road campus, there have been numerous efforts to create a more conducive learning and working environment in the campus. The most recent one took place in 2009 when the seed for upgrading was sown with the rollout of the Campus Rejuvenation Project.

The vision to rejuvenate the SP campus through green initiatives and to continue protecting our environment has led to our having what can be aptly called a Campus in a Garden. With our open-air connectors, green spaces such as the Eco Oasis and the Sanctuary, and pockets of nature rich in biodiversity, we can proudly say that we offer an ideal environment for our staff and students to work, learn, live and play, and for a myriad of flora and fauna to thrive.

In recognition of our green efforts, we have been honoured with numerous awards. Further down the road, we plan to introduce even more green working and living spaces.

To celebrate our 60th birthday this year, we invite all to take a walk with us through this commemorative book that showcases the richness and beauty of nature within our campus, and salutes the efforts of staff and students who ensure that our campus continues to nestle in a garden.

The Way We Were

Sixty years ago, Singapore Polytechnic built its first home on Prince Edward Road in the country's financial district. When this campus was completed in 1958, we had 2,800 students. Today, we have more than 17,000 full-time and part-time students enrolled in a total of 85 diploma and post-diploma courses offered by our various schools. Many of our graduates are successful members of our community. Many others have risen to positions of responsibility and leadership in industry, finance and public organisations.

Over the years, as Singapore's first polytechnic, we have grown in tandem with the nation, transforming ourselves from a pacesetter to a trendsetter, and from making history to defining the future. In the process, we have moved from our initial modest premises on Prince Edward Road to what is now our permanent campus on Dover Road, in the education belt and science hub in the western part of the city state.

The most recent greening of our campus home, which was developed in phases and is still in progress, began in 2009 when ten Diploma in Architecture (DARCH) students were commissioned to draw on their creative juices and come up with a plan to redesign and rejuvenate our campus. This initiative helped to give SP a better understanding of what students wanted to see on the campus.

To sustain the enthusiasm of students and staff in protecting our environment, SP recognises their efforts through initiatives such as the Eco-Office Challenge, Green Challenge Award and the SP Community Garden Competitions.



Archived Photo: SP Memories - Dover Campus in the early 1980s

Our Commitment to Quality and the Environment

We understand that people are Singapore's most valuable resource, and as the nation's first polytechnic, we have been nurturing young talents for the workforce from the early days of Independence. What is more, the education we provide has stayed relevant to the development of Singapore through generations of staff and students. We are proud to provide this education in an environment where both staff and students help to keep the campus green.

Our success in protecting our environment is due, in no small measure, to our commitment to improving our integrated Quality & Environmental Management System (QEMS) continually. We have two policies in place to help us honour this commitment.

Quality Policy

We are committed to nurturing our students to be life ready, work ready and world ready by providing an enriching and holistic learning experience and to equip adult learners with skills and knowledge to enhance their employability.

We aim to:

- deliver quality consistently
- add value through continual improvement and innovation

Environmental Policy

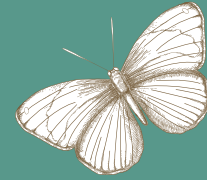
We are committed to caring for the environment by going green and fostering environmental sustainability.

We aim to:

- control pollution via the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)
- comply with environmental legislation and other requirements

At SP, we nurture talents who will help others optimise the beauty of their environment and protect it by offering environment-related courses such as the Diploma in Energy Systems and Management (DESM); Diploma in Landscape Architecture (DLA); and Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Management Technology (DEWT).

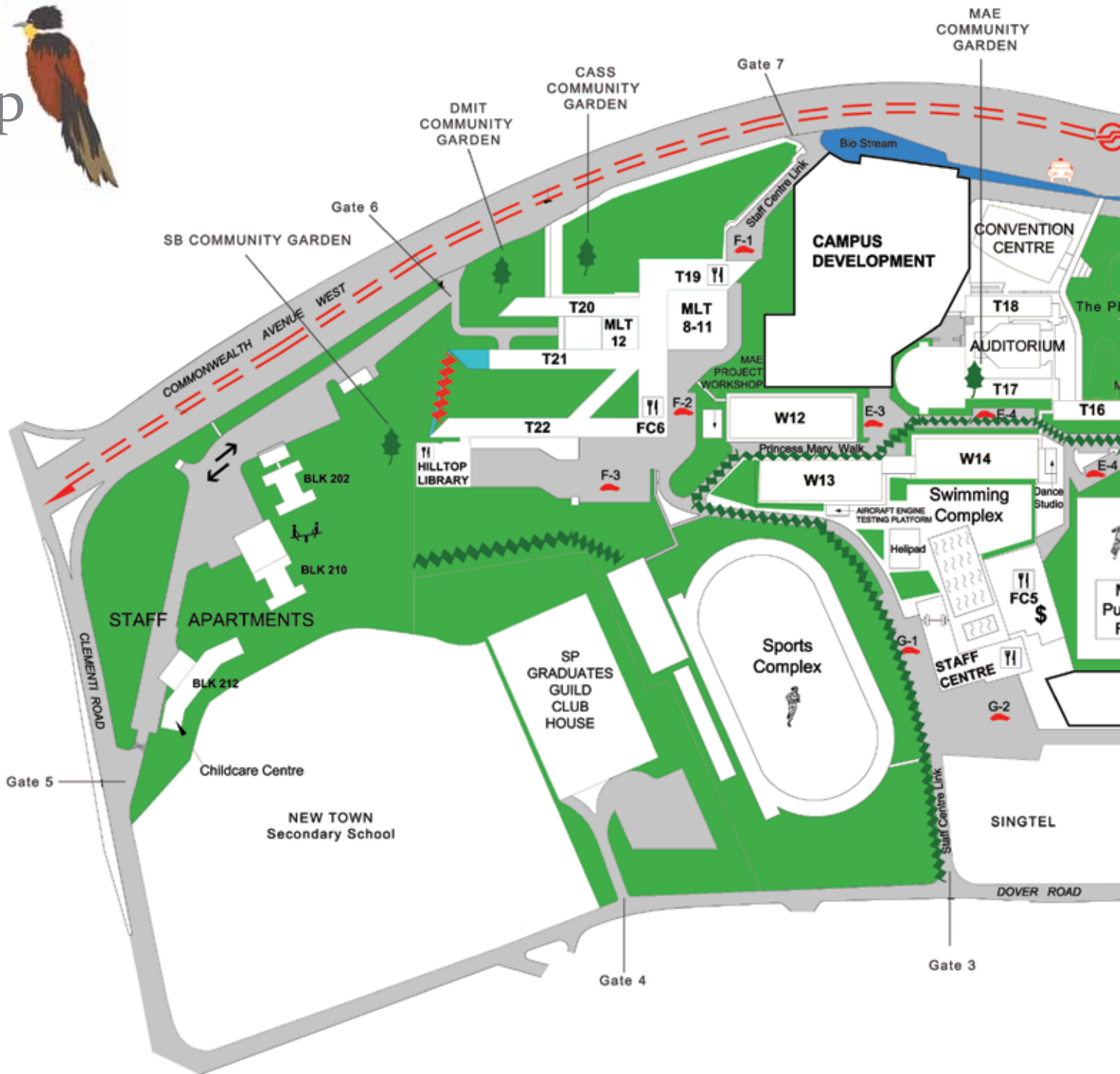
Our Green Pledge



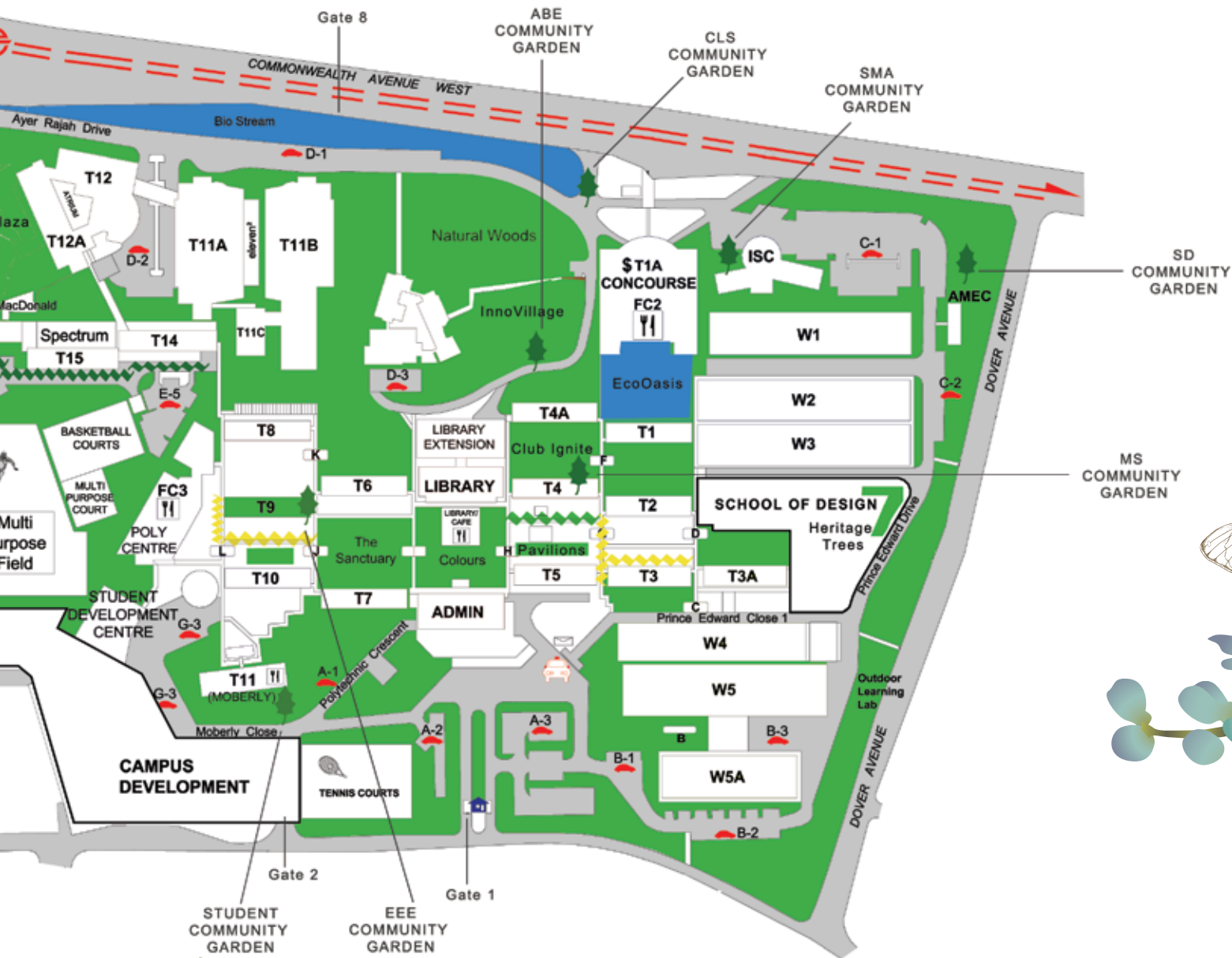
We pledge to
Green our campus,
Reduce, reuse and recycle,
Educate ourselves on green issues,
Encourage others to do likewise, and
Nurture a love for our environment



Campus Map



ABE	School of Architecture & the Built Environment
CLS	School of Chemical & Life Sciences
CASS	School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences
DMIT	School of Digital Media & Infocomm Technology
EEE	School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering
MS	School of Mathematics & Science
MAE	School of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering
SMA	Singapore Maritime Academy
SB	SP Business School
SD	SP Design School



COMMUNITY GARDENS

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

WATER GARDENS



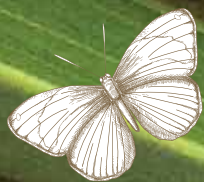
YELLOW CATERPILLAR TRAIL



RED BRIDGE



FEATURED GARDENS AND GREEN AREAS



our
enchanting
entrance







Photo credit: Raymond Toh

A bird's eye view of SP's main entrance.



Photo credit: Raymond Toh

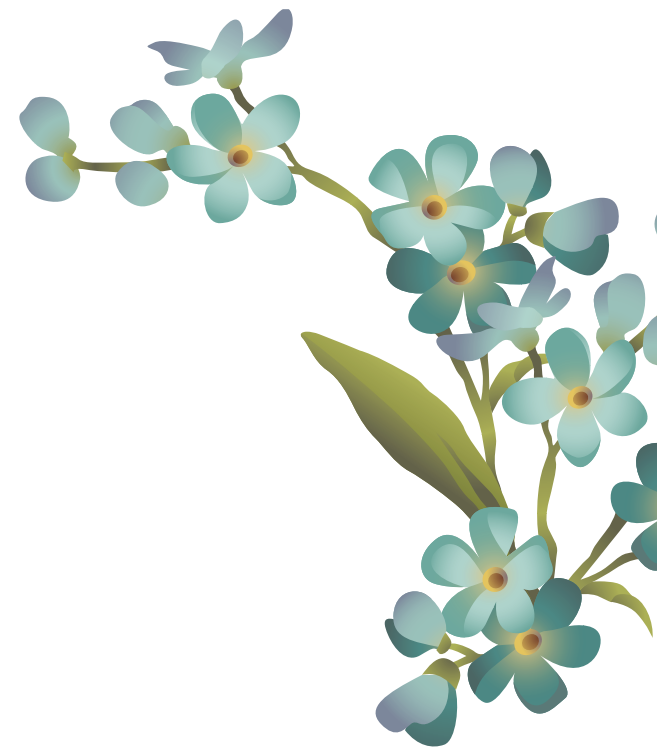


Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh

Admin Block

At SP's main entrance on Dover Road, guests are immediately greeted with the lush greenery all around. Verdant gardens flank the 60-metre driveway to the Admin Block (top, left) and the surrounding carparks. The fragrance of the White Pigeon Orchid growing on the trunks of the Phoenix Palms (facing page) will lure the senses of any passerby.

Leading up to this building — the first to greet anyone coming to SP — is a lusciously landscaped set of steps that heightens the visitors' expectations of more botanical delights to come when they follow the many trails on the campus. Quite commonly spotted here is the White-bellied Sea Eagle (top) soaring over the Admin Block.





Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh

Feather Hub

Birds of different feathers flock to roost within the pockets of serenity at the entrance. With their sleek coats and red eyes, the Asian Glossy Starlings (top) rest on their favoured perches.

While its yellow underparts may make the Common lora (right) a little more conspicuous, this specimen hides itself well among foliage and seems a little too big for its nest. Its chirps are usually the first giveaways of its presence.



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan

Comparing its iridescent plumage with that of the brilliantly-hued 'Lady Di' Heliconia is this Brown-throated Sunbird (left). The Yellow-vented Bulbul (top) seems nonchalant perched against the green foliage of the palm leaves. One cannot help but be drawn to their quick movements in the vegetation. These are often the first residents to greet SP's guests.



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Nature in Harmony

Making their home among the myriad fascinating flora is a huge spectrum of fauna, some skilled in the art of camouflage. Others, such as the Crimson Sunbird (left), add dashes of brilliant colour to their luxuriant habitat. It is surprisingly not too shy and flutters near those who park at the entrance carpark (facing page).





our
heartcore
gardens







Photo credit: Kylie Chia

SPavilions

Perfect for quiet contemplation and a little rest, SPavilions has a charm accentuated by the sweet scents of its flora. Get up close to smell the various flowers and you might just catch glimpses of fascinating fauna such as this delightful Pale Grass Blue Butterfly (facing page). Twittering close by is the perky Ashy Tailorbird (bottom). Alternatively, disturb a slimy Giant African Snail (bottom) and watch it hide in its shell. This spot is a natural and favourite study area for students.



Photo credit: Kylie Chia



Photo credit: Tan Eik Chor Christopher



Perched haughtily on the petal of this Golden Torch Adrian Heliconia is a male Olive-backed Sunbird — At SPavilions, one's gaze follows the moving colours. Faces typically light up as passersby catch the antics of this species.





Photo credit: Tan Xin Hui



Botanical delights with their vibrant colours are an optical feast at SPavilions. Among the eye-catchers is the Red Button Ginger (left) which grows easily and flowers throughout the year.

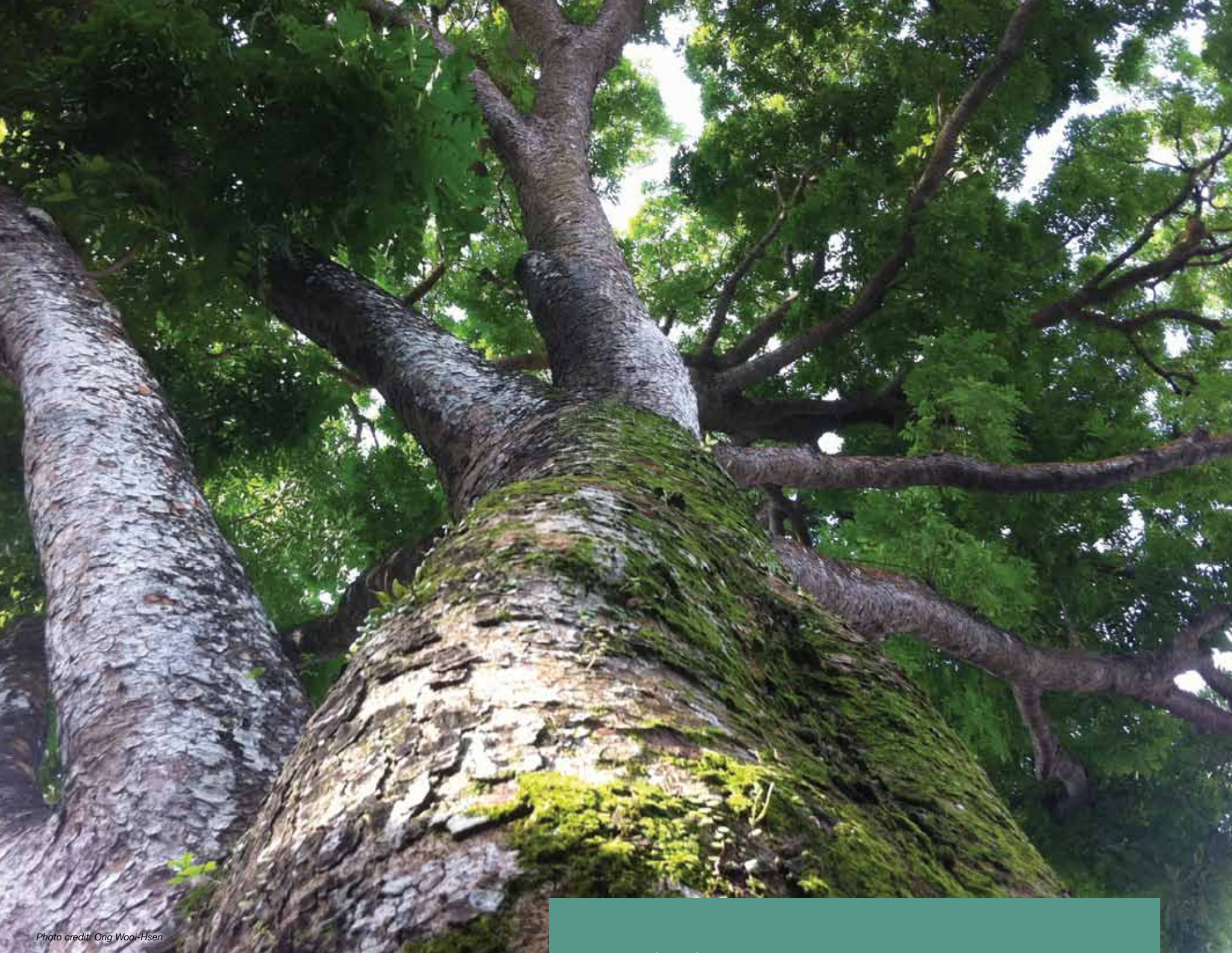


Photo credit: Ong Wool-Hsen

Club Ignite

Between Teaching Blocks 4 and 4A, two 30-metre tall Senegal Mahoganies (top) awe the viewer with their size and grandeur. Their bark extract is used in many malaria-endemic countries as a herbal anti-malarial cure. Here, they dwarf everything else and their extensive canopies offer many a welcome reprieve during hot weather.

Life for nature's wonders sometimes begins within the confines of man-built walls, as discovered by staff and students on Level 2 of Teaching Block 4A.



Scan QR Code to view Yellow-vented Bulbul nesting in Club Ignite

Adding to the biodiversity at Club Ignite is a green grasshopper (right) contemplating its next leap.



Photo credit: Shahrul Kamal

An Olive-backed Sunbird (right) tending to its chicks in its suspended nest.

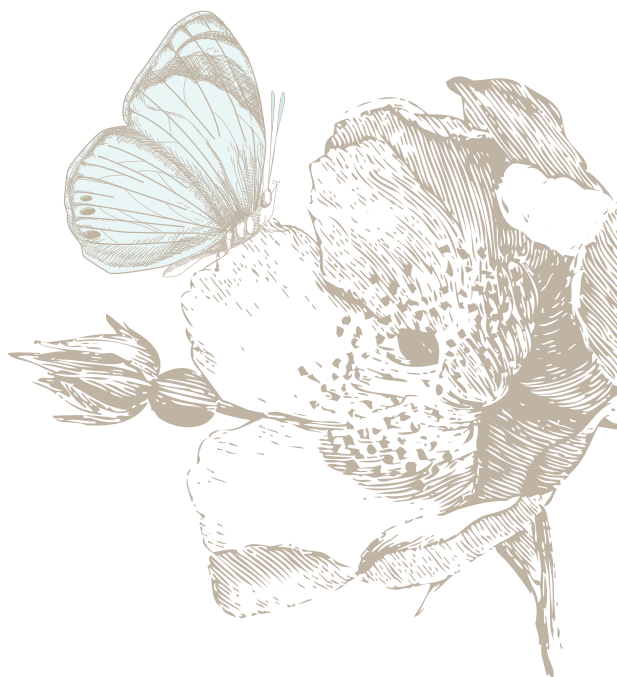


Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Raymond Toh

Created as a social space for staff, Club Ignite nestles in a serene setting enlivened mainly by the twittering of feathered inhabitants such as the Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (top, right) and the Ashy Tailorbird (facing page). Rising straight up among shorter plants are the majestic Tower Trees (left) in front of Teaching Block 4A.



InnoVillage

A gentle stroll up a trail of tranquility leads one to InnoVillage, our BCA Green Mark-certified development that is an embodiment of building and living sustainably. The green features of InnoVillage improve its energy and water efficiency. Not to be missed in this village is the nearby Tree House, perched on a slope behind Teaching Block 6 under a shady Rain Tree. Created to provide an outdoor social space in tune with nature, the structure sees the creative use of recycled linkway panels.



Photo credit: Lynus Hee



Photo credit: Raymond Toh



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Raymond Toh



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh

Contributing to a chorus of chirps at InnoVillage are the Pied Triller (top, left) and the Blue-winged Pitta (left). Their songs or dashes of colour through the trees make visitors pause to admire the natural setting.



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Edge closer to the trees and you may spot the Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (left), a noisy bird that catches insects very effectively despite its cumbersome tail. Its favourite perch is on the Rambutan tree at InnoVillage. Once spotted, staff and students often stop to admire its unusual tail feathers.



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan

Cunningly concealed from the naked eye is this Green Crested Tree Lizard (right). This stunning species is often sighted in parklands. Coexisting in the lush surroundings of InnoVillage is the Black-naped Oriole (top), with golden feathers, a pinkish bill, and a broad black mask and nape. Its bright colours make it a favourite of passersby.



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



The Plaza

Despite being flanked by man-made structures, and with Dover MRT station close by, the Plaza, SP's main activity hub which often hosts large events, still boasts a plenitude of lush greenery. Some truly impressive Giant Fishtail Palms and Tower Trees in the vicinity also lure many varieties of fauna to their shade.





Photo credit: Raymond Toh



Photo credit: Raymond Toh

The urban futuristic facade of Teaching Block 12A (top) is softened by the stand of tall trees and shrubs. Similarly, the SP Convention Centre (left) is bordered by patches of luxuriant specimens.

The lush greenery (bottom) beside the Plaza is also a testimony of astonishing biodiversity. Here we can find the Peacock Flower, Tiger Shrike and brown grasshopper (facing page).





Photo credit: Shahrul Kamal



Photo credit: Kylie Chia



Photo credit: Lim Ah Chay





Photo credit: Raymond Toh

Heritage Trees

SP's lush campus is home to some truly awesome gifts from nature. Take our Trail of Heritage Trees on the eastern side of the premises. Walking through varying shades of green, one can admire their majesty and beauty while enjoying the shade they provide. A much revered genus, the *Ficus Drupacea* or Brown Woolly Fig (top) forms the backdrop for Foodcourt 1 at the newly-built SP Design School.

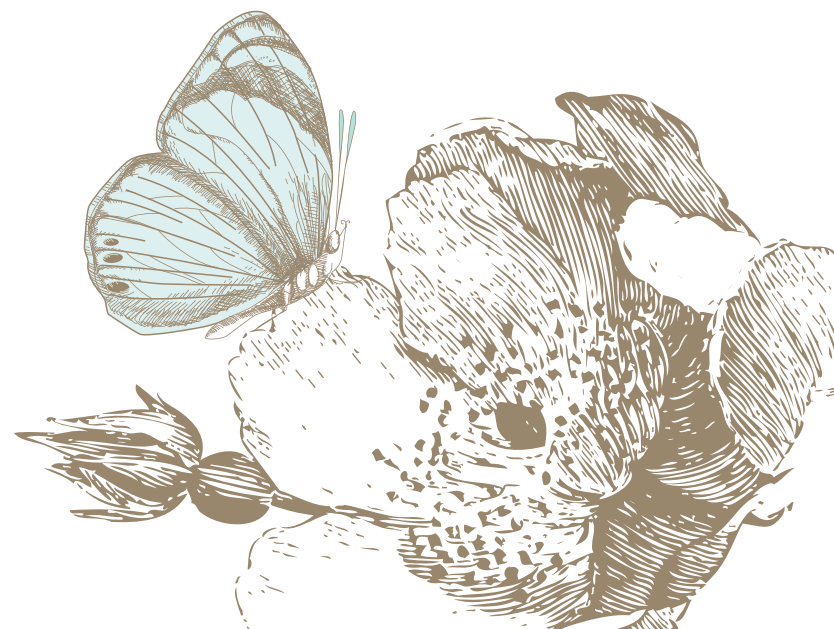




Photo credit: Jeraldine Toh Yi Ting



Photo credit: Ong Wool-Hsen

The Main Library

SP's Main Library provides a soothingly conducive learning and research environment, comprising both indoor and outdoor spaces for students and staff. Landscaping at the entrance to the building on the second level extends a delightful greeting to the visitor, who may also hear the cacophony of frogs on rainy mornings. A Canna grove (left) offers a pleasing welcome to everyone stopping at Colours, the social pavilion complete with a café and a games room that is located in front of the library and joined at the first level. Looking up, one can enjoy the sight of Frangipani and Weeping Tea trees (facing page).







Photo credit: Tang Yu Chin



Photo credit: Shahrul Kamal

Among the genera adding vibrancy to the Main Library surroundings with their cheery colours is the Frangipani (facing page). Other eye-candies here include the Bauhinia-Kockiana vine (top) which blossoms all year round, and the *Belis Perennis* (left), a common European species of daisy, which provides a vantage point for a spider waiting in ambush.





Photo credit: Raymond Toh



Photo credit: Raymond Toh

The Sanctuary

Built on the environmental principles of using natural and recycled materials, the Sanctuary provides an enchanting social and learning space for staff, students and visitors alike. The green roof here is lightweight and vegetated, while the green wall enhances air quality and reduces air pollutants. Structures here use energy-saving lamps and solar powered lights. The butterflies are attracted to this sanctuary which houses plants that specifically attract different species.



Photo credit: Noven Lee



Photo credit: Tay Kuan Yu



Photo credit: Tan Eik Chor Christopher

Lending more than a dash of colour to the Sanctuary are the Cat's Whiskers (top), and a delightful sight of the Common Mormon Butterfly on fresh fuschia petals of Bougainvillea (left). Close by, a pair of compound eyes from a dragonfly (top) stares hypnotically into the camera lens.



Poised to strike is this Crimson Dropwing Dragonfly (left) on a stalk of Coat Button Daisy. Admiring from its throne is the Oriental Magpie Robin (bottom). Its call is the most melodious of the SP birds and many staff and students look for it in the trees whenever it sings.



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chua



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh

A stone's throw away, a Pink-necked Green Pigeon (top) pauses for quiet contemplation in its beautiful habitat, as it sits confidently on a branch within the Sanctuary.



*Photo credit: Raymond Toh*

Moberly

Now the “happening” block for students, staff and alumni, Moberly is tucked discreetly in a scenic spot bursting with the colours of its flora and sounds of its fauna. Inside is a space for relaxation and recreation, as well as study. The historic building that is located opposite the tennis courts and next to Teaching Block 10 is a relic from Singapore’s British colonial times.

The area is lush with ferns including large clusters of Giant Maidenhair (right) that droop a little lower after the rains.



Scan QR Code to view
SP's Moberly Block

*Photo credit: Noven Lee*



Photo credit: Noven Lee

Among the flora giving visual vitality to the vicinity are cheery blooms of Ixora (left).

A lone bench outside Moberly allows tired feet to rest while giving alert eyes the opportunity to take in the surrounding beauty (bottom).



Photo credit: Noven Lee

Contributing to the symphony of natural sounds at Moberly is the Asian Brown Flycatcher (bottom). The hot and humid climate in Singapore encourages the proliferation of the Bird Nest's Fern (facing page, bottom left), captured here, unfolding new foliage.



An often-sighted resident in the Moberly neighbourhood is the colourful Common Golden Flameback Woodpecker (right).



Scan QR Code to view Common Golden Flameback Woodpecker at T243



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Katelim Khung



Photo credit: Ong Wool-Hsen

The crimson hues of this flower (left) make many a passerby take a second look. The plant belongs to the Passion Fruit family.

A photograph of a waterfall with autumn leaves scattered around it. The water is cascading down dark, mossy rocks. Several colorful leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow are scattered across the rocks and in the air. Three stylized butterfly illustrations are overlaid on the image: one white butterfly on the right, one green butterfly on the left, and one black and white butterfly on the left. The text 'our water gardens' is centered in the middle of the image.

our
water
gardens





Photo credit: Noven Lee

Biostream

Cascades at the long, multi-tiered Biostream offer a soothing soundtrack to the biodiversity at play in this enchanting area. Among the residents coexisting in harmony here is this happy family of Red-eared Terrapins (bottom). Most mornings, commuters at the bus stop pause to gaze and to occasionally feed the fish and terrapins.



Photo credit: Raymond Toh



Scan QR Code to view
more of Biostream





Photo credit: Neelesh Bhatia

Poised elegantly on its exquisitely fine web is a Golden Spider awaiting its next meal (top).

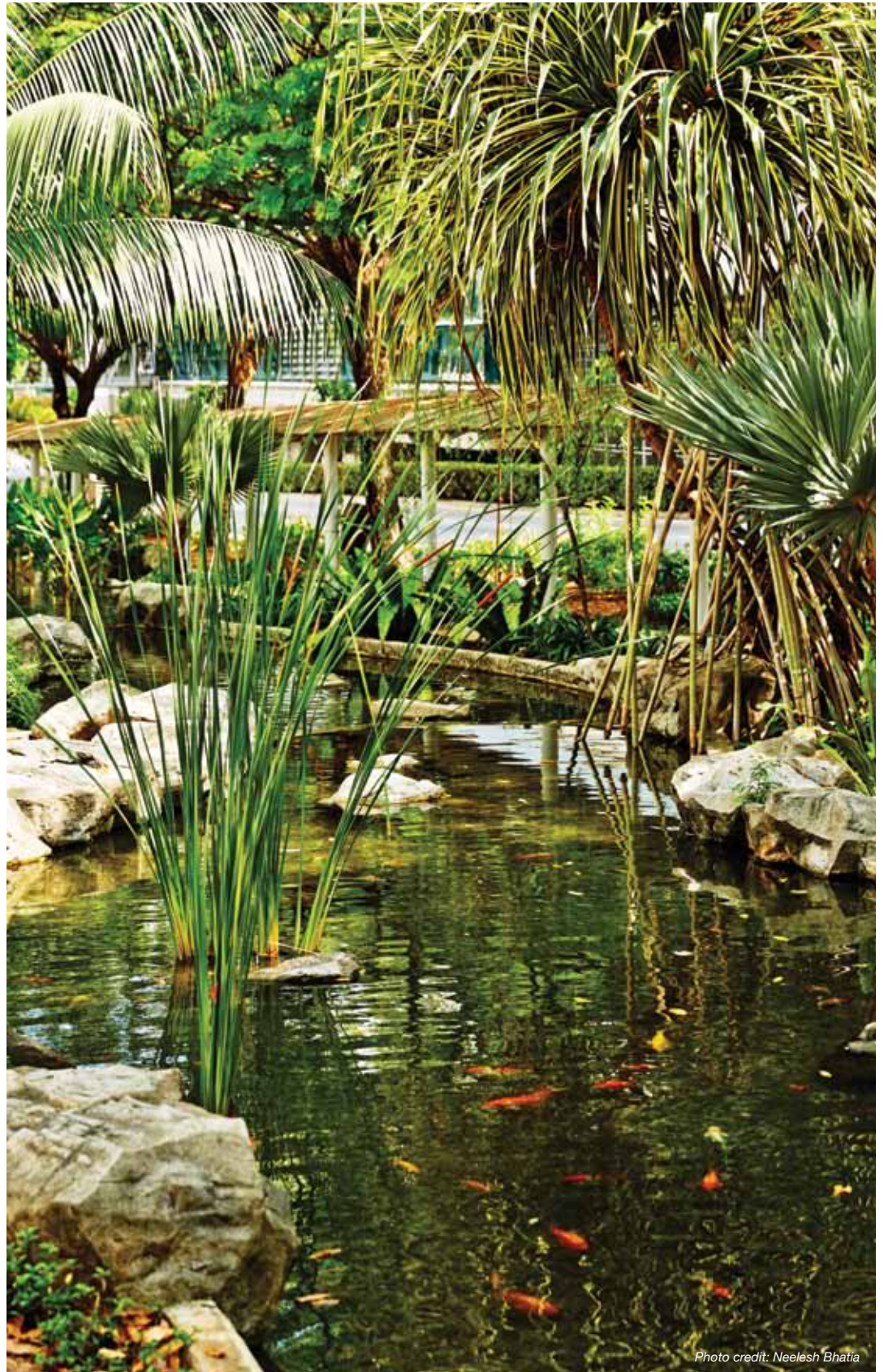


Photo credit: Neelesh Bhatia

Photo credit: Raymond Toh



Photo credit: Raymond Toh



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan

Lair of the Dragons

Linger around Biostream and observe the different varieties of dragonflies flitting around happily or reposing on a welcoming stem. One such species is the male Common Chaser (left).





Photo credit: Katelim Khung



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan

A female Crimson Dropwing Dragonfly (top), has obviously spotted its favoured Coat Button Daisy. As dragonflies feed on mosquitoes, they form part of Singapore's natural mosquito control mechanism.

Camouflage obviously is not the strong suit of the Scarlet Skimmer (top, right) resting on a twig and Crimson Darter (top, left) on a leaf that set off their bright hues (top, left). A sombre-shaded male Common Parasol Dragonfly (right) opts for a leaf as its perch. Passersby always stop to check out these colourful squadrons doing their flypasts.



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan



Photo credit: Katelim Khung

Displaying gentle gradations of gorgeous pink and purple tints an haute couturier would envy, this Red-veined Darter (top) picks the tip of a leaf by the Biostream for alighting and take off. Other eye-catchers in the vicinity include the Blue-sprite Damselfly (left), and the male Crimson Dropwing (facing page).



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan

More cheerily-hued than her male counterpart, this Common Parasol (left) also shows a preference for a perch that shows off her true colours. The Common Parasol is one of the most frequently-found dragonflies around Singapore's water bodies. At Biostream, they thrive.







Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan

Eco Oasis

A true haven of serenity, the Eco Oasis boasts a biodiversity that is a feast for the eye. The Coat Button Daisy (right), is among the varied flora providing a pollen feast for bees. Reflecting quietly on a branch is this distinguished-looking Collared Kingfisher (top). Its contrastive plumage makes it an easy bird to spot even for the novice bird watcher.

Photo credit: Tan Tuan Lin









Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen

Take pleasure in the sight of the foliage at Eco Oasis (facing page) and guests might just catch a glimpse of a Long-tailed Shrike (top). Curling up in their comfortable well-built nest are two chicks of a pair of Yellow-vented Bulbuls (top, right). When awake, they open their beaks, to be fed whenever their parents approach the nest.

Well-hidden amongst the rocks beneath where it lives is the Malayan Monitor Lizard (right), watching every move in its watery habitat.



Photo credit: Katelim Khung





STOP

Princess Mary Walk

ZONE G
CAMP CENTRE
SPORTS COMPLEX
POLY TECH
POLY CENTRE

ZONE E
CONVENTION CENTRE
AUDITORIUM
WATER KIOSK
POST BOX
BANK OF CHINA
BANK OF MEXICO
BANK OF MEXICO
BANK OF MEXICO
A EXIT
DOWNSIDE

NO ACCESS TO GATE 7

NO ACCESS TO GATE 7

our
highways
and
byways





Photo credit: Teh Klam Poh



Archived Photo: SP Memories - SP campus in the early 1980s

Yellow Caterpillar Trail

Linking various buildings on the SP campus is the Yellow Caterpillar Corridor (facing page), so named because of squarish yellow blocks jutting out. This provides an airier feel and an even better view of the open spaces and greenery around. As seen in the picture above, this structure was part of the original linkway design.

When walking on the still existing parts of this linkway, stop by a window and gaze out at the lushness outside. You might just catch a glimpse or two of some of the feathered fauna here. Often sighted in this part of the campus is the Long-tailed Parakeet (left).



Photo credit: Ong Wooli-Hsen



Scan QR Code to view Rejuvenation of the Yellow Caterpillar Trail



Photo credit: Ng Chee Teng

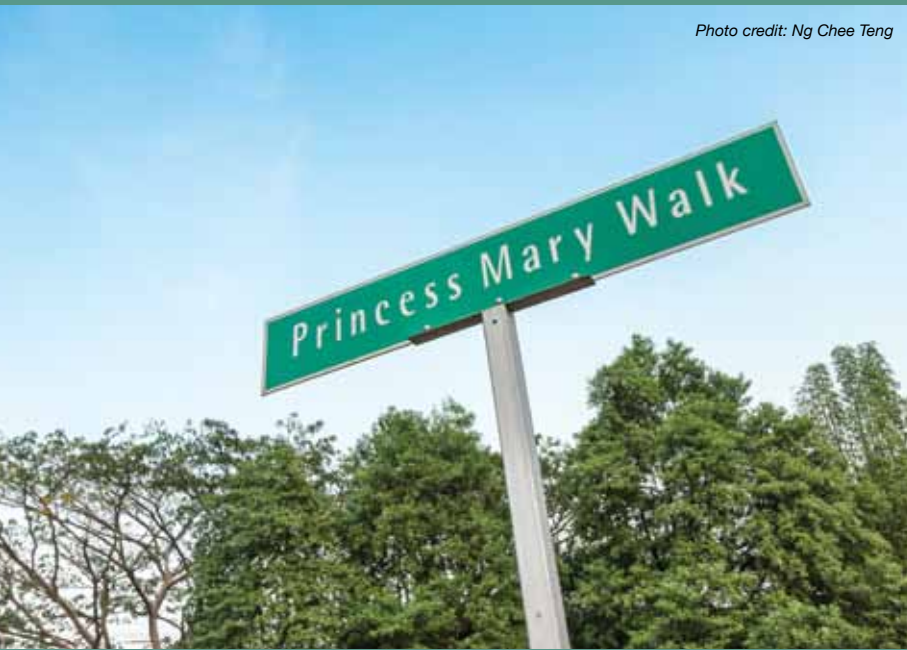


Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Princess Mary Walk

One of the most used highways in SP is the Princess Mary Walk (facing page). The 400-metre internal road, running from Staff Centre Link to the back of Teaching Block 14, is lined with trees such as Tembusu, Jackfruit, Belimbing, Pine, Rain Trees, Frangipani and the Eucalyptus Alba (right).

Often hanging out along this stretch are the curious Magpie-Robins (bottom). This medium-sized bird has the most beautiful voice and is often heard in the early mornings.



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan

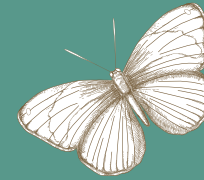


Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen





Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan



Staff Centre Link

Travellers Palms and Tembusu trees line the 400-metre drive up from SP's Staff Centre, providing the perfect haven for birds, flying Tree Dragons, and reptiles such as the Changeable Lizard (left). This reptile can be hard to spot, unlike the multi-hued Black-capped Kingfisher (bottom), perched conspicuously on a tree branch. These creatures are a delight to staff and students when they are spotted.



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Ng Chee Teng

Trail to SP Apartments

Tall trees lining the 300-metre path (left) from the Staff Centre Link to the SP Apartments form a welcome canopy for those heading home. The inquisitive Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (bottom), a resident in the vicinity, provides lively squawks that may accompany those on the trail. Also calling this wooded area their home are the Oriental Whip Snake, Paradise Tree Snake and Monitor Lizards.



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh

An occasional sight along this pathway is the large Oriental Pied Hornbill (top) eyeing passersby with curiosity. This bird is becoming more common due to its reintroduction into the parks around Singapore.

An aerial photograph showing a modern architectural feature called a 'Tree Top Bridge'. The bridge is a long, narrow structure with a white upper level and a lower level with a green corrugated metal roof. It is surrounded by a dense canopy of lush green trees, including palm trees and Yellow Flame trees. The bridge connects two buildings, one of which is visible in the background with a blue facade. The overall scene is a blend of nature and urban design.

Tree Top Bridge

True to its name, this link between Teaching Blocks 2 and 9 affords an aerial view of the tree tops in the vicinity. Erected in four sections, it has a covered lower level and an upper level opening to the sky, with the tree tops of palms and Yellow Flame trees forming a natural canopy. During the dry season, showers of golden blooms shed by the Yellow Flame trees, carpet the ground below.

For an up-close encounter with the vicinity's creepy crawly residents, an on-the-ground detour from the bridge is necessary. The snails (bottom) make their way around the vegetation leaving a silvery trail.



Photo credit: Jeraldine Toh Yi Ting



Photo credit: Shahrul Kamal

Thriving comfortably in this luxuriant habitat is this large spider (top). Its bright hue could just give its presence away if one edges close enough to study details of the various flora here. Watch out for the intricately fine web it spins as that might just get in your way.



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh

Club Ignite Linkway

SP staff walking along this 40-metre path to Club Ignite (bottom, right) will often hear the greetings of myriad birds such as the gregarious Hill Mynah, (bottom, left) on stalks of the MacArthur Palm, or the strikingly conspicuous Black Baza (top). Flanked by Tower Trees, Giant Fishtail Palms and Senegal Mahoganies, this linkway also serves as a route for birds flying between InnoVillage and Eco Oasis. Edge closer to the flora and you may just spy the bug (facing page) whose camouflage comes undone against the bright yellow centre and purplish petals of the flower.

Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Ong Wool-Hsen





Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh

Nibbling on a fruit is a Tanimbar Cockatoo which has salmon or pink-coloured feathers between its beak and eyes. Due to their large size and squawks, they are easy to spot if they are in the vicinity.



Photo credit: Yang Yue

A detour to the Moberly pathway between Moberly and Teaching Block 8 could be rewarded with glimpses of the Rose-ringed Parakeet (bottom) whose loud squawks, while not soothing to the nerves, help to give away its camouflaged presence. Sometimes, all eyes are drawn to the sky admiring the aerial display of a noisy squadron of around twenty parakeets. The flora around, such as the Crape Myrtle (left), adds a pop of colour to the greenery.



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



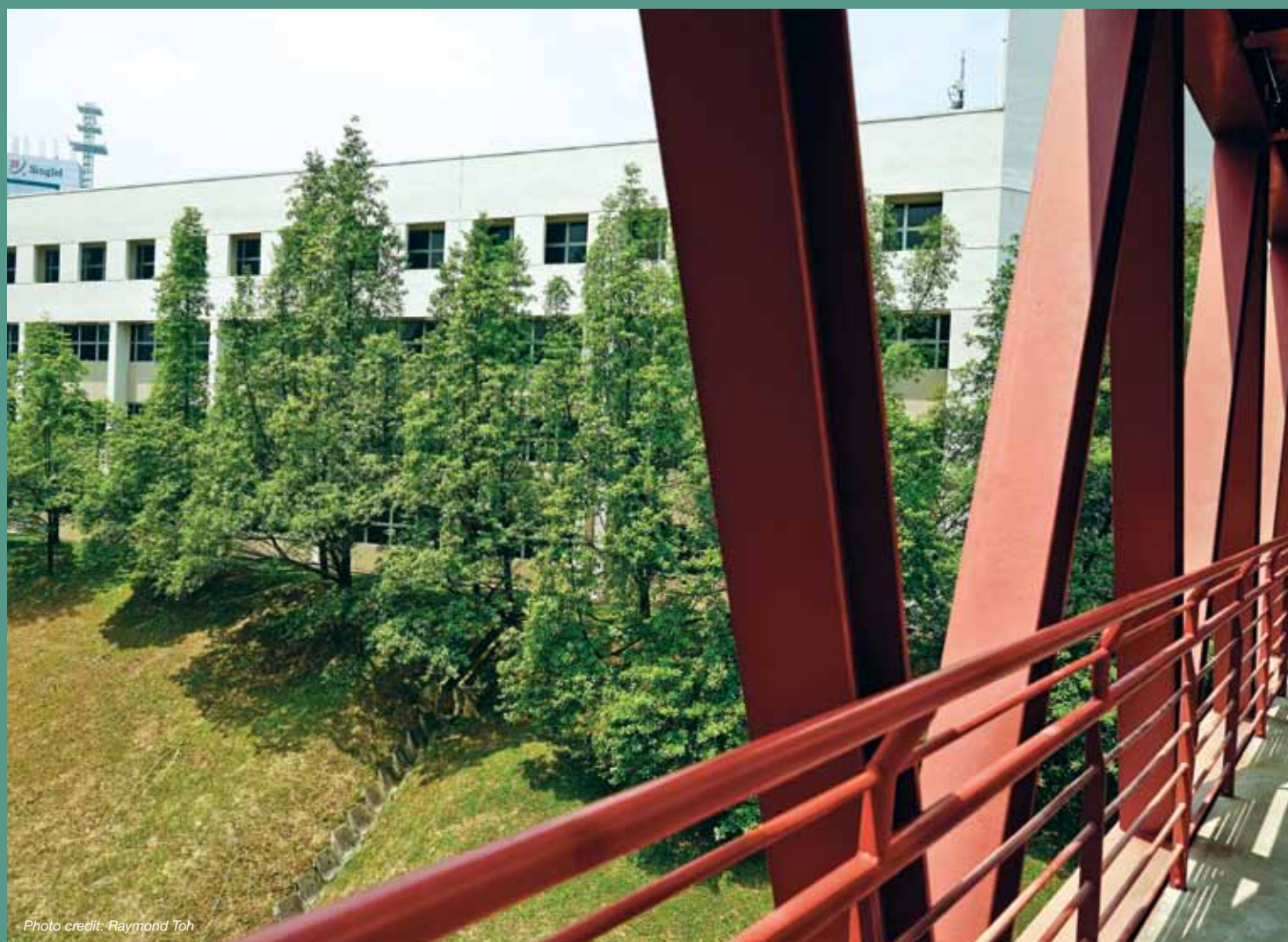


Photo credit: Raymond Toh

Red Bridge

Spanning Teaching Blocks 20 and 21 is this eye-catching 70-metre bridge. For those with time to tarry, there are fantastic views of a line of Tembusu trees at the crest of the northern slope next to Teaching Block 22 (top). In the drier season when the Tembusu are in full bloom, they bathe the area with a refreshing fragrance.

On the western side of the linkway (facing page), catch a glimpse of the wooded area next to the Staff Apartments. Myriad birds and skinks make this shaded oasis their habitat. Choose the top level of the bridge for a walk on a beautiful day and feel on top of the world. Opt for the sheltered alternative in less clement weather. Perhaps because of its striking colour, rumours of the structure's supernatural residents are rife.



Photo credit: Noven Lee



Photo credit: Raymond Teh



A stone's throw from the Hilltop Library, Teaching Block 20 and 21 nestles amid lush surroundings of its own. Confident about making this area its habitat is the eye-catching, multi-hued Pacific Swallow (facing page). Small though this swallow species may be, it is easily spotted by students looking out their classroom windows.





our
hilltop
gardens





Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Raymond Toh



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen

Hilltop Library

Perched atop a gentle hill amidst shady trees, the Hilltop Library is a welcome stop for walkers going up the gradual slopes of the hill en route to other blocks nearby. Trees and shrubs lining the path towards it are home to a colourful variety of birds and insects such as the Coppersmith Barbet (top, left), distinguished by its metronomic call. Coexisting in this habitat are the seven yellow Saraca Trees (left) in boisterous bloom during the dry season. Their bright yellow flower clusters are a pleasant distraction for visitors. Small brightly-coloured ladybirds (top, right) thrive here and are welcomed as they feed on aphids in the garden.



Scan QR Code to view indoor gardens
at the Hilltop Library





Woodland Wonders

Venture a little deeper into the woodland at the hilltop and discover a wonderland of more amazing creatures. This pair of Scaly-breasted Munia (left) calls a grass patch fringing the woodlands in the vicinity their home, and no wonder as this sparrow-sized species feeds mainly on grass seeds apart from berries and small insects.



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh

Also feeling cosy at home in the hilltop woodland is the Green Crested Tree Lizard (left). Other residents include this family of White-breasted Waterhens (top). They make loud and repetitive croaking noises in the undergrowth and sometimes venture near the garden benches to the delight of staff and students.

Vantage Point

The route home for some SP staff members can be a visually colourful experience, thanks to feathered residents in the verdant area. Flanking the route up to the SP Staff Apartments on this hill (facing page) is luxuriant vegetation where birds such as the colour-endowed Stork-billed Kingfisher (bottom) feel perfectly comfortable to roost. Territorial in nature, it will chase predators away and keep a cautious eye on users of the wooded trail.





Less obvious to the naked eye in these verdant grounds is the Water Monitor Lizard (bottom). It scuttles away only when curious passersby move in for a closer look.



Photo credit: Lucas Chia Keu Chuan



Photo credit: Esman Supaat

Beneath the Canopy

On leaving the Hilltop Library, take a refreshing break by tarrying a little in the surrounding greenery. Rest under the shady canopy proffered by the beautiful trees in this area (right) and catch a glimpse of one of the residents — the White-crested Laughing Thrush (bottom). This small to medium-sized species has a distinctive loud call, which gives it its name. A female White-crested Laughing Thrush (top) is incubating her eggs at the criss-cross connector between Teaching Blocks 20 and 21. It remains seemingly oblivious to the high human traffic in the area. Its location provides a delightful viewing spot for staff and students.



Scan QR Code to view White-crested Laughing Thrush taking a bath in the CASS Garden



Photo credit: Raymond Toh



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh



Photo credit: Teh Kiam Poh

Also calling the woodland near the Hilltop Library its home is the White-throated Kingfisher (top). Its colours are a magnet to the eyes and it typically swoops down on its prey every ten minutes or so.

The large tropical Swallowtail Moth makes its seasonal appearance between May and August.



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Seasons of Change

A distinguished landmark along the path to the Hilltop Library is this mango tree that has been growing and spreading its lush foliage in tempo with SP's own evolution. Brightly tinted new foliage during the leafing season (facing page) turns a much deeper shade of green as the tree starts to fruit (bottom). A long-living tree, the mango tree can live for several hundred years.

Photo credit: Raymond Toh







our
**Community
gardens**

*Community Gardeners (left to right): MAE Goh Kim Seng, ABE Toh Sok Na, EEE Wong Kwee Yin,
SB Cheng Wai Fung, CLS Sim Guek Eng, CASS Mak Mei Yoke and MS Lai Woh Chiong*



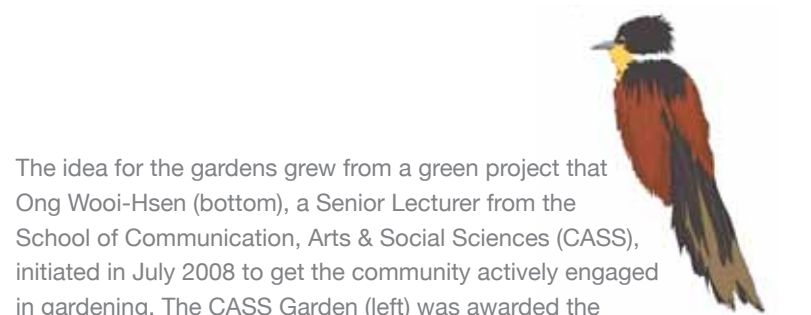
Green Fingers

Anyone strolling within the Singapore Polytechnic (SP) campus cannot help but be impressed by the lush greenery all around. While much of this lushness is nature's endowment, eager green fingers of both staff and students have also played a huge role in making SP as verdant as it is. SP is Singapore's only education institution that has a garden in each of its ten schools. The community garden of the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) (left) is one of eleven community gardens in SP.





Photo credit: Raymond Toh



The idea for the gardens grew from a green project that Ong Wooi-Hsen (bottom), a Senior Lecturer from the School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences (CASS), initiated in July 2008 to get the community actively engaged in gardening. The CASS Garden (left) was awarded the Community in Bloom Gold Award in 2010.





Photo credit: Kylie Chia



Photo credit: Kylie Chia



Pretty and Colourful

SP gardeners are encouraged by the hues, shapes and textures of the blooms like the Torch Ginger (facing page) and Golden Chain (left) in the garden of the School of Architecture & the Built Environment (ABE); Bauhinia (bottom, left) from the garden of the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE); and the Rangoon Vine (bottom, middle) and Morning Glory (bottom, right) from the School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences (CASS). They are pleasing to the eye and resemble splashes of paint on a green canvas.



Photo credit: Noven Lee



Photo credit: Noven Lee



Photo credit: Ong Wool-Hsen



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen

Lizards, like this Changeable Lizard (right) often accompany the community gardeners in the outdoor environment.



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Photo credit: Kylie Chia



Edible Delights (Fruits)

Fruits like Papaya, Passion Fruit and Star Fruit can be found at the School of Communication Arts & Social Sciences (CASS) Community Garden. Weekly harvests encourage the staff to grow new varieties. Other fruits include Jackfruit, Avocado, Rambutan, Mango, Longans, Custard Apple, Jambu, Bananas and Soursop.



Edible Delights (Vegetables)

The Brinjal (facing page), popular in Malay and Indian cuisines, is part of the cornucopia of edible delights in the School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences (CASS) Community Garden. An overly-ripe yet firm Bittergourd (bottom, right) surprised the gardeners one morning. Ladies fingers with their beautiful flowers (bottom, left) are grown here as well.

Standing guard over this fare of temptations to resident birds is this scarecrow, hardly doing its job allowing a White-throated Kingfisher to perch on its shoulder. A baby Monitor Lizard once lived in its jacket.



Photo credit: Chng Suan Tze



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Photo credit: Ong Wool-Hsen

Colourful Capsicums (top) are also found at the School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences (CASS) Community Garden.

The Butterfly Pea Flower used for colouring nonya kuehs is abundant in the School of Mathematics & Science (MS) Community Garden (right).



Photo credit: Kylie Chia



Photo credit: Raymond Toh

Beside Teaching Block 17 is the School of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) Community Garden (left) which despite its size, is a demonstration of clever botanical design and aesthetics. It offers a visual feast with its colourful flowers and exotic foliage. The School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) Community Garden (bottom) boasts a small water feature.



Photo credit: Kylie Chia



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Photo credit: Kylie Chia



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen

Fabulous Foliage

Discover some of the leafy plants like Curry leaves (far left), Indian Borage (top), Sweet Basil (left), beautiful Balsam (facing page, left) and the heart-shaped leaves of the purple Sweet Potato (facing page, right). Staff use the leaves for cooking as well as remedies for common ailments.



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen



Photo credit: Ong Wooi-Hsen





Photo credit: Ong Wool-Hsen



Photo credit: Ong Wool-Hsen



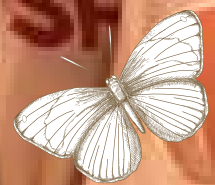
Photo credit: Ong Wool-Hsen

Fruits of our Labour

There is an incomparable feeling when you harvest what you have worked for. The joy and satisfaction, and the virtue of sharing are what truly matter aside from bringing home the fruits and vegetables from the harvests. These are harvests from the School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences (CASS) Community Garden.



greening
in our
veins



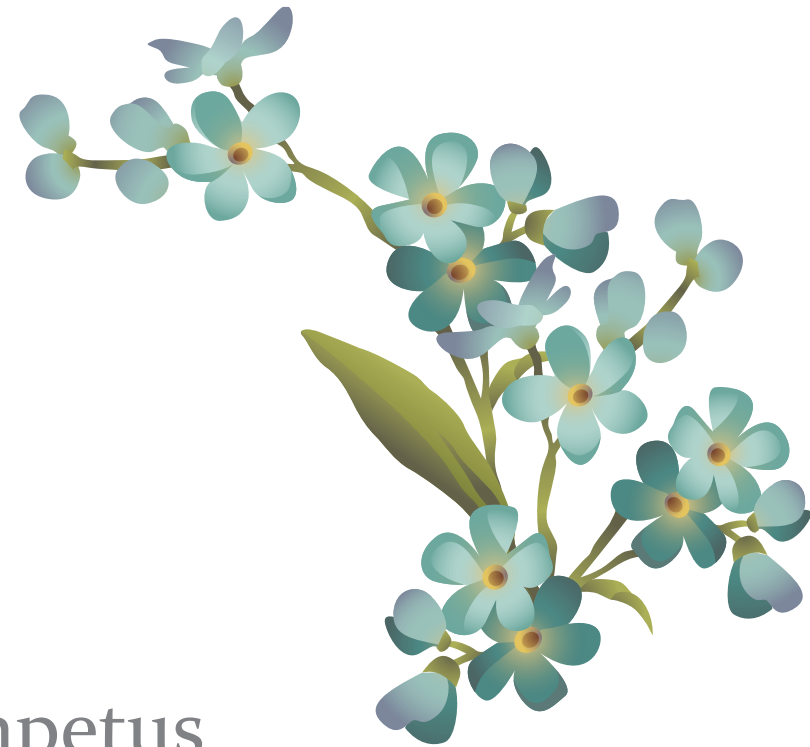




The Green Impetus

The urge to green the environment runs in the veins of so many SP students and staff. It is just as well as so many of them have green fingers! And thanks to their joint efforts, SP has won many awards for its green projects and environmentally friendly efforts. SP's key green initiatives over the years include spearheading the adoption of the Marina Reservoir to keep it clean, and organising the Singapore International Water Festival to engage youth in environmental and water issues.

Photos on this page illustrate the enthusiasm generated at the SP Tree Auction organised by the SP Go Green Committee in 2010, which raised \$15,100 from the sale of 15 trees. This was SP's first-ever tree auction and it elicited great response from the SP schools and departments. Successful bidders planted the trees in the campus on 4 August as part of the Green March 2010 event.



Amazing Green Races

Each year, students and lecturers come together to make SP's annual Amazing Green Race a runaway success. It is an event organised by the students for SP staff. Pictured right are participants raring to go after Tan Yew Meng, Chairman of the SP Go Green Committee, gave them the green light. Three happy winners indicate their positions in the race (bottom).





Green Wave in SP

Since 2009, SP has participated in the global biodiversity initiative with the planting of trees on campus. The Green Wave is a global campaign to educate the young on the importance of biodiversity.

In support of the Global Green Wave initiative, Singapore Polytechnic Principal & Chief Executive Officer Tan Choon Shian (facing page, left) and former Senior Director of Architecture, Design & Environment Cluster Lim Cher Yam (facing page, right) planted Chiku trees on campus. They were accompanied by a host of students and staff at the InnoVillage site.





Lim Cher Yam (top, right) also shared that SP consistently strives to embrace and celebrate nature. “The poly is naturally charming and rustic. Its 38 hectares of land is blessed with an undulating landscape, beautiful trees and lush greenery. We leverage on this natural setting to develop SP as a ‘Campus in a Garden’.”

One such development that will reach fruition this year is SP’s planting of 60 trees in celebration of her 60th anniversary. Since 2010, three batches of 15 trees each have been planted, and the final batch of 15 trees will be planted by end July 2014 so as to help ensure SP’s verdant greenery continues to blossom for the enjoyment of future generations. This will add on to the 2,300 trees already on campus.





EarthCheck

When EarthCheck chose Singapore to introduce its Sustainability Challenge in 2012 (left), SP and the Banyan Tree Global Foundation stepped forward to co-launch this new interactive educational programme with them. Staff and students from School of Digital Media & Infocomm Technology and School of Architecture & the Built Environment helped to create the website. Students from twelve schools in Singapore led the world in the study of environmental sustainability by taking part in this programme.

World Solar Challenge

Pride welled in the hearts of staff and students alike when SP represented Singapore with its solar car, SunSPEC3, at the 2013 World Solar Challenge — a 3,000km race over six days across the Australian Outback, considered the most challenging and competitive solar car race in the world. The SP team, Singapore's only entry, was pitted against 43 teams from universities across 24 countries, including the US, Japan and the Netherlands. To prepare for this challenge, a multi-disciplinary group of SP staff and students from various engineering diplomas such as Energy Systems and Management and Mechanical Engineering got together for 14 months to build a race-worthy solar car.



Scan QR Code to view
SP's Solar Energy Trail





Earth Day

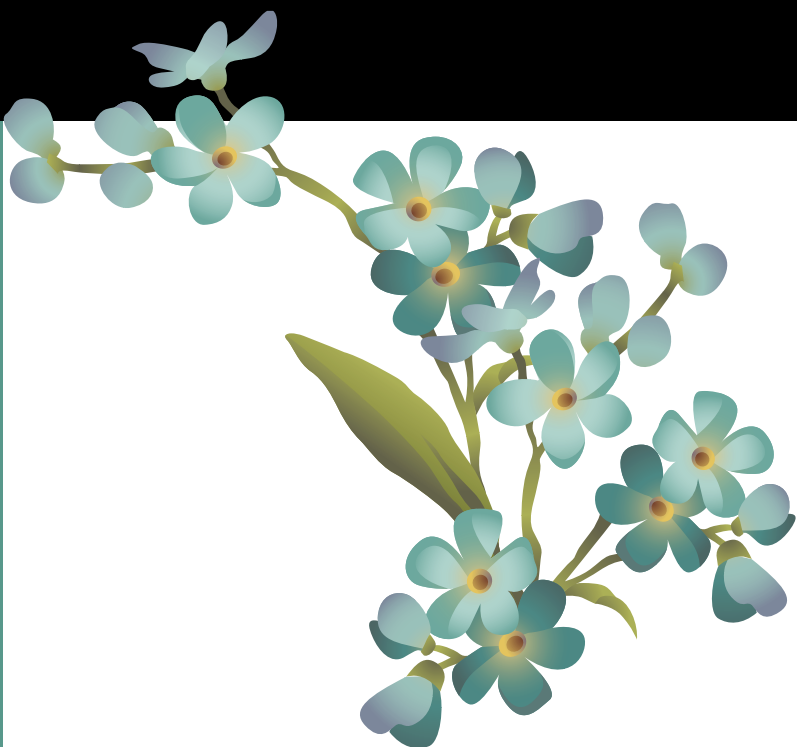
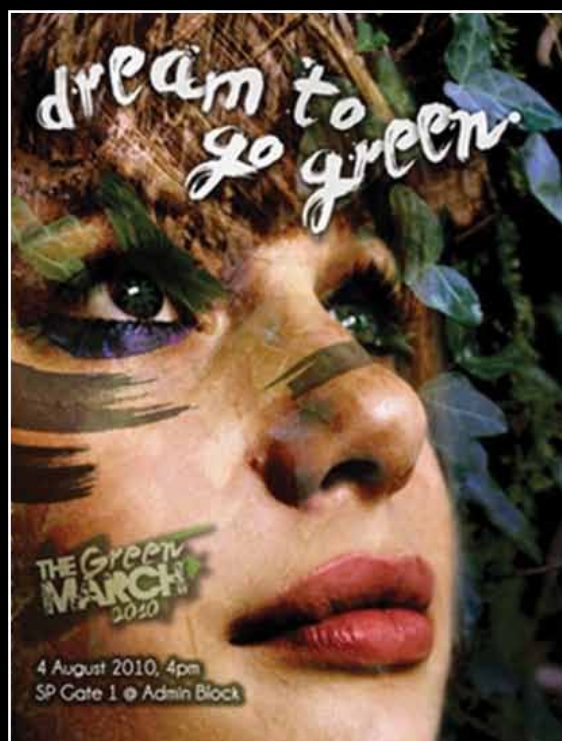
22 April 2010 was a car-free day at SP as students and staff adopted the “BMW” way of going to campus — taking buses, the MRT and walking. This was one of the many ways they marked Earth Day that year. Tan Yew Meng, Chairman of SP’s Go Green Committee since 2010 and Director of the School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences, credits SP’s first Car-free Day in 2010 for inspiring this change in the transport habits of staff. “We launched the first SP Car-free Day on 22 April 2010, Earth Day. Nearly all of the staff supported the movement and since then, many staff have turned this into a habit of consciously going car-free whenever they can.”

Former Principal, Tan Hang Cheong, kicked things off by planting a tree at the Plaza next to Dover MRT station (far left). Fun activities to broadcast the green message included a Green Fashion Show and a Green Bazaar. The highlight of the day was the Green Band Competition in which teams from SP’s various schools performed with instruments made from recycled materials such as dustbins, ladders and even a skateboard.

Earth Hour

SP students and staff have observed Earth Hour since 2009 in solidarity with millions across the globe. The occasion starts with a countdown to the hour culminating in a joyous celebration with singers, kite-flyers, bands and magicians. Many landmarks in Singapore had the lights on their building facades turned off for one hour that evening.





The Green March 2010

In 2010, a drive by 102 final-year Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) students motivated a whole community of students, staff and Dover residents to get together to march, plant trees, and show support for SP's Green movement. From its conception to its execution, the event, known as the Green March, saw the students pulling together everything they had learnt in the DMC course — event management skills, planning and logistics and a keen awareness of using integrated communications, branding and corporate identity — to get the green message out.

A memorable element of this Green March, held on 4 August that year and part of SP's Go Green Campaign, was the search to fill the role of Lady Gaia, a personification of Earth. Three Lady Gaia auditions over two weeks drew 23 SP students forward to vie for the coveted role. Some of these contestants really awed the judges with their acting skills, confidence and eagerness to represent Mother Nature. They made it extremely tough for the judges to decide who was to be SP's very first Lady Gaia, who would be charged to host and lead the SP Green March and serve as the icon for the whole event.

Green Awards

In October 2010, SP became the first polytechnic in Singapore to receive the President's Award for the Environment. This accolade recognises its green contributions, including mobilising staff and students to protect the campus's environment, and conducting outreach programmes targeting industry and the community.

The PAE is the highest honour in Singapore given to achievements in the field of environmental sustainability. It pays tribute to significant achievements and contributions of individuals and organisations that have made a positive impact and significant contributions to the local community in helping to sustain the environment. The Straits Times write-up pictured here gives prominence to SP's win along with that of Nan Hua High School and Hitachi Global Storage Technologies.

home.

THE STRAITS TIMES SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 2010 PAGE B6

Poly's leafy campus is green in another way

S'pore Polytechnic wins eco-friendly award along with Hitachi GST and Nan Hua High School

BY AMRESH GUNASINGHAM

SINGAPORE Polytechnic (SP) has won the President's Award for the Environment in recognition of its eco-friendly campus.

The polytechnic's 37ha site is not only one of the oldest in the country, but also one of the greenest.

Although many of its buildings are up to three decades old, meaning they are much harder to make environmentally friendly, SP has installed solar panels on

top of some of them.

These panels can churn out 330 kilowatts every day, based on three hours of sunlight – enough to power a three-room Housing Board flat for a month.

The Dover Road campus is also one of the leafiest educational sites around. A 2003 survey showed that it had about 2,000 trees with trunks at least 1m thick. SP was yesterday presented with this year's President's Award at the Istana.

Along with Nan Hua High School and technology giant Hitachi Global Storage Technologies (GST), it was chosen from 19 nominees for the award, which recognises efforts to achieve environmental sustainability.

"It was not an easy decision but the range of nominees speaks volumes for the number of people and organisations that are championing environmental causes here," said Mr Cedric Foo, chairman of

the award's evaluation committee.

This year's winners of the award, now in its fifth year, stood out for having built a substantial portfolio of work relating to the environment.

"The three recipients not only undertook green projects within their respective organisations, but also had a strong penchant for engaging external parties," said Mr Foo.

Nan Hua High School's green push, for example, can be traced to as far back as 2001. Students have to take compulsory modules on environment-related subjects such as water and waste minimisation.

"We hope to instil environmental and water consciousness in all our students," said its principal, Mrs Tan Jong Lek.

The school also actively participates in a number of community projects aimed at environmental conservation, such as anti-littering campaigns.



(From left) SP principal Tan Hang Cheong, Hitachi GST managing director Kanji Nakao and Nan Hua High School principal Tan Jong Lek received green awards yesterday. ST PHOTO: DESMOND WEE

Hitachi GST, one of the largest computer hard disk suppliers in the world, has a long track record of exploring sustainable eco-business solutions.

Since 2005, it has been able to recycle more than 95 per cent of its waste – in the process disposing only less than 1 per cent of it in the landfill.

The company has also managed to reduce the amount of water consumed in the production of hard disks by 62 per cent, through measures like reverse osmosis in its cooling towers, said Mr Tan Puey Hwee, real estate site operations director at Hitachi GST's Singapore office. amreshg@sph.com.sg



SP's InnoVillage clinched a **Green Mark Platinum Award** from Singapore's Building and Construction Authority (BCA) in 2010. (left to right) Tan Hang Cheong, SP's former Principal and Grace Fu, then Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education.



Former principal of SP Tan Hang Cheong receiving the **Community in Bloom Platinum Award** from Poon Hong Yuen, CEO NParks. In 2010, the CASS Community Garden had received the Gold Award for SP.



SP receives the **President's Award for the Environment 2010** (left to right) Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, then Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, former President SR Nathan, SP's former Principal Tan Hang Cheong.



Scan QR Code to view SP being awarded the President's Award for the Environment 2010

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4. Lucas Chia Keu Chuan
5. Kylie Chia
6. Noven Lee
7. Chng Suan Tze
8. Ng Chee Teng
9. Esman Supaat

Photography Contest Winners (staff)

- 1st Tan Tuan Lin
- 2nd Tan Eik Chor Christopher
- 3rd Shahrul Kamal

Photography Contest Winners (student)

- 1st Tay Kuan Yu
- 2nd Chelsea Ee Jing Wen
- 3rd Ng Zhong Wang Clement

Merit Prizes

- Katelim Khung
Lim Ah Chay
Neelesh Bhatia

Merit Prizes

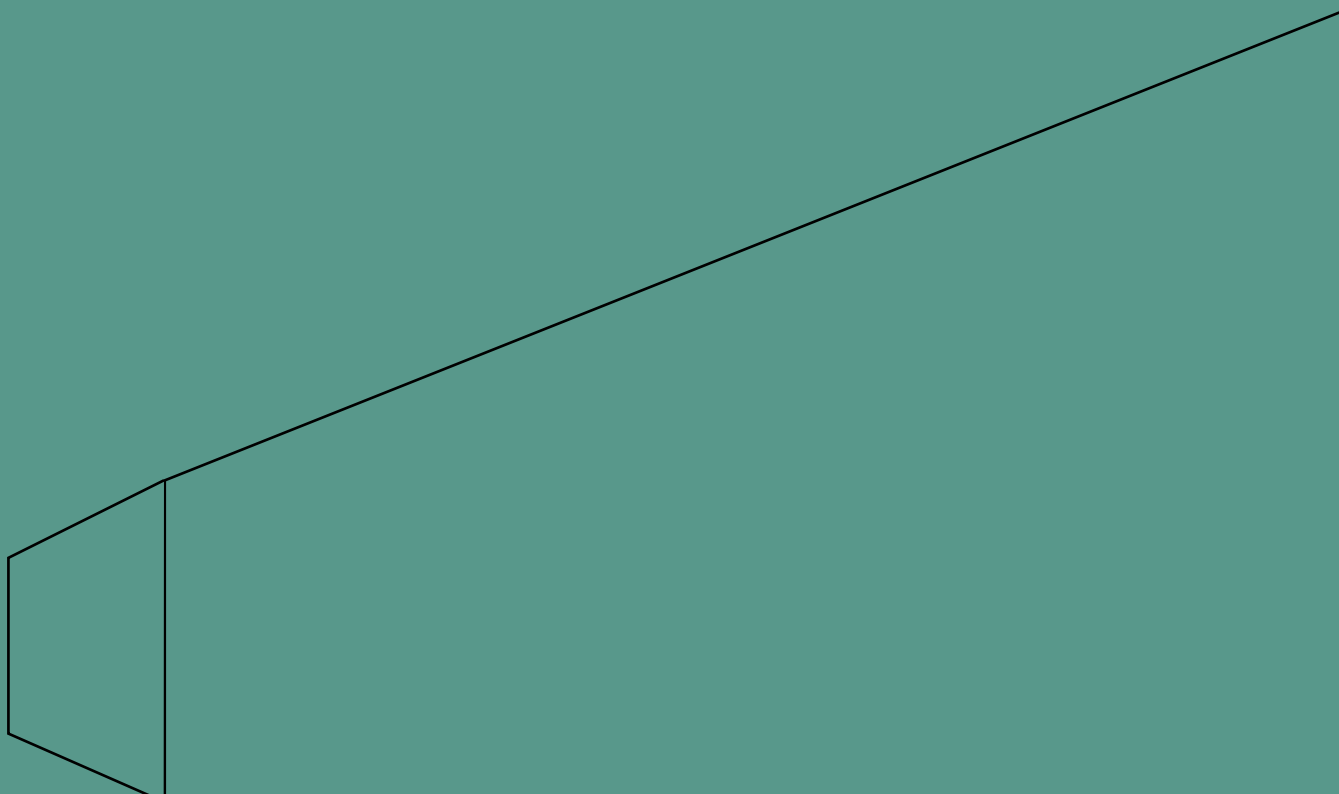
- Rachel Tan Xin Yi
Tan Xin Hui
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Our green achievements (landscaping and maintenance) owe much to the dedicated commitment of Ms Cheah Siew Yoon (Estates) and the team of contract workers from Mao Sheng.



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Celebrating

