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RESTROOM ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE) NEWSLETTER – December 2004

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Clean & Green Week (2)

CGW @ Marine Parade

Marine Parade celebrated Clean & Green Week with a carnival on 21 Nov 2004, held near Mountbatten CC. The guest of honour was SM Goh Chok Tong.

There were many activities held that Sunday, including telematches for children, lucky draws, cheerleading performances, and exhibitions galore.

RAS participated with a Toilet Game, Toilet Café, Toilet Showcase and support from Sam Yick Aquarium & Initial Healthcare. Many visitors took a breather at the Toilet Café and queued to play the Toilet Game.



CGW School Carnival

NEA organized a School Carnival that was held at Singapore Expo from 17 to 19 Nov 2004. The theme was Environmental Ownership. It was supported by National Youth Achievement Award Council and Singapore Environment Council.

It was 3-day fun filled carnival targeted at Preschoolers, Principals, teachers and students from primary to tertiary level.

The carnival comprised of 4 main areas:

CLEAN & GREEN WEEK 2004 SCHOOLS CARNIVAL

Stage-based Activity - Environmental Cheer & Dance Competition, Games & Performances, Sharing Sessions by Environmental Ambassadors; Exhibition-based Activity - Enviro-Innovate (Project Display & Games), aRRRt from Urban Waste – Sculpture, Children’s Art Exhibition, 3R Award – Recycling Corner, Children’s Art Exhibition; Edutainment Activity - Enviro-Challenge Maze and

Wonderland - For preschoolers Fun-filled activities such as workshops, story telling, games that evolve around environmental issues

RAS participated by promoting its Happy Toilet School Education programme (HTSE). The HTSE is based on the principles of the Happy Toilet program. It is about best practices in the Design, Cleanliness, Maintenance & Management of public toilets. Adapted as HTSE, the objectives are to impart social responsibility and humility, by learning about the work that goes into keeping a toilet clean. At the same time to teach students about Toilet Etiquette & Personal Hygiene.



With hands on participation, it is also a fun & interactive way to teach good habits. Once the students are inculcated with the habits, they will hopefully be able to infect their parents and the others at home.

The HTSE is aimed at students from preschool to junior college.

[More Pictures from Clean & Green Week Carnival @ Southwest](#)



News Bites

Toilet Attendants Studying English



18 Dec 2004 - BEIJING plans to give its public toilet attendants a crash course in basic English to improve services for foreign visitors during the 2008 Olympic Games, the Beijing Morning Post reported last week. The local paper did not say exactly what level of English they would need. But it did add that they would need to study toilet sign language as well. 21st Century News.

University bends to provide 'squat' toilet option, 20.12.04, By Stuart Dye



The University of Auckland is swapping traditional toilets for "squats" as it moves to meet the needs of a diverse student population.

Nine of the Asian-style toilets will be installed in the main library as part of an overhaul of the facilities. The remaining 40-or-so toilets in the library on the corner of Princes and Alfred streets will be the usual sitting variety.

University spokesman Bill Williams said the squats were being trialed and, if successful, the university aimed to swap about 10 per cent of its 1400 toilets on the Auckland City campus.

But the decision has been criticised by some who claim it is designed to keep wealthy fee-paying foreign students happy, while sidelining Kiwi culture.

"Where do we draw the line between accommodating others and cultural cringe?" said one staff member who declined to be named.

"It's being justified on 'sanitary' grounds, but quite frankly that is laughable. This is nothing more than economics."

He said it was being done because university staff were "sick of cleaning up the mess and repairing the damage" of inappropriately used toilets.

Squat toilets are common in Asia, parts of Europe and the Middle East.

They essentially consist of a hole in the floor surrounded by a white porcelain plate, with two slightly raised footprints.



It is argued that they are easier to clean, use less water and paper, and are more hygienic. But new users can struggle to hold their balance and keep clothing out of the way.

Mr Williams said the decision to install squat toilets at the university was taken "in response to the perceived needs of a section of our student population".

Yet Lian-Hong Lim, an international student worker at the university, said the vast majority of international students would be used to sitting toilets.

Happy Toilets @ Caltex



The Restroom Association of Singapore (RAS) today announced that it has awarded a five-star rating to Caltex for its renovated restrooms, making the petrol service station chain, the first among the transport industry to be rated under RAS' Happy Toilet Programme.

The five-star rating is expected to set the standard for restrooms in the transport sector. Caltex's new restrooms were graded according to RAS' Happy Toilet guidelines and were evaluated for their cleanliness, design, facilities and overall standard of maintenance. RAS' officials evaluated restrooms at eight Caltex's stations and compared these to toilets at other petrol service stations and transport service providers.

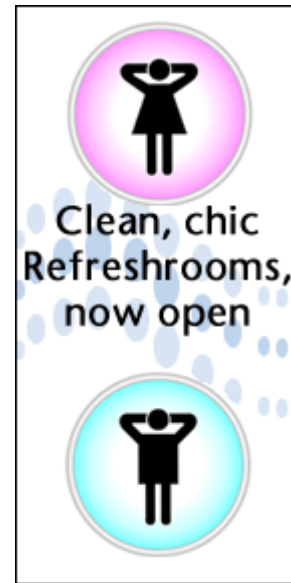


Caltex's restrooms scored highly for its good lighting and white interiors which provide motorists with a general feeling of security and comfort. The quality and layout of the fittings and fixtures also add to the 'happy, refreshing' experience for the motorists, especially those who spend a great deal of time driving.

Having the restrooms inside the Caltex Star Mart also further enhances the sense of security and convenience. In addition, Caltex's restrooms are regularly maintained to offer a high level of cleanliness.

"RAS' Happy Toilet Programme has been well received and we have had many requests to rate restrooms in various sectors such as shopping centres, parks and other public buildings," said RAS Founder and President, Jack Sim. "This is the first for the transport industry and an important move to introduce better toilet standards to another group of users – the motoring public. RAS is delighted that Caltex has taken the first initiative towards this objective."

A total of 21 Caltex service stations restrooms will be upgraded by early 2005.



World Toilet Expo & Forum 2005, 11 – 13 May, Shanghai, China

Organised by the World Toilet Organization and the Shanghai City Appearance & Environmental Sanitation Administrative Bureau, the World Toilet Expo & Forum 2005 consist of an exhibition with more than 1,000 sqm of space at the INTEX Shanghai.

The concurrent World Toilet Forum has stimulating topics and discussions spearheaded by an international panel of experts. To-date, it is supported by 24 associations and organisations from 16 economies.

Some 400 delegates will engage in discussions that focus on culture, technology and governance aspects of toilet-related issues at the first World Toilet Forum. The meeting will provide a valuable platform for delegates to network and exchange ideas. There will also be technical visits to interesting sites in Shanghai. More details at www.worldtoilet.org

