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RESTROOM ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE) NEWSLETTER – November 2004

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Clean & Green Week (1) - Launch of Clean & Green Week

Clean & Green Week Launch @ Yew Tee



This year 2004, marks the 15th Clean and Green Week (CGW) which were held on 6 Nov 2004.

It is jointly organized by National Environmental Agency (NEA) and South West Community Development Council (SWCDC) along with other partners including us, the Restroom Association of Singapore (RAS).

The main theme for this event is Environmental Ownership and the tagline is “We care and We’re Ok!” This brings out a key message of “Everyone has a part to play in keeping Singapore Ok.”

Toilet Fair @ South West Carnival



TOILET FAIR @CGW 2004



Toilet Cafe, Sparkling Toilet Race, Toilet Drama
Clean & Green Toilet Technology

6 Nov 2004

“Toilets clean enough to have tea in” Jack Sim, Founder, RAS



ORGANISED BY RESTROOM ASSOCIATION(SINGAPORE) & NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

As RAS is one of the partners in this event, it lined up many exciting events:

Toilet Café – have tea on a toilet seat

The toilet café is symbolic of toilets 'clean and beautiful enough to have tea in' (which can be found in Suwon, Korea). And Singapore of being a clean & green city, it is apt that our public toilets are clean enough to have tea in.



Good food, unique ambience. Go potty and have drink at the Toilet Café. Check out the latest toilet seats; try out the mechanized toilet seat cover that changes at the press of a button; 'flush down' a drink when you are thirsty; exchange a good toilet joke or two with your friends.

Toilet Dramas



Singaporeans faced many problems when using the toilet, especially the older folks. RAS has organized two skits highlighting common problems faced by Singaporeans in Public Toilets.

- My Rheumatism Legs – neither wheel-bound or able bodied – the increasing plight faced by the aging population of Singapore. Put up by the Salvation Army
- The Silent Disease – incontinence is suffered by more women than men. And the bad habits that can lead to this condition. Put up by the Society for Continenence Singapore and Drama for Health performing group

Toilet Stalls

'Clean & Green Toilet Technology' is the theme of the exhibition. Visitors can 'touch, feel & learn' about anti-bacterial surfaces (As Associate), hydro powered sensors (Rigel Technology), prevention of cross infections in washrooms (Initial Hygiene), toilet seat covers (Cleanturn) and quality toilet paper (Kimberly Clark).



The Sparkling Toilet Race

The Sparkling Toilet Race, which is having clean (pun intended) fun while learning social responsibility. Modeled after the 'Amazing Race', participants will carry out tasks like diaper changing, cleaning the mirrors & floors, throwing away rubbish etc. to earn points and in the fastest time. Through these actions, they will become more aware about toilet etiquette and social responsibility.



The participants, mainly JC students, went around according to our map in search of clean and sparkled toilets. They performed tasks related to good toilet practices in order to get clues for the next station. Types of toilet included were a Petrol Station, Coffee Shop, Mass Rapid Transit, Tourist Attraction and Nature Park.

News Bites

No Soap, No Toilet Paper? What's Not in Your Child's School?
 What Some NYC Kids Don't Have in their Schools, By Eyewitness News' Art McFarland



(New York -WABC, November 9, 2004) — Fourteen billion dollars for the New York City school budget, and still some school bathrooms don't even have toilet paper? Now the city council is demanding answers about the supply problems. Education reporter Art McFarland has the story.

Toilets that don't work. No doors on the stalls. No toilet paper, no soap, no paper towels.

Those complaints are captured in photos given to the city council's education committee. Such problems surface at a Jackson Heights school.. where Amanda Mateyka is a student.

Amanda Mateyka, Student: "They had no soap, and there was no paper towels so I had to go find some."



The scope of the problem was the subject of a sometimes contentious hearing Tuesday before the City Hall Education Committee.

Kathleen Grimm, Deputy Chancellor of Administration: "I don't know what language I have to speak. The problem is not getting the supplies to the schools. The schools are stocked."

Eva Moskowitz, City Council Education Committee: "I don't know what language I have to speak, but let me try it again. There isn't a sufficient amount of toilet paper, paper towels and soap in the New York City school system. And I say that as a parent."

Some teachers have gone to web sites to ask for donations of toilet paper, paper towels and soap.



However, the Department of Education claims not every school has shortages, though an official admits at some schools supplies are not in bathrooms at the principal's request for reasons of possible vandalism.

But Brooklyn residents say first graders at PS 184 must wear toilet paper around their necks when they need the bathroom.

Delores Allen, Grandmother: "It's dangerous. If another child pulls it it could choke them. They could fall down the stairs going to the bathroom. No child, no child should have to wear toilet paper on a string going to the bathroom.

The department of education tells us if there is any problem with the bathroom at your child's school they will fix it. You are advised to contact the parent coordinator or the principal, or you can call the city's hotline at 311.

World Toilet Summit 2004

It was reported on CNN on 5 Nov 2005:

BEIJING, China (AP) -- Beijing hopes the smelly reputation of its public restrooms will be, well, flushed down the toilet soon.

City officials will use the 2004 World Toilet Summit, starting November 17, to showcase efforts to transform the capital's lavatories from foul to fragrant, from crude to cultured.

"Toilets represent the level of development of a country, a region," Yu Debin, deputy director of Beijing's Municipal Bureau of Tourism, said Friday at a news conference. "They also represent a region's spiritual and material civilization."



World Toilet Summit 2004 received worldwide media coverage

600 delegates from 15 countries attended the 4th World Toilet Summit in Beijing from 17 to 19 November. Held at the Beijing International Hotel and hosted by Beijing Tourism Bureau, it shows the importance of good toilets for tourists.



"You can laugh at it for a short time," said Sim, whose group is based in the hyper-clean island nation of Singapore. "But after a few seconds, you should start to pay serious attention to the subject because you have been ignoring the toilet subject for too long and it's doing something to your body, to your life quality, to your social graciousness."

The convention was in its fourth year, with Singapore, Seoul and Taipei as previous hosts. Participants this year came from countries as far flung as Finland, Japan and the United States.

China, known for its fetid public toilets that often are little more than open trenches, is eager to show off its advances in preparing for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Delegates to the conference were taken on a tour of new and renovated public toilets around the Chinese capital.

Photos of showcase lavatories were also displayed at the conference, from a ladybug-shaped one in a public garden to another modeled after a grass hut in a wildlife park. Facilities with baby-changing stations, wheelchair ramps and gleaming white ceramic urinals were also featured.



What's next?

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 has received warm response from all quarters.

For the exhibition, the world's major manufacturers and suppliers have reserved more than 1,000 sqm of INTEX Shanghai after a few months of marketing.

The concurrent World Toilet Forum is also gearing up with stimulating topics and discussions spearheaded by an international panel of experts. In addition, the event has garnered the support of more organisations. 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.

