



PRESS RELEASE- PROJECT MILLION LOTUS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Pillar of Support for Public Health Compassion

RAS adopts Harmony Pillar in Project Million Lotus to showcase Compassionate Toilet Acts by students

Do not be surprised if you see a "Happy Toilet Pillar" at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza on 26-27 May.

Adopted by the Restroom Association (Singapore), the "Happy Toilet Pillar" is one of the 51 Harmony Pillars adopted by various schools, community and religious organizations in participation of Project Million Lotus- an event organized by the Singapore Buddhist Federation to celebrate Vesak Day. The 51 pillars (each shaped like a lotus petal) will form a mammoth lotus which will be on display at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza from 26-27 May.

As part of RAS's Outreach and Education efforts, RAS's Happy Toilet Pillar will be showcasing public health efforts by 13 of its participating schools in the Happy Toilet School Education (HTSE) Programme. Restroom Ambassadors of these schools will be featured in action as they demonstrate Social Responsibility & Social Graciousness towards the toilets and fellow schoolmates.

Schools like Jiemin Primary School and Xishan Primary School expressed compassion for their decorated toilets by taking the initiative to inspect the cleanliness standards of the toilets periodically. This is a good example of students being caring and compassionate citizens towards the environment and the health of others.

Other schools that have gone through the programme are also pleased to share their feedback about their new toilets and what they have learnt. "I love the toilets and to me, the toilets are precious and a beauty," said Nur Nabilah, a Restroom Ambassador from Xinghua Primary School. "I learnt that it is important to practise good toilet manners so that my friends and I can stay healthy," said Jeremiah Shalom Elijah from Balestier Hill Primary School.

Ms Tan Puay Hoon, President of Restroom Association (Singapore) is also pleased to share her personal experience in the HTSE. "During my recent trips to the preschool centres which had conducted the HTSE Programme, I was touched by the compassion that these five, six-years old children showed in their toilet behaviour. They were able to tell me what were the right things to do in the toilet so as to show consideration for other toilet users," she said.

"In the HTSE, we are glad to have witnessed school students from the age of 7 to 17 taking up responsibility of their school toilets, who take efforts to decorate and beautify the school toilets, caring for the environment, amidst their academic commitments. We hope that our future generation will continue such efforts and grow to become considerate toilet users," added Ms Teresa Chua, Assistant Manager for RAS.

You are cordially invited to attend the event on 26-27 May at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza, Orchard Road at 10am and 4pm respectively. More details are available in the Press Kit.

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About Restroom Association (Singapore)

Restroom Association (Singapore) or RAS' vision is Clean Public Toilets for Everyone. Started in 1998 as a non-profit organization, RAS is dedicated to promoting good design, cleanliness and maintenance in public toilets. It serves the community by educating the general public about toilet etiquette.

Some of the programmes - supported by the National Environment Agency (NEA) - conducted by RAS include the Happy Toilet Star-rating Programme, the Happy Toilet School Education programme, NSRS in clean sanitary fittings & fixtures and strategic partner in national community events like Clean & Green Week. RAS is also a founding member of the World Toilet Organization.

About the Happy Toilet School Education (HTSE) Programme

The HTSE programme was initiated in 2005, to foster social responsibility in our children and youth by teaching them good toilet manners. During which, students are taught to take ownership of their toilets and to appreciate the cleaners' job. Supported by NEA, 200 schools are now actively involved in the HTSE.

About Project Million Lotus 2007

Project Million Lotus 2007, Harmony in Action is a project to promote inter-religious harmony through the common motivation of compassion by inviting Singaporeans of all creeds and races to do more good deeds.

Organised by the Singapore Buddhist Federation in support of inter-religious harmony, 51 Harmony Pillars adopted by various schools, community and religious organizations will be displayed to form a mammoth lotus 26-27 May at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza.

In 2006, **Project Million Lotus 2007**- Growing Compassion, Harvesting Harmony celebrated the universal teaching of compassion with the participation of 56 community organizations, schools and religious bodies. More than 2.1 million paper lotuses were folded by all races, creed and ages in a joint demonstration of our compassionate wish for inter-religious harmony. This recording-breaking figure far exceeded the original target of 1 million.