



24 October 2013

**RESTROOM ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE) GEARS UP FOR WORLD TOILET DAY**

*Singapore WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) Conference, LOO (Let's Observe Ourselves) Carnival and Hawker Centre Happy Toilet Cleanup on World Toilet Day*

1. With the United Nations General Assembly designating 19 November as World Toilet Day, the Restroom Association (Singapore) or RAS is organising the inaugural Singapore WASH Conference (**Annex A**), LOO Carnival (**Annex B**) and Hawker Centre Happy Toilet Cleanup (**Annex C**) to commemorate World Toilet Day (WTD).
2. The Singapore WASH Conference will be held for the first time at the Tampines Regional Library's auditorium on 19 November from 9am to 6pm. The conference aims to provide building owners and qualified persons with information about WASH regulations, guidelines, planning, practices and promotion. Key highlights of the conference are the LOO Awards (**Annex D**) ceremony and the third edition of the Guide to Better Public Toilet Design & Maintenance which was first published in 1999.
3. With HDB as the venue sponsor, the LOO Carnival will be held at five shopping malls from 21 October to 24 November to raise public awareness about World Toilet Day. The key message this year is "Ignite a SPARK – Share, Promote & Adopt Restroom Kindness".
4. 51 hawker centres under the Happy Toilet Programme (HTP) will be invited to participate in a Happy Toilet Cleanup on World Toilet Day. Invitations have been sent to Members of Parliament (MPs) to helm the cleanup at their respective constituencies where the hawker centres are located.
5. Ms Tan Puay Hoon, President of RAS, said: "Since the inception of World Toilet Day in 2001, RAS has been organising events to commemorate it every year. With the United Nations designating 19 November as World Toilet Day this year, we wish to organise more impactful events to raise public awareness. As RAS ignites a SPARK (Share, Promote & Adopt Restroom Kindness), we hope everyone can burn with an eternal flame of restroom kindness towards cleaning attendants, fellow users and 2.5 billion people around the world still without a toilet." (**Chinese comments available after Glossary of Chinese Terms**)

For enquiries, please contact:

Mr Emerson Hee

Executive Director

Tel: 6297 9824

HP: 9113 6786

Email: [emerson@toilet.org.sg](mailto:emerson@toilet.org.sg)

### **About Restroom Association (Singapore)**

*The vision of the Restroom Association (Singapore) or RAS is A Gracious Society Embracing Excellence in Restroom Culture. Started in 1998 as a non-profit organisation, RAS is dedicated to building an excellent restroom culture by actively engaging owners, the cleaning industry and users to play their part. Some of its programmes or activities – supported by the National Environment Agency (NEA) – initiated and conducted include the Happy Toilet Programme, Happy Toilet School Education programme for Preschools, STAR (Sustaining Toilets As Restrooms) Awards Programme, Eco-Assessor Programme and LOO (Let's Observe Ourselves) Carnival & Awards. RAS is a strategic partner in national community events like Clean & Green Singapore and is also a founding member of the World Toilet Organization and the Keep Singapore Beautiful Movement.*

### **About World Toilet Day**

*World Toilet Day is observed annually on 19 November since 2001. This international day of action aims to break the taboo around toilets and raise global awareness of the daily struggle for proper sanitation that a staggering 2.5 billion people face. In a bid to make sanitation for all a global development priority, the United Nations General Assembly designated 19 November as World Toilet Day on 24 July 2013.*

### **Glossary of Chinese Terms (In alphabetical order)**

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Happy Toilet Programme                                    | 康乐公厕计划    |
| 2. Guide to Better Public Toilet Design & Maintenance        | 公厕设计维修指南  |
| 3. LOO (Let's Observe Ourselves) Awards                      | 卫浴文化奖     |
| 4. LOO (Let's Observe Ourselves) Carnival                    | 卫浴文化嘉年华   |
| 5. President Tan Puay Hoon                                   | 会长陈培芬     |
| 6. Restroom Association (Singapore)                          | 新加坡卫浴文化协会 |
| 7. Singapore WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) Conference   | 新加坡卫浴会议   |
| 8. Ignite a SPARK (Share, Promote & Adopt Restroom Kindness) | 卫浴善行闪耀四方  |
| 9. World Toilet Day  | 世界厕所日     |

### **Chinese Comments by RAS President Ms Tan Puay Hoon**

新加坡卫浴文化协会会长陈培芬说：“自 2001 年以来，卫浴文化协会每年都有举办活动纪念世界厕所日。随着今年联合国选定 11 月 19 日为世界厕所日，本会希望能借此举办更具意义的活动以提高公众意识。随着本会点燃卫浴善行的火花，希望大家能燃烧永恒的火焰，照亮清洁工友、使用者与全球没有厕所可使用的二十五亿人，将卫浴善行闪耀四方。”

## **ANNEX A**

### **Singapore WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) Conference**

#### **Target Audience**

Building owners and qualified persons (QPs) such as architects, engineers, environmental and facility management professionals

#### **Objective**

The conference aims to reach out to its target audience to focus on the following:

1. WASH Regulations and Guidelines
2. WASH Planning
3. WASH Practices
4. WASH Promotion

#### **Details**

The conference targeted for building owners and qualified persons not only serves as an informative platform. Panel discussions are held so as to create a sharing platform for identifying key WASH challenges and available solutions.

##### **1. WASH Regulations and Guidelines**

Government agencies such as the Building & Construction Authority (BCA) and National Environment Agency (NEA) will share latest regulatory updates and seek feedback from the audience to consider for future revisions if necessary. RAS will share the latest Guide to Better Public Toilet Design and Maintenance and seek feedback from the audience to consider for future revisions if necessary.

##### **2. WASH Planning**

Association of Consulting Engineers Singapore (ACES) will share on planning for sustainability while Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) will share on training.

##### **3. WASH Practices**

Environmental Management Association of Singapore (EMAS) will share best practices in environmental management. NEA will share the Enhanced Clean Mark Accreditation Scheme.

##### **4. WASH Promotion**

LienAid, RAS and World Toilet Organization will share on community-based programmes and activities that are promoting WASH to the public.

## **ANNEX B**

### **LOO (Let's Observe Ourselves) Carnival 2013**

#### **Background**

The first LOO Carnival was first organised in 2010 at the National Library Building to commemorate World Toilet Day and raise public awareness on the right restroom culture. Since 2010, the carnival was held only at one venue with the exception of this year. For the first time, the carnival will be held islandwide.

#### **Dates & Venues**

HDB is sponsoring the following venues for the LOO Carnival

- Pasir Ris West Plaza 21 Oct (Mon) to 27 Oct (Sun)
- Dawson Place 28 Oct (Mon) to 3 Nov (Sun)
- Taman Jurong Shopping Centre 4 Nov (Mon) to 10 Nov (Sun)
- Fajar Shopping Centre 11 Nov (Mon) to 17 Nov (Sun)
- Rivervale Plaza 18 Nov (Mon) to 24 Nov (Sun)

#### **Key Message**

The key message for the LOO Carnival this year is ignite a SPARK – Share, Promote & Adopt Restroom Kindness. With the United Nations designating 19 November as World Toilet Day this year, the taboo subject of toilets has been broken. SPARK aims to inspire everyone to not only share but also promote and adopt it. Restroom kindness is viewed as demonstrating kindness towards the following people:

- Restroom cleaning attendants
- Fellow users
- 2.5 billion people in the world still without a toilet

#### **Details**

Exhibitions, games and activities promoting the key message will be held for one week at each shopping mall. Exhibitions will be held on weekdays while games and activities will be held on weekends.

## ANNEX C

### **Hawker Centre Happy Toilet Cleanup**

The Happy Toilet Programme (HTP) was launched by Mr Lim Swee Say, the former Minister for the Environment on 1 July 2003. The HTP was developed and implemented by RAS with the strong support from the National Environment Agency (NEA). RAS has been working with toilet owners in various sectors like shopping centres, industrial & commercial buildings, parks, tourist attractions and hawker centres.

There are currently a total of 111 hawker centres with 51 hawker centres under the HTP. Participating organisations (in alphabetical order) are Ang Mo Kio Town Council, East Coast Town Council, JTC, NEA, Nee Soon Town Council, Tampines Town Council and Tanjong Pagar Town Council.

The HTP is a star-grading initiative for public toilets which focuses on five main areas - Design, Cleanliness, Maintenance, Effectiveness and Satisfaction. Users will also leave the toilet happy, as the programme will ensure that they have the best experience, with all their needs met.

The cornerstone of the HTP is a grading system, based on minimum and progressive standards that start at 3 stars, to 4 stars and a maximum of 5 stars.

Application is open to all owners of public toilets in Singapore, anytime throughout the year. Once graded, the certification of quality has 12 months' validity. "Happy Toilets" will be promoted through the RAS website so that the public can identify star graded facilities.

3 stars = Good and Clean Restrooms

- Facilities in working condition
- Provision of basic amenities i.e. hand soap, toilet paper, etc
- No odour, litter-free
- Reasonably dry floor and facilities
- Customer Satisfaction

4 stars = Good Restrooms

- Facilities in working condition
- Provision of basic amenities i.e. hand soap, toilet paper, etc
- No odour, litter-free
- Reasonably dry floor and facilities
- Customer Satisfaction
- Special delights and user-friendly facilities

5 stars = Premium Restrooms

- Facilities in working condition
- Provision of basic amenities i.e. hand soap, toilet paper, etc
- No odour, litter-free
- Reasonably dry floor and facilities
- Customer Satisfaction
- Special delights, user-friendly and eco-friendly facilities

For more details, please visit [http://www.toilet.org.sg/projects3\\_2.html](http://www.toilet.org.sg/projects3_2.html)

## ANNEX D

### **LOO (Let's Observe Ourselves) Awards**

#### **Scope**

All efforts made by an organisation and individual in promoting and enhancing the standard of restroom cleanliness will be taken into account in the selection of recipients for the awards.

#### **Eligibility**

The LOO Awards is open to all organisations and individuals in Singapore.

#### **LOO Awards Categories**

There are three (3) LOO Awards categories open for nominations: Organisation, Cleaning Industry and Individual.

1. Organisations are selected in the following categories:
  - Private Sector/Public Sector
  - Educational Institution
2. Cleaning Industry is selected in the following categories:
  - Cleaning Service Provider
  - Restroom Cleaning Attendant
3. Individuals are selected in the following categories:
  - Private/Public sector individual
  - Youth (includes members of youth groups, youths in tertiary institutions, secondary and primary school students)

The following categories are not open for nominations.

1. Best Happy Toilets are selected in the following categories:
  - Coffee Shop
  - Food Court
  - Market and Food Centre
  - Shopping Centre
  - Happy Toilet of the Year
2. Star Eco-Assessor is selected under the Individual category.