



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

The Public Hygiene Council Launches First CleanPod at Major Tourist Attraction in Singapore

Collective efforts from our dedicated partners will help to drive the Keep Singapore Clean movement

SINGAPORE, 28 JULY 2024 – The Public Hygiene Council (PHC) in partnership with SBS Transit Ltd and Gardens by the Bay – both members of PHC’s Corporate Action Network (C.A.N) – launched its first CleanPod at a prominent tourist attraction in Singapore today, coinciding with the quarterly SG Clean Day.

First CleanPod at Major Tourist Attraction

2 PHC’s CleanPod has been adopted by SBS Transit Ltd (SBST), and is located next to the Understorey Mushroom Hut at Gardens by the Bay’s World of Plants. The CleanPod is a communal litter picking resource, and offers reusable tools such as garden carts, tongs and pails for public clean-up activities [see Annex A for Locations of PHC’s CleanPods in Singapore]. Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment, and Mr Andrew Khng, Chairman of the Public Hygiene Council, joined around 150 volunteers from PHC, SBST and Gardens by the Bay (GB) at the launch event.

3 Besides regular clean-ups by GB volunteers in support of quarterly SG Clean Day, the new CleanPod at GB will also facilitate other public clean-ups at the gardens. The launch event signifies a significant milestone for PHC’s C.A.N, which seeks to engage and mobilise businesses and corporations to actively promote a cleaner and more hygienic environment, and spearhead related initiatives within their respective sectors.

4 Mr Andrew Khng, Chairman of PHC, shared, “The CleanPod is a symbol of empowering our community to take action. Since establishing our Corporate Action Network in April this year, we have made good progress in partnering many passionate corporate organisations, allowing us to champion initiatives and drive change towards higher standards of public cleanliness for all. This collaboration exemplifies the positive results we can achieve by working together. We encourage everyone to join us in our continued efforts to keep Singapore beautiful and clean for residents and visitors.”

Expanding Neighbourhood Toilets Community Group to Transport Nodes

5 At the launch event, Dr Khor witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between PHC and SBST. The partnership covers SBST’s adoption of the CleanPod, and its commitment to organising at least three litter picking activities a year. It also paves the way for SBST to launch a pilot ground-up initiative – the Neighbourhood Toilets Community Group (NTCG) – aimed at addressing cleanliness issues for public toilets situated within transport nodes. The NTCG pilot programme is scheduled to run over three months,

from August to October 2024. It will be rolled out at the following five SBST-operated bus interchanges and MRT stations: Downtown Line (DTL) – MacPherson Station, Bencoolen Station; North East Line (NEL) – Hougang Station; Serangoon Bus Interchange; and Tampines Bus Interchange.

6 Through this initiative, PHC hopes to raise awareness among premises operators and users of toilets at transport nodes on their joint responsibility in maintaining public toilet cleanliness and hygiene. The programme also seeks to highlight the potential health risks associated with dirty toilets, as these can serve as breeding grounds for germs.

7 As part of the programme, volunteers from PHC's R.I.S.E Champions Network will conduct regular visits to designated toilets at transport nodes. They will promote good toilet etiquette, and ensure that the toilets are well-maintained, addressing issues from cleanliness to supplies to infrastructure, and alerting the station to any problems that require attention.

8 Mr Jeffrey Sim, Group CEO of SBST, explained, "As Singapore's leading public transport operator, we are committed to not only providing safe and reliable rides, but also clean and comfortable journeys for our passengers. From our transport hubs to our buses and trains, we ensure that we maintain a high standard of cleanliness that adds to making every journey a delight. Today, we are thrilled to formalise our partnership with the Public Health Council to champion a culture of collective responsibility and contribute to building a Singapore where cleanliness becomes second nature to us."

9 The valuable partnership forged today between PHC, SBST and GB marks a significant step towards promoting and driving high standards of public hygiene and cleanliness in Singapore, especially in the Year of Public Hygiene. This collective commitment reflects a shared responsibility and dedication towards ensuring a clean and hygienic environment for our future generations.

10 For more information on the quarterly SG Clean Day, please visit <https://www.publichygienecouncil.sg>.

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