

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MS TAN PUAY HOON, PRESIDENT OF THE RESTROOM ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE) AT THE LOO (LET'S OBSERVE OURSELVES) CARNIVAL & AWARDS ON 3 DEC 2010, 2.00PM, AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING

A very good afternoon to:

Our Guest of Honour Dr Amy Khor, Minister of State for the Environment and Water Resources

Mr Andrew Tan, Chief Executive Officer of the National Environment Agency

Awards recipients, partners, sponsors and distinguished guests

It is my pleasure and honour to welcome all of you to the first LOO (Let's Observe Ourselves) Carnival & Awards ceremony. Following the success of the first LOO Awards last year, we are making the event bigger this year by incorporating a 3-day carnival. The purpose of this event is to raise public awareness on the need to adopt the right restroom culture.

This event would not have been possible without the support from everyone especially our awards recipients, partners and sponsors. At this event, we have the National Environment Agency showcasing their accreditation scheme for the cleaning industry. In addition, we also have the Singapore Workforce Development Agency showcasing the Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) courses for the cleaning industry. The PUB, is also here to spread water-saving messages and distribute water-saving kits. Therefore, it is indeed a privilege to have the MEWR family supporting our carnival.

Besides partners from the government sector, we are also thankful for the presence of other partners from the people sector, the Singapore Cancer Society and the World Toilet Organization. The Singapore Cancer Society is partnering with us for the first time to raise awareness about colorectal cancer. They will also be distributing free test kits to screen for the cancer. Our affiliated partner, the World Toilet Organization, is also here today to spread the vital message that an estimated 2.6 billion people still do not have access to basic sanitation. We are fortunate to have toilets and therefore should ensure they are kept clean.

Similarly, sponsors from the private sector have come together for this event, to showcase innovative and interesting products and services related to the restroom environment. Initial Hygiene, Qool Enviro and Northern Ecotech are each offering a different range of products and services. The range of products and services will certainly captivate the visitors to the carnival especially patrons to the National Library. We would like to thank the National Library Board or NLB for sponsoring the venue for the carnival and certifying their toilets as 5-star Happy Toilets. NLB is also one of the recipients of the LOO Awards this year.

The stars of the event today are the LOO Awards recipients. I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations to all of you who have excelled in improving the standard of restroom cleanliness. Without your contributions, Singapore would not have achieved a world recognised standard of restroom cleanliness. I hope you will continue to cast your light and shine in the restroom environment.

We must continue to sustain the standard of restroom cleanliness. This can only be done when the owners, contractors, cleaners and users play their part. The introduction of the LOO Awards is to recognise all of them for their efforts. We have initiated the LOO Awards, based on one of the recommendations from an Inter-Agency Working Committee Report on Public Toilets. We will be sharing the report with the media and everyone by the end of this year. I hope with the public release of this report, all owners, contractors, cleaners and users will continue to work together to sustain restroom cleanliness.

On behalf of the Restroom Association (Singapore), I would like to once again express my sincere appreciation to Guest of Honour Dr Amy Khor, CEO Mr Andrew Tan, partners, sponsors and distinguished guests for taking time to attend our event. Last but not least, let's congratulate the awards recipients again for the strong commitment they have demonstrated over the years. Let's work together towards becoming a more gracious society, embracing excellence in restroom culture.

Thank you.