

 [Email this page](#)

 [Print this page](#)

Updated: 10th July 2009, 2030 hrs

Youths take lead in environmental efforts

More young Singaporeans were nominated for the EcoFriend Awards this year.

Nominees in the youth and student category almost doubled to 82 since the awards were conceived in 2007.

10 environmentally active individuals from five categories were conferred the EcoFriend Awards 2009 at the Hortpark this evening.

Saifulbahri Ismail spoke with some of them to find out more about their achievements :

One of the winners is young environmentalist, Lee Wanli who has been actively promoting environmental initiatives in schools since 2004.

The 20 year-old NTU marketing student was also Chairman of the National Youth EnviOlympics Challenge 2009 Committee.

She believes that an effective way to promote environmental awareness among youths is to get them involved in organising events :

"I hope to engage more younger peers, engaging more proactively in environment events, such as organising the events themselves. I guess more platforms must be created, instead of just giving them passive education about awareness. That's why when I moved on as Chairperson for NYEC 2009, the organising committee actually all are youths. So, we're all volunteers, all schooling but yet we're still organising this event. For example myself when I engage in such activities I become an environmentalist myself."

President of the Restroom Association, Tan Puay Hoon is another recipient.

Ms Tan advocates the need for hygenic sanitation in Singapore.

She has set herself a target to achieve at least 70 per cent clean public toilets by 2010.

The 45 year-old hopes to see improvements in other areas as well :

"And of course we also like to see the cleaning industry upgrade the skills of the cleaner and eventually we hope that the cleaners welfare can be taken care of as well. And for the user, we will really like user to be more considerate when they use the toilets and appreciate what we have today, because Singapore, we are very fortunate, we have very good sanitation system compared to a lot of people in other countries."

The EcoFriend Award is given to individuals who've contributed significantly to environmental sustainability.