

Green team's chief gets EcoFriend award

CapitaLand initiatives help the environment and needy students too

■ BY EISEN TEO

AS CHAIRMAN of property giant CapitaLand's Green Committee, Mr Wong Hooe Wai, 51, is no stranger to initiatives to save the environment.

One of the novel ideas his committee brought to fruition was an Environmental Tracking System in 2007 to monitor and regulate electricity and water usage of more than 150 CapitaLand properties worldwide, such as Raffles City in Singa-

pore and in Chengdu, China.

But his work did not benefit only the environment. Over the past year, his Green For Hope programme encouraged 260,000 primary schoolchildren from 154 schools to recycle, helping Singapore's less fortunate in the process.

CapitaLand's Hope Foundation - its philanthropic arm - pledged \$2 to school welfare funds for every 1kg of recyclable waste collected by students.

The foundation is still collating the amount earned.

Yesterday, Mr Wong's efforts were lauded as he received the National Environment Agency's (NEA) EcoFriend Award from Environment and Water Resources Minister Yaacob Ibrahim at Hort Park.

The honour was shared with nine other individuals - including Ms Tan Puay Hoon, president of the Singapore Restroom Association, and Mr Alfred Tan, deputy director of the Building and Environment Division of the School of Engineering at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

They were chosen from 282 nominees for initiatives in nurturing communities to care for the environment.

Honoured too was the future of local environmental conservation: Samuel Lim, 18, one of the two winners in the Youth and Student category.

The Raffles Junior College student already has five green projects under his belt, from promoting conservation awareness through fun walks, to organising an international environment conference.



Mr Wong is one of 10 people recognised for their roles in nurturing communities to care for the environment. ST PHOTO: AZIZ HUSSIN

He said his interest blossomed as a child: "As I grew older, I realised that the ecology would be destroyed if we did not care for our planet."

It is a concern shared by Mr Wong: "It is important to promote a sustainable environment for future generations, and give back to the communities within which we operate."