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Description	I support the existence of a Cleaners' Day celebration because i respect the cleaners, who sweep and collect our garbage, making Singapore a clean and green place. THE Best Sourcing Early Adapters Scheme is also commendable, as it encourages buyers to focus on quality rather than low costs when it comes to purchasing cleaning services.		

World first?

SINGAPORE owes its global reputation for being clean and green to the humble men and women who sweep the streets, collect the garbage and wash the toilets come rain or shine. These people are often not recognised enough, if at all.

The nature of their job makes them invisible, thus they are easily taken for granted and often taken advantage of. The only time they are noticed is when they are absent or when there are complaints.

So, I commend last month's Cleaners' Day celebration, championed by the National Trades Union Congress. This is a great initiative, and may even be the first of its kind in the world.

I'm further impressed with the Best Sourcing Early Adopters Scheme announced at the event to motivate buyers of cleaning services to consider service quality and staff development, rather than just price, when they evaluate cleaning tenders. In doing so, it will hopefully break the vicious circle of cheap pricing, cheap workers and "chipped" motivation and standards.

I was delighted to have experienced the compassion demonstrated in the way Singapore honoured its cleaners. Cleaners' Day was an unforgettable event.

Helle Havgaard (Ms)

FORUM NOTE: Ms Havgaard, a senior official of Danish-based international facility services company ISS, was a participant at the event held on July 29.