



Media Release

19 November 2009

FIRST LOO AWARDS RECIPIENTS UNVEILED ON WORLD TOILET DAY

Singapore's first restroom awards for organisations and individuals

In conjunction with World Toilet Day¹, the Restroom Association (Singapore) or RAS announces the 15 recipients (please refer to Annex A) of the LOO Awards (please refer to Annex B for more details) at a media conference held in a Koufu's coffeeshop – Ang Mo Kio VariNice Eating House - for the first time. Nominations for the awards were opened from 18 June 2009 and closed on 31 October 2009. A total of 24 nominations were received for all the categories. The 15 recipients will receive the awards at the LOO Awards Ceremony on **2 December 2009** during a networking dinner session at the World Toilet Summit & Expo.

After the media conference, RAS conducts a hand-washing exercise, a joint initiative sponsored by Initial Hygiene, for the stall holders and staff of VariNice Eating House. Everyone present is invited to join in the exercise. Mr Wan Chong Hock, the Chief Executive Officer of Ang Mo Kio – Yio Chu Kang Town Council is also at the event to present the 4-Star Happy Toilet² certification to Ang Mo Kio VariNice Eating House. This coffeeshop toilet is also the first 4-Star Happy Toilet in the **Central Singapore district**.

Ms Tan Puay Hoon, President of RAS, said: "The purpose of holding this media conference in a coffeeshop is to change the stereotype of its cleanliness. With commitment from the owners, cleaners and patrons, I believe that coffeeshops, including its toilets, can meet world-recognised standard of cleanliness. With the launch of the LOO Awards, I hope more

¹ World Toilet Day is a global day of action to increase awareness for toilet users' rights and to advocate a better toilet environment. Individuals, toilet associations, and other advocacy groups mark this day across the world to bring attention to a cause that truly affects everyone on earth.

² The Happy Toilet Programme (HTP) is an initiative launched in July 2003 to award public toilets a three, four or five star rating for their standards and excellence. A minimum three-star rating ensures toilets are kept dry, odourless, litter-free with working toilet facilities and basic amenities such as soap and toilet paper. It was revamped in November 2008 to include effectiveness and satisfaction on top of its existing three main criteria namely cleanliness, maintenance and design.

restroom owners, operators, contractors, cleaners and users will start to recognise the importance of having clean public restrooms for everyone.”

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About Restroom Association (Singapore)

Restroom Association (Singapore) or RAS' vision is Clean Public Toilets for Everyone. Started in 1998 as a non-profit organization, RAS is dedicated to promoting the cleanliness, design and functionality of public toilets in Singapore. It serves the community by educating the general public about toilet etiquette.

Some of the programmes or activities – supported by the National Environment Agency (NEA) – initiated and conducted by RAS include the Happy Toilet Programme, Happy Toilet School Education programme, Inter-Agencies Working Committee, Eco-Assessor Programme, LOO Campaign 2008-2010, NSRS in clean sanitary fittings & fixtures and strategic partner in national community events like Clean & Green Singapore. RAS is also a founding member of the World Toilet Organization.

Glossary of Chinese Terms (In alphabetical order)

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|--|-----------------|
| 1. Restroom Association (Singapore) | 新加坡卫浴文化协会 |
| 2. President Tan Puay Hoon | 会长陈培芬 |
| 3. LOO (Let's Observe Ourselves) Campaign | LOO “让我们自我监察”活动 |
| 4. LOO Awards | 卫浴文化奖 |
| 5. Happy Toilet Programme (HTP) | 康乐公厕计划 |
| 6. Happy Toilet School Education Programme | 快乐公厕校园计划 |
| 7. Certified Eco-Assessors | 鉴定环保评估员 |
| 8. Volunteer Eco-Assessors | 志愿环保评估员 |
| 9. World Toilet Summit & Expo | 世界厕所高峰期及博览会 |

List of LOO Awards recipients

Organisation Category

Private Sector (In alphabetical order)

1. Dragages (S) Pte Ltd - Quay Side Residence Project
2. Koufu Pte Ltd
3. Singapore Zoo - Rainforest Kidzworld

Public Sector (In alphabetical order)

1. Aljunied Town Council
2. Ang Mo Kio - Yio Chu Kang Town Council

Educational Institution (In alphabetical order)

1. Holy Innocents' Primary School
2. Northland Primary School
3. Zhenghua Primary School

Cleaning Industry Category

Contractor

1. CSP Maintenance Pte Ltd, cleaning contractor of Opera Estate Primary School

Restroom Cleaner

1. Mdm Mak Lai Kew, 麦丽娇 Greenridge Primary School

Individual Category

Public Sector (In alphabetical order)

1. Ms Jasmin Maniam, Teacher, Telok Kurau Primary School
2. Mr Mokhtar Abdul Rahman, Environmental Health Executive, North West Regional Office, National Environment Agency **<Nominated by RAS>**

Youth & Student Category **<Nominated by RAS>**

1. Ms Lin Zhiyi, student 林智毅

Star Certified Eco-Assessor **<Nominated by RAS>**

1. Mdm Norwati Binte Rashid

Star Volunteer **<Nominated by RAS>**

1. Mr Lim Ah Kum 林亞鑫

LOO Awards 2009

Background

The LOO – Let's Observe Ourselves - Campaign was launched on 19 November 2008 in conjunction with World Toilet Day. This campaign targets the toilet owners, cleaners and users with the aim to achieve our 2010 goal of 70% clean public toilets islandwide, to meet our Happy Toilet three-star rating which is the basic standard of toilet cleanliness. The LOO Campaign adopts a four-pronged approach targeting toilet owners, operators, contractors, cleaners and users as follows:

- Encourage toilet owners or operators to commit to the ownership of their clean toilets by joining our Happy Toilet Programme.
- Train toilet cleaners with the right skills to maintain the toilets.
- Educate toilet users about toilet etiquette, personal hygiene and public health with our public and school education programmes
- Recognise anyone who has contributed to help Singapore achieve a world recognised standard of toilet cleanliness.

Following the successful launch of the LOO Campaign last year, RAS further reinforces its four pronged approach especially the fourth approach by initiating the LOO Awards to recognise any organisations or individuals who have contributed to help Singapore achieve a world recognised standard of restroom cleanliness.

Scope

All efforts made by an organisation and individual in promoting and enhancing the standard of restroom cleanliness will be taken into account in the selection of recipients for the awards.

Eligibility

The LOO Awards is open to all organisations and individuals in Singapore.

LOO Awards Categories

There are three (3) LOO Awards categories: Organisation, Cleaning Industry and Individual.

Organisations may be nominated in the following categories:

1. Private Sector **(3 Awards)**
2. Public Sector **(3 Awards)**
3. Educational Institutions **(3 Awards)**

Cleaning Industries may be nominated in the following categories:

1. Cleaners **(3 Awards)**
2. Contractors **(3 Awards)**

Individuals may be nominated in the following categories:

1. Private sector individual **(1 Award)**
2. Public sector individual **(1 Award)**
3. Youth & Student (includes members of youth groups, youths in tertiary institutions, secondary and primary school students) **(1 Award)**

* The following categories will be nominated by RAS:

1. Eco-Assessor **(1 Award)**
2. Volunteer **(1 Award)**

Criteria for Nomination

Organisations nominated for the awards should have fulfilled some or all of the following criteria:

- Good restroom design
- Good practices such as recognition, best sourcing, etc
- Initiatives or projects in line with restroom cleanliness & maintenance
- Participation in RAS programmes or activities
- Collaborations with RAS

Cleaning Industries nominated for the awards should have fulfilled some or all of the following criteria:

- Help cleaners to upgrade their skills
- Provide the right equipment for the cleaner
- Take care of cleaners' welfare
- Dedicated cleaner with good customer service as perceived by the user & operator

Individuals nominated for the awards should have fulfilled some or all of the following criteria:

- Initiatives or projects in line with restroom cleanliness & maintenance
- Participation in RAS programmes or activities
- Provision of valuable feedback that contributed to the enhancement of restrooms