

Loo campaign targets S'poreans' bad habits

Most still continue to litter toilet floor and not flush after use, say cleaners and assessors

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SINGAPOREANS still need to improve their toilet etiquette, as many people continue to litter the floor and not flush after use.

That is the feedback from the cleaners, professionals and toilet assessors *my paper* spoke to yesterday at the launch of the first Let's Observe Ourselves (Loo) campaign 2008-2010 at the Singapore Zoo.

The Loo campaign is the latest initiative by Restroom Association (Singapore) - RAS - to get people to participate in its Happy Toilet Programme (HTP), launched in 2003.

Dr Amy Khor, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, was guest-of-honour at the launch. She said that "the public toilet belongs to everyone" and is "a reflection of a society's hygiene standards and graciousness".

However, Ms Tan Puay Hoon, president of RAS, ob-

served that "some of us are very inconsiderate".

Citing examples of toilets littered with dirty paper rolls, she said that Singaporeans clearly lack a "toilet culture".

Public restrooms are assessed and rated by Certified Eco-Assessors (CEA) employed by RAS.

Ms Priscilla Char, 60, one of the eight CEAs, felt that toilet users in general "are quite indifferent" about keeping toilets clean.

"They think that is the cleaner's job," she said.

Nanyang Technological University student Denys Ngo, 23, agreed. "I still see people not washing hands, and some urinals regularly choked with paper," he said.

On a brighter note, Ms Tan felt that Singaporeans' restroom etiquette had probably improved by 10 per cent since HTP was launched.

Some restrooms also have better facilities, such as the female toilets at Century Square in Tampines.



TOP LOO: The Singapore Zoo's top-rated five-star toilet, located in its Garden Pavilion. (PHOTO: NEO XIAOBIN)

"Some toilets there cater to women, and have sofas for us to rest our legs," said 25-year-old teacher Clarissa Lim.

Currently, only 170 out of more than 35,000 toilet blocks in Singapore have the minimum three-star rating. RAS wants 70 per cent of all toilets to have this rating by 2010.

The zoo is committed to this goal. It will revamp its seven toilets to achieve a five-star rating. Its Garden Pavilion toilet already has this top rating.

It boasts eco-friendly facilities that help boost customer satisfaction.

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HELPDESK 我的字典

Etiquette: 礼节 lǐ jié

Inconsiderate:

不顾及别人的
bù gù jí bié rén de