

Helping hawkers maintain Happy Toilet habits

I REFER to the letter, "Make hygiene-grading criteria public" (*my paper*, April 13) by Mr Tan Chin Aik, and "Who wants to wash hands in dirty toilets?" (*my paper*, April 9) by Mr Jeffrey Law Lee Beng.

The Restroom Association (Singapore), or RAS, agrees with the concerns voiced by the writers. As an advocate of clean public toilets and good toilet etiquette, RAS actively encourages toilet owners and operators to participate in our Happy Toilet Programme (HTP).

We launched the LOO Cam-

paign - visit our website at www.toilet.org.sg for details - last November. The National Environment Agency (NEA) is one of the campaign's participating organisations and it has had toilets in 71 hawker centres certified as Happy Toilets.

Meanwhile, RAS constantly promotes good toilet etiquette, such as proper hand washing after using the toilet.

Unfortunate cases of hand, foot and mouth disease and Sars should serve as constant reminders that one can be infected by consumption of faecal-contami-

nated food and water or direct person-to-person contact, such as via handshakes.

Thus, RAS has always focused on the importance of inculcating good toilet etiquette in the younger generation through school education programmes, whereby students and children are constantly taught the right way to wash their hands after using the toilet.

RAS has been working closely with NEA to conduct educational talks with stallholders on toilet etiquette. We will continue to be involved in these talks,

to tell stallholders about the importance of good toilet-hygiene practices, including proper hand washing after using the toilet.

The public can volunteer to work with us by sending an e-mail message to info@toilet.org.sg; they can also share their views on our website, or send their messages to mysay@toilet.org.sg, or SMS us on 9770-LOOS (9770-5667).

Ms Tan Puay Hoon
President
Restroom Association
(Singapore)