



MEDIA RELEASE

Environmental Champions Receive President's Award for Contributions to Environment Sustainability

29 September 2021 - The President's Award for the Environment (PAE) was presented by President Halimah Yacob to **Mr Joseph K H Koh, Nanyang Girls' High School, DBS Bank Ltd, Edible Garden City and PSA Corporation Limited** at The Istana on 29 September 2021.

2 The PAE is Singapore's highest environmental accolade for individuals, organisations and educational institutions that have made significant contributions towards environmental sustainability in Singapore. It recognises and honours sustained contributions by environmental champions from the People, Private and Public (3P) sectors, and aims to inspire more community partners to come forward to address our environmental challenges.

Enhanced Judging Criteria for PAE 2021

3 The Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE) refreshed the judging criteria for the PAE this year to align them with the five pillars of the Singapore Green Plan 2030 – City in Nature, Energy Reset, Sustainable Living, Green Economy and Resilient Future. In addition, special consideration was given this year to the nominees' efforts to engage the wider community in adopting environment-friendly practices and pursuing partnerships. More information on PAE 2021 and the composition of the Judging Panel is available at [Annex A](#).

- 4 A total of 69 nominations were received this year in the following categories:
- **Individuals:** 18 nominations
 - **Educational Institutions:** 11 nominations
 - **Organisations:** 40 nominations.

Environmental Champions contributing to a Sustainable Singapore

5 There are five PAE recipients this year — one each in the Individual and Education Institution categories, and three in the Organisation category. These five environmental champions are inspiring examples of how Singaporeans can contribute to sustainable development, and help promote good environmental practices both within and beyond their organisations. More information on the five winners can be found in [Annex B](#) and at www.pae.gov.sg. Past recipients of the Award are listed in [Annex C](#).



6 President Halimah Yacob said: “Congratulations to Mr Joseph K H Koh, Nanyang Girls’ High School, DBS Bank Ltd, Edible Garden City, and PSA Corporation Limited on being awarded the President’s Award for the Environment. It is encouraging to see the passion and commitment from various facets of our community protecting and conserving our natural and living environment. With their efforts, we are taking steps forward in Singapore’s journey in sustainable development. Everyone has a part to play as we tackle the growing threat of climate change, and I hope more individuals and organisations will be inspired by the winners to also contribute towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient Singapore for future generations.”

7 Mr Desmond Tan, Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment and Chairperson of the PAE 2021 Judging Panel said: “This year, we received 69 nominations — more than double the number received in 2019. This reflects a growing sense of shared commitment among Singaporeans and partners in the 3P sectors to take climate action and protect our environment. The PAE 2021 recipients have made positive contributions to furthering the Singapore Green Plan 2030. I hope the Award will motivate them to continue to push boundaries and pave the way for others to join our national sustainability movement.”

14th PAE Recipients

8 Mr Joseph K H Koh said: “I hope my story will ignite the passion of our younger generation in everything they do and inspire them to internalise the values and science behind the Singapore Green Plan 2030. Beyond 2030, we should continue our ‘whole-of-society’ approach to environmental sustainability and realise the vision of a City in Nature. We should soldier on to become a Bright Green Spark on that Little Red Dot: a new source of pride and another pillar of our national identity.”

9 Mdm Ng Chuen-Yin, Principal of Nanyang Girls’ High School, said: “Climate change is a very urgent issue which affects all of us. Thus, protecting the environment is everyone’s responsibility. We hope that our girls serve as agents of change in leading themselves and others in this important mission. Apart from integrating environmental education into our curriculum, we focus on building a school culture which focuses on reducing waste and encouraging recycling. We are heartened that many girls came forth to take up projects and participate in activities related to climate change. We are encouraged to receive this award and it serves to remind us how we can continue to role-model and inspire others towards sustainable living.”

10 Mr Shee Tse Koon, Group Executive and Country Head of DBS Singapore, said: “As the former Development Bank of Singapore, DBS has always had a mission bigger than ourselves, given our mandate to finance Singapore’s industrialisation. Being purpose-driven is a part of our DNA, and championing sustainability is a big part of our agenda. Today, that DNA continues to inspire all that we do – driving meaningful impact to our customers and society at large. We are honoured to have been chosen



as one of the winners for the President's Award for the Environment 2021 and are humbled for the recognition of our efforts in building a sustainable future for us all."

11 Mr Bjorn Low, Co-founder and Executive Director, Edible Garden City, said: "Winning this award encourages us to look into the future. There's a long road ahead for food resilience, and we want to grow this movement together with the different communities in Singapore."

12 Mr Ong Kim Pong, Regional CEO Southeast Asia, PSA International, said: "PSA Singapore is honoured to be recognised for our steadfast commitment to environmental sustainability, which is made possible by the dedication and hard work of our employees and solution providers. Sustainability is a business imperative and organisations need to take the lead in combating climate change. PSA will continue to innovate and take proactive efforts to work closely with our customers and stakeholders to reduce our environmental footprint, building business resilience while making a difference for generations to come."

– End –








Ministry of Sustainability
and the Environment
— SINGAPORE —

About the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment

The Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE) is committed to providing Singaporeans with a clean and sustainable environment, and resilient supplies of safe food and water.

MSE works alongside its three statutory boards – the National Environment Agency (NEA), PUB, Singapore’s National Water Agency, and the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) – to achieve this mission through innovation, technology, and vibrant partnerships with the private, public, and people (3P) sectors.

For more information, please visit <http://www.mse.gov.sg/>

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Annex A

President's Award for the Environment (PAE) 2021

The President's Award for the Environment (PAE) is a biennial award organised by the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment. Nominations for PAE 2021 were open from 10 March to 30 April 2021. The award recipients were presented with a trophy and a certificate by President Halimah Yacob at the PAE award ceremony held at The Istana on 29 September 2021.

Composition of the PAE 2021 Judging Panel

Role	Name	Designation
Chairperson	Mr Desmond Tan	Minister of State, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment
Members	Dr Ho Nyok Yong	President, Singapore Green Building Council
	Mr Lee Chuan Seng	Chairman, National Environment Agency's board of directors
	Mr Eugene Leong	2 Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment
	Ms Isabella Huang-Loh	Chairman, Singapore Environment Council
	Ms Loh Wee Cheng	Director (Character & Citizenship Education), Student Development Curriculum Division, Ministry of Education
	Mr James Soh	Executive Director, National Youth Achievement Award



Annex B

President's Award for the Environment 2021 (Individual) – Mr Joseph K H Koh

Trained in zoology, Mr Joseph K H Koh has spent decades studying spiders and made key contributions to the knowledge of Singapore and Borneo spiders. Mr Koh was part of a core research working group, which contributed to the Comprehensive Biodiversity Survey of the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve from 2014 to 2018. Together with a team of budding arachnologists that he has nurtured, Mr Koh has recorded more than 800 species of spiders in Singapore. He has pledged his more than 12,000-specimen collection to the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum of the National University of Singapore (NUS), and continues to devote time to pass on his skills and knowledge to young people with a passion for spiders.

Under his leadership, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Singapore had embarked on several collaboration projects with the National Parks Board (NParks) to combat illegal wildlife trade, and garner public support for NParks' species recovery programme and efforts to turn Singapore into a "City in Nature". WWF-Singapore has also started to explore collaboration with other government agencies to promote a "whole-of-society" approach to reduce waste and emission to further the Singapore Green Plan 2030 and beyond. As Chairman of the "Friends of Bukit Timah Forest" community group, Mr Koh played a pivotal role in publicising the rich biodiversity in the forest ecosystem with Bukit Timah Nature Reserve as its core, and in developing a network of partnerships to involve more Singaporeans to protect, restore and enjoy the forest.

Mr Koh served as Chairman of NParks' Nature Reserve Scientific Advisory Committee from 2012 to 2017. He was Chairman of the WWF-Singapore Board of Directors from 2018 to 2020, and is currently its Senior Advisor. Prior to that, he held key appointments in the Ministries of Finance, Home Affairs, Defence, and Foreign Affairs. He was Singapore's High Commissioner to Australia from 2002 to 2005, and High Commissioner to Negara Brunei Darussalam from 2006 to 2012. While pursuing a career in the public service, Mr Koh maintained close links with the NUS Department of Biological Sciences and was instrumental in encouraging and strengthening NUS' biodiversity research ties with scientists from universities and research institutions of other countries.

In the many roles he has held over the years, Mr Koh has helped to groom many passionate advocates for nature conservation, and deepened local and international understanding of Singapore's environmental and biodiversity conservation efforts. He has also made significant contributions in various dialogues between the government and the community on issues related to environmental conservation, and continues to play an active leadership role in rallying community support to transform Singapore from a little red dot into a bright green spark.



President's Award for the Environment 2021 (Educational Institution) – Nanyang Girls' High School

Nanyang Girl's High School's (NYGH) activities are wide-ranging and sustained, ensuring that each student at every level has the opportunity to be a green ambassador for the environment. The school has an environmental education council in which the teachers work together to incorporate environmental education in the curriculum and other areas where possible.

NYGH has actively encouraged its students to embrace sustainable living and is one of the few schools that actively promotes cycling. The school offers a cycling-centric module in its Physical Education curriculum and is a strong advocate of active mobility. The school also volunteered to host the Land Transport Authority's Walk, Cycle, Ride Symposium in 2016.

NYGH has been a dedicated partner of the National Environment Agency since 2018. Its students demonstrated their zero waste efforts at various events and initiatives, such as the Youth for the Environment Day, Clean and Green Singapore, Say Yes To Waste Less campaign, and Singapore's 2019 Year Towards Zero Waste.

The school has also participated in other activities organised by government agencies, such as NParks' forest restoration work at the Rifle Range Nature Park. In 2020, NYGH was one of the first five schools to bring in a Reverse Vending Machine under the Recycle N Save initiative to encourage the uptake of recycling within the school.

NYGH's care and ownership for the environment is demonstrated by its numerous teacher-student driven initiatives within the school and with the community such as its recycling, food composting, edible gardening, and waste reduction efforts.



President's Award for the Environment 2021 (Organisation) – DBS Bank Ltd

DBS Bank Ltd drives its sustainability agenda at the C-suite level, with a Group Sustainability Council that develops its sustainability framework and oversees evaluation of key performance indicators. Local Sustainability Councils in key markets execute initiatives that are in line with the Group's overall sustainability agenda.

DBS has demonstrated leadership in the sustainable finance sector. It is the first bank in the world to launch a Sustainable and Transition Finance Framework and Taxonomy to guide corporate customers in transitioning to more sustainable business operations, and the first Singaporean bank to offer transition financing. It has made a commitment to progressively phase out funding for sectors that are carbon-intensive (such as coal and palm oil) and is actively pursuing financing opportunities in the sustainable and renewable energy sectors.

As a financial institution, DBS has exercised its influence to mobilise capital and structure financing solutions, such as green and sustainability-linked loans, to support sustainable development and build a resilient economy. It is also contributing to national efforts as a member of the Monetary Authority of Singapore-convened Green Finance Industry Taskforce, and is involved in Climate Impact X, an initiative born out of its participation in the Emerging Stronger Taskforce's Alliance for Action on Sustainability.

DBS engages its employees and the community in the region extensively on the topic of food waste. The impact is further amplified through its network of social enterprises, which DBS supports through the DBS Foundation. In 2020, DBS worked with 19 ecosystem partners to drive 50,000 kg of food impact and activated 11,700 staff members to reduce or recycle food waste, as well as redistribute up to 150,000 kg of food. It has supported national campaigns such as the Say Yes to Waste Less campaign and sponsored the second season of MasterChef Singapore to raise awareness on food waste. The bank also partnered NParks and Tote Board to launch the Gardening with Edibles initiative to encourage home gardening and increase interest in local produce.

Internally, DBS has committed to energy conservation efforts, attaining the Green Mark certification for all its office premises, and switching to renewable energy sources progressively. It is an active proponent of sustainable procurement, having founded the National Sustainable Procurement Roundtable with three other organisations, and is publishing a Circular Procurement Playbook.



President's Award for the Environment 2021 (Organisation) – Edible Garden City

Edible Garden City is one of Singapore's pioneers in urban farming, and an advocate for local produce and greening of underutilised spaces.

Edible Garden City contributes to the advancement of the agri-food industry by grooming young farmers, researching the cultivation of new plant species and growing mindshare with stakeholders. It has placed Singapore on the world map for urban farming, having represented Singapore in many regional and international conferences, and developed a framework for farmers to scale up their operations.

To date, Edible Garden City has groomed 80 urban farmers, contributed to academic publications, and successfully cultivated new plant variants that are supplied to local restaurants and consumers.

Edible Garden City has a strong track record in community engagement through its educational workshops and farm-to-table programmes, with a clear focus in centring its business on urban farming, education, and R&D for closed loop farming. Through its network of corporate partners, it is able to reach out to the wider community to encourage environmental sustainability in the workplace culture.

It has been an active proponent of the Grow Your Own Food movement since 2012 and has created 260 food gardens out of underutilised spaces.

At the upcoming Dubai World Expo, Edible Garden City has been selected to showcase its closed loop farm solution under the Expo Global Best Practice initiative. This initiative highlights projects which have provided impactful and sustainable interventions that can be scaled up and replicated in other parts of the world.



President's Award for the Environment 2021 (Organisation) – PSA Corporation Limited

PSA Corporation Limited has made significant efforts to reduce carbon emissions in its operations, improve energy management, and contribute to the maritime industry's decarbonisation efforts.

PSA leverages its position as the world's largest transshipment hub and employs data analytics to maximise vessel utilisation and improve connections between ports to reduce carbon emissions. It has committed to phasing out diesel-based equipment, turning to electricity and liquified nitrogen gas – a cleaner fuel – to power its port equipment and prime movers respectively. PSA is also working closely with like-minded industry partners to pioneer ways to explore the use of hydrogen as a low-carbon energy source.

The company has invested in innovation, with the set-up of a PSA Living Lab to pilot and testbed solutions in resource deployment and efficient routing. In 2020, PSA started working with partners to develop smart grid solutions for port applications. The project includes developing an AI-based smart grid management system and a Battery Energy Storage System to optimise energy use.

PSA is also committed to a sustainable concrete framework to reduce the embodied carbon footprint of its construction projects. Efficient materials like low-carbon and lightweight sustainable concrete with Ground Granulated Blastfurnace Slag, which has carbon emissions savings of up to 72 per cent, were used for the construction of Tuas Port.

As a leading port operator driving supply chain orchestration, PSA is well-positioned within the value chain to develop innovative solutions that improve efficiency and resiliency, and support supply chain decarbonisation. PSA is growing its Cargo Solutions services to enable cargo owners and shipping lines customers to make greener logistics choices and achieve a more resource-efficient flow of cargo through its intelligent logistics solutions.

PSA drives its sustainability strategy at the C-suite level and has a Sustainability Steering Committee chaired by its regional CEO. It has built a strong culture in environment and sustainability awareness through its staff engagement activities and training opportunities. As a strong supporter of national environmental and sustainability campaigns, PSA has worked with NParks and the community to develop and beautify Pasir Panjang Park, which is the first park to be designed and built together with the community, for the community.



Annex C

Past Recipients of the President's Award for the Environment (PAE)

Since 2006, 45 outstanding environmental champions have been conferred the PAE.

List of Past Recipients		
S/N	Year	PAE Recipients
1	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterways Watch Society • Dr Geh Min • Prof Tommy Koh
2	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Developments Limited • Prof Leo Tan • Mr Tan Gee Paw
3	2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SouthWest CDC • Alexandra Hospital • Senoko Energy
4	2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Secondary School • STMicroelectronics Pte Ltd • National Youth Achievement Award Council of Singapore
5	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitachi GST • Singapore Polytechnic • Nan Hua High School
6	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodgrove Secondary School • SMRT Corporation Limited • Dr Tan Wee Kiat
7	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marsiling Secondary School • Panasonic Asia Pacific Pte Ltd • HSBC Limited
8	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuhua Primary School • Dunman High School • Siloso Beach Resort
9	2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Eugene Heng • Institute of Technical Education • Ngee Ann Polytechnic
10	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Kirtida Mekani • Mr Kwek Leng Joo • East View Primary School • Systems on Silicon Manufacturing Company



List of Past Recipients		
11	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bukit View Secondary School• Marsiling Primary School• Ricoh Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
12	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Shawn Kaihekulani Yamauchi Lum• Khoo Teck Puat Hospital• Anchor Green Primary School
13	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elias Park Primary School• Mee Toh School• Singtel
14	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Joseph K H Koh• Nanyang Girls' High School• DBS Bank Ltd• Edible Garden City• PSA Corporation Limited