

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MS LOW YEN LING,
SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF TRADE AND
INDUSTRY & MINISTRY OF CULTURE
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH
CHAIRMAN OF MAYORS' COMMITTEE
MAYOR OF SOUTH WEST DISTRICT
AT LAUNCH OF LAW AWARENESS WEEKS @ CDC 2024
ON SATURDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2024
AT ITE COLLEGE WEST**

Mr Edwin Tong
Minister for Culture, Community and Youth &
Second Minister for Law
Deputy Chairman of People's Association

Mayors Ms Denise Phua, Mr Desmond Choo, Mr Alex Yam and
Mr Fahmi Aliman

Mr Tanguy Lim
CEO of Pro Bono SG

Ms Jeanie Tan,
Assistant Chief Executive (Ops), People's Association

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good afternoon to everyone.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC 2024. We are delighted to host this year's launch in South West District.

2 Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC 2024 is especially meaningful this year as we mark the 10th anniversary of the partnership between the five CDCs and Pro Bono SG. I remember 10 years ago, when we started this it was Law Awareness Week - 1 week. As we got more and more partners and we have more proof points that this is really beneficial, we now have Law Awareness Weeks. Our enduring collaboration has provided critical support to our residents who need legal assistance and ensured that justice remains accessible to those facing challenges.

THE POWER OF COLLABORATION - CDCS, PRO BONO SG AND PARTNERS

3 LAW@CDC started in 2015 as a joint initiative between the CDCs and Pro Bono SG to equip residents with basic legal

education. In the last decade, we have touched over 35,000 lives through our talks, public outreach and community legal clinics.

Our efforts provided many residents with a greater awareness and better understanding of the law. We covered common topics and pertinent issues such as Advance Legal Planning, Consumer Protection, Employment Law, Family Violence and Community Disputes. In fact, Law Awareness @ CDC usually provide pulsechecks on emerging issues in the community and spotlight them to meet community needs.

Throughout the years, Law@CDC has also been designed to meet the community's needs. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we ran workshops/talks to help residents better understand the rights and responsibilities of landlords and freelancers and how small businesses can navigate a crisis. Recent topics include preventing and resolving e-commerce consumer disputes and how to spot and avoid scams.

4 The heart of LAW@CDC's success lies in the close collaboration between the CDCs, Pro Bono SG and our growing number of partners. Over the years, we have expanded our network of partners to include Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) such as the National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law, Singapore Management University (SMU) School of Law, and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) School of Law, as well as key organisations like the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA) and the Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW). By combining our different areas of expertise and resources, we were able to enhance the range of support available to residents in need, not just legal but social support - for instance, Comlink. So, we not only provide legal advice but also foster a culture of collaboration and social responsibility. This effectively amplifies the impact of our outreach in the broader community.

5 The Community Legal Clinics @ CDC (CLC@CDC) is one of the key initiatives central to our joint mission. These clinics

provide residents with vital access to legal support and resources, as well as guidance on legal matters.

6 This strong network of partners highlights the power of collaboration between the Public, Private and People sectors. Together, we are advancing legal literacy in the community and empowering our residents with greater knowledge of their legal rights and responsibilities. This collective effort helps them to navigate challenges and seek justice with greater confidence.

LAW & THE ENVIRONMENT

7 This year's theme, Law and the Environment – Building Sustainable Communities for the Future", aligns closely with the CDCs' key aims of building learning communities and fostering sustainability. We want to help and encourage our residents to take ownership of their environment to create a sustainable future. By inspiring action and greater environmental responsibility through the law, we can tackle environmental challenges and promote more sustainable practices.

8 I am very heartened to see students from SMU, SUSS and ITE College West showcasing their sustainability efforts at today's exhibition booths. By highlighting legislation such as the Resource Sustainability Act (2019), their presentation shows how this law proactively deals with e-waste, food waste and packaging waste to promote the responsible use and management of resources.

From combating pollution to conserving biodiversity, sustainability laws provide the framework for promoting green initiatives and fostering environmental responsibility. Understanding these laws not only encourages greater corporate responsibility but also strengthens community support for attaining our Singapore Green Plan 2030 goals. As stewards of our environment, we all have a role to play in knowing, upholding and supporting the laws that drive sustainability and safeguard a better future.

CONCLUSION

9 I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Minister Edwin Tong who has supported LAW Awareness Weeks @ CDC, and all our partners, Pro Bono lawyers and student volunteers for your unwavering dedication and support. Your service and heart for the community have made a profound difference in the lives of many residents. Thank you for walking alongside us in advancing legal literacy and making legal knowledge and resources more accessible to those in need.

10 Together, we can continue strengthening our network of partners to offer more targeted and relevant support to our community. I look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration.

11 Thank you once again, and I wish everyone an enjoyable and meaningful afternoon.

Thank you.

(745 words ~ 5.5 mins)