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Media Release

To: News Editor

South East CDC Brews Cross-Cultural Connections with New TeaSE Your Palette Workshops

Singapore, 27 July 2025 – The South East Community Development Council (South East CDC) has launched **TeaSE Your Palette**, a programme that brings residents together through the universal language of tea. This hands-on, sensory experience creates welcoming spaces for residents of different races and backgrounds to bond over tea rituals, strengthening racial harmony through shared cultural traditions.

2 The inaugural workshop at Wisma Geylang Serai welcomed 80 participants for an afternoon of cultural exchange and conversations. Following this launch, South East CDC will be offering similar workshops across the district.

3 “Building bridges and relationships is at the heart of what we do,” said Mr Mohamed Irshad, Chairman of the Harmony Committee at South East CDC. “TeaSE Your Palette plants the seeds of understanding, sparks curiosity about one another’s cultures, and creates a community where everyone feels they belong. This series of workshops is part of our broader efforts to strengthen neighbourhood cohesion through meaningful everyday interactions.”

- 4 Workshop participants engaged in several enriching activities:
- ‘The Journey of a Tea Leaf’ – A captivating video screening that traced tea’s journey across continents and its evolution within different cultures, followed by discussions on tea’s influence in shaping societies.
 - Hands-on Multi-Cultural Tea Experience – Participants learned traditional brewing methods including the Chinese Gongfu tea ceremony, the art of making Malay Teh Tarik and Teh Halia, and the preparation of Indian Masala Chai, accompanied by traditional Indian tea pastries, khari and mathri.
 - Reflections on Harmony – A thoughtful dialogue exploring how tea brings communities together, complemented by discussions on sustainable tea practices.

5 By centring this experience around tea, participants actively engaged with different cultural practices, deepening their appreciation for Singapore’s diverse heritage.

6 “As a leader of the Marine Parade Cluster Harmony Circle, I’ve seen how simple activities like sharing tea can break down barriers. When people sit together and learn about each other’s tea traditions, the conversations naturally flow into sharing about family customs, festivals, and life experiences,” said Mr Fazlur Rahman Kamsani, Coordinator for Marine Parade Cluster Harmony Circle & Member of the Coordinating Council.

7 “As a faith community, we’ve always believed in building bridges with the community. This tea workshop creates such a natural setting for meaningful connections. When we understand the significance behind each other’s practices – whether it’s the reverence in a Chinese tea ceremony or the warmth of sharing teh tarik – we grow closer as neighbours,” shared Reverend Ang Eng Hoe, Senior Pastor of Chen Li Presbyterian Church.

8 The programme, implemented through community partners, aims to engage about 500 participants of all ages across the district. To learn more about upcoming workshops, please email southeast_cdc@pa.gov.sg.

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About South East Community Development Council

The South East Community Development Council, established on 24 November 2001, oversees the Marine Parade-Braddell Heights Group Representative Constituency (GRC), East Coast GRC and Mountbatten Single Member Constituency (SMC), serving a population of more than half a million residents. At the helm of the South East CDC, Mayor Dinesh Vasu Dash leads the team in fulfilling the CDC's mission – an Aggregator of Needs and Resources, Builder of Capability and Capacity in Partners and Networks and Connector of Communities.

Fostering a caring, cohesive, and future-ready community, South East CDC drives initiatives that encourage active citizenry, and lifelong learning. Its programmes also champion community-led mental wellness and empowering youth to thrive in a quickly evolving society. These programmes are managed in collaboration with both community and corporate partners to nurture a vibrant and self-reliant community.

More information on South East CDC can be found at southeast.cdc.gov.sg, its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/secdc or its Instagram at www.instagram.com/southeastcdc.

To keep up with Mayor Dinesh and receive updates on his work in the South East District, follow him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dineshvdash or his Instagram at www.instagram.com/dineshvasudash.