

ISSUE #13 (15 November 2017)



Welcome to the Office of Student Community Engagement's fortnightly update.

Across most developed nations, landfill still remains the primary means of waste disposal. Many countries are attempting to minimise the amount of waste going to incinerators and landfill sites by developing recycling programs.

According to official figures in 2015 by the [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) (OECD), Germany (65%) topped the charts as the most efficient country in recycling and composting. Coming in a close second is South Korea (59%). The least efficient are Turkey (1%) and New Zealand (0%).

The Germans take their [recycling agenda](#) very seriously. There are at least five types of rubbish bins in the courtyards of apartment buildings and inside people's houses. The bins are colour-coded for different materials and to avoid any confusion. For "special rubbish" such as batteries or chemicals, the Germans are obliged to bring it to a recycling centre. If they fail to do this, it could be considered an "administrative offence".

So where do Singapore line up on these charts? A growing population and rising affluence led to a rebound in the total amount of waste generated by the Republic, even as the recycling rate saw an uptick. According to the [National Environment Agency](#) (NEA), Singapore disposed 8,560 tonnes of rubbish a day (equivalent to the weight of 1,427 adult elephants) in 2016! Together with other types of waste such as metals and construction debris, we are sending about 200,000 tonnes of solid waste and all incineration ash yearly to the Semakau Landfill. If this rate continues and nothing is done to weaken its progress, the landfill will [run out of space by around 2035](#).

"Going for a Zero Waste Singapore is critical, and it requires both innovation and the culture of trying to minimise waste, and where there is waste, trying to recycle it and re-purpose it. We can do it." - Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, speaking at Clean & Green Singapore Carnival and Launch Ceremony 2017 on 4 November.

Be informed. Be inspired. Be the change.



Articles and Updates

Take ownership to make Singapore cleaner

Singaporeans rely too much on other people to clean up after them, and this has to change if the country wants to become a cleaner, less wasteful society. Read [more...](#)

The plastics problem

Advances in bioplastics mean they have more uses in packaging – but do they encourage a disposable culture? Read [more...](#)

Coffee shops not doing enough to combat increase in waste cups

Just 1% of the 2.5 billion disposable cups thrown away each year in the United Kingdom are recycled. Read [more...](#)

Cargo containers gain steam as building blocks of new homes

The enormous steel boxes are now gaining mainstream popularity as building blocks for affordable homes in a variety of sizes and types. Read [more...](#)



LOVE FOR A DOLLAR 2017: VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Calling all **creative and fun-loving individuals!**

Co-organised by NTU students, Love For A Dollar (LoveFAD) is an annual youth-led volunteer project providing Christmas gift-wrapping services islandwide, to raise funds for their adopted social service organisations.

This year, LoveFAD is back and will be raising funds for [Home Nursing Foundation](#) and [Singapore Red Cross](#).

Get ready to experience a unique Christmas event like you never did before!

- **When:** 15 - 24 December 2017, 11.00 am - 9.30 pm (Timings are split into 3 shifts. No minimal commitment required.)
- **Where:** Jem Shopping Mall, Westgate Shopping Mall, Waterway Point, Bedok Mall, Tampines Mall

***All new volunteers would need to attend one training workshop, either on 2, 9 or 10 December.**

Click [here](#) to register and find out more. Registration closes on 29 November 2017.



DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS: MISSING MAPS MAPATHON 2017

[Médecins Sans Frontières \(MSF\)](#) (also known as Doctors Without Borders) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare.

Get involved and be connected to one of the biggest projects in the world. Learn how to digitally map areas where humanitarian organisations are trying to meet the needs of vulnerable people. Meet with the humanitarian field workers and learn from their frontline experience.

No experience is required. Participants will need to bring their own laptop and mouse. Limited slots available.

- **When:** 2 December 2017, 9.00 am - 12.30 pm (morning session) **or** 2.30 pm - 6.00 pm (afternoon session)
- **Where:** Clinical Sciences Building, Level 5, Learning Studio (11 Mandalay Road, Singapore 308232)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is required)

To register for the morning session, click [here](#).

To register for the afternoon session, click [here](#).

For enquiries, please email directly to events.sg@singapore.msf.org.



Embarking on your own volunteer activity or social advocacy project?
The CoLab4Good Fund seeks to support meaningful ground-up initiatives.
Find out more [here](#).



HULT PRIZE 2018

The inaugural [Hult Prize](#) at NTU will be held on 13 December 2017.

Dubbed the world's largest student competition for the creation of new social businesses, the annual Hult Prize awards start-up funding for radical and breakthrough ideas that solve the world's toughest social challenges.

The 2018 Hult Prize will focus on **HARNESSING THE POWER OF ENERGY**.

The Challenge: Can you build a scalable, sustainable social enterprise that harness the power of energy to transform the lives of 10 million people by 2025?

The winner of the NTU finals will automatically advance to compete in one of 15 regional finals happening around the world in March 2018. One winning team from each host city will then move onto a summer business incubator for 8 weeks, where participants will receive mentorship, advisory and strategic planning as they create prototypes and set-up to launch their new social business. A final round of competition will be hosted in September 2018, where the winning team will be awarded the US\$1 million prize.

Interested teams should register and submit their two-page business plan by **19 November 2017, 9.00 pm** via email.

To sign up and learn more about the case: <http://hultprizeat.com/nanyangtech>

To get updates and Q&A, follow: <https://www.facebook.com/hultprizeNTU>



YOUNG SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS (YSE) PROGRAMME 2018

The YSE programme seeks to inspire, equip and enable youth of different nationalities to embark on social enterprises (SEs) in Singapore and beyond. Participants will learn from and interact with leading social entrepreneurs, business professionals and other youth who are keen on social innovation, while expanding their networks for potential collaborations for good.

Admitted YSEs will attend a four-day YSE Workshop held in Singapore, and pitch for a chance to be shortlisted into the YSE programme which includes a mentorship scheme; overseas study visit and an opportunity to pitch for funding.

Click [here](#) to read more and apply by 10 December 2017.



Upcoming Events



DREAMSEEDS ARTS FEST 2017

Organised by [Club Rainbow \(Singapore\)](#) and into its second year, Dreamseeds Arts Fest aims to create an inclusive arts platform that offers beneficiaries the opportunity to realise their creative potential and connect with a greater audience through the practice of art. This year, the theme for the festival is "Finding Futurenova".

By providing the resources and network, Club Rainbow (Singapore) has enabled beneficiaries to seek and pursue their artistic passion: a mode of communication and self-advocacy, through collaborations with local creative practitioners and musicians.

Dreamseeds Arts Fest features five exciting highlight events – an Arts Exhibition, Arts Market, Film Screening, Performing Arts Concert and Workshops.

- **When:** 18 - 25 November 2017, various timings
- **Where:** *SCAPE (2 Orchard Link, Singapore 237978)
- **Cost:** Free

Click [here](#) to read more.



WALK FOR RICE (TEAM EDITION)

Calling all sport lovers! Want to exercise and do good at the same time?

Form a team of 10 to walk 5 km and fundraise 500 bowls of rice to help underprivileged families to live and eat healthily. The walking route will be at the [Punggol Waterway Park](#).

The event's target is to clock 50,000 km of walking, and earn 50,000 bowls of rice to benefit 7,000 underprivileged families in [South East District](#).

- **When:** 3 December 2017, 5.30 pm (flag off)
- **Where:** SAFRA Punggol (9 Sentul Crescent, Singapore 828654)
- **Cost:** Free (prior team registration is necessary)

Click [here](#) to find out more and register.



Others



GLOBAL LEADER EXPERIENCE SINGAPORE 2017

What will you do if the world's problems were in your hands?

Organised by [Common Purpose](#), the Global Leader Experience (GLE) Singapore will bring together 50 students from Universities in Singapore, for a blended learning programme that will help them to develop their cultural intelligence: the ability to cross boundaries and thrive in multiple cultures, their leadership skills and to tackle a real global challenge.

This year's programme challenge is: "HOW DO SMART CITIES ENSURE THEY ARE INCLUSIVE?"

- **When:** 11 - 14 December 2017, 8.30 am - 5.30 pm
- **Where:** Singapore
- **Cost:** Free (participation by selection)

To apply for the programme, click [here](#). Application closes on 19 November 2017.

To read more about Common Purpose Student Experiences: <http://commonpurpose.org/leadership/programmes/students/>

To read more about Global Leader Experience: <http://commonpurpose.org/leadership/programmes/students/global-leader-experiences/>

Student Community Engagement aims to empower students to make a difference through positive social actions. We provide students access to opportunities such as grants for their ground-up initiatives and social entrepreneurship efforts, internships at non-profit organisations, and training programmes to develop community leadership skills.

We believe that young people have a critical role to play in building a better world for themselves and the community.

Established in 2015, we are part of the Student Academic Services Department at NTU. More information at <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/sasd/communityengagement>.

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