

SCE Update Goes Online!

Newsletter Issue #74

29 May 2020



KEEP IT CLEAN, KEEP IT GREEN!

The current COVID-19 global pandemic has put many countries in 'lockdown' mode and enforced strict travel restrictions. In Singapore, the majority of the workforce are working from home, and school-going children are learning online.

Even as countries are starting to gradually ease up restrictions, it is still important that we do not let our guard down, and continue to practice safe distancing and uphold good hygiene practices. Mother Earth also had a "clean-up" during this period. Due to the reduced human activity, nature is beginning to recover - for example, [rivers are less polluted in Penang](#) and [wildflowers are blooming in Singapore](#).

The annual [World Environment Day](#) is commemorated on 5 June, and the theme this year is "Biodiversity" - it is a call to action to combat the accelerating species loss and degradation of the natural world. One million plant and animal species risk extinction and this is largely due to human activities!

Each of us has a role to play in ending biodiversity loss and preserving nature for human well-being. As individuals, we must rethink what we buy and use and become conscious consumers. As the global population approaches 10 billion, we need to better understand the web of life in which we live and appreciate that it functions as a whole system. Together, we can act #ForNature.

Be informed. Be inspired. Be the change.

ARTICLES & UPDATES



Feeding cities of the future

Singapore's journey in urban farming could become a good model for other cities. The COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting food supply chains across the world, but in Singapore, the Government diversifies its food sources and has started to build local agricultural capabilities. Urban farming can contribute to better air quality and personal well-being, and help fight against climate change. Read [more...](#)



Food waste combine to find new life as food packaging

Prawn shells, orange peels and apple cores get tossed into the bin every day without a second thought. Food scientists in NTU have found a way to turn them into chitin, which can be further processed to form a thin packaging film that can be used to pack food. This could potentially replace plastic containers used for food takeaways, and would help Singapore reduce its single-use plastic waste. Read [more...](#)



Cities see bluer skies during movement restrictions

Lockdowns and movement restrictions have led to blue skies in some parts of Southeast Asia, giving residents a respite from air pollution. Nitrogen Oxide (NO₂), a good proxy for local air pollution, fell by about 30% in Singapore, except over western Singapore around Jurong Island where high levels of NO₂ persisted. In Jakarta and Hanoi, NO₂ emissions also fell. Read [more...](#)



Cities step up bid for green pandemic recovery

Mayors from Seoul to Seattle are stepping up plans to make their cities greener and healthier as part of a global strategy to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and fight climate change at the same time. The newly formed Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force, made up of mayors and senior officials from 11 major cities worldwide held talks to coordinate how they can promote an economic recovery that improves public health, reduces inequality and addresses the climate crisis. Read [more...](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



MAD WISH

Launched by local social enterprise ItsRainingRaincoats, volunteers will be paired with a migrant worker and are encouraged to structure weekly virtual chats to help meet workers' individual learning goals. Click [here](#) to read more and apply.

COMPETITIONS & GRANTS



1 June - 16 August 2020

CoLab4Good Fund for Social Enterprises

Do you have a viable business idea which has a social purpose, is sustainable and scalable and creates social value? Successful applicants will receive seed-funding up to \$10,000 each. Click [here](#) to read more and apply.



CoLab4Good Fund for Community Projects

The Fund seeks to support meaningful ground-up initiatives and is an opportunity for NTU students to take action and create change. Feel inspired to start a community project or initiative to help those in need, especially during this period? Click [here](#) to read more and apply.



Oscar @ SG Fund

Anchored by a \$10 million donation from Temasek, the Fund supports ground-up initiatives responding to significant and/or urgent community needs in Singapore arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Click [here](#) to read more and apply.

UPCOMING EVENTS



4 June 2020 Webinar: The Future Of Food

Singapore imports about 90% of its food. With COVID-19, the urgency of Singapore's food security and the importance of ramping up our local food production are suddenly in the spotlight. Join in this online event to hear from invited speakers on what are some of the ways Singapore could boost its homegrown food production to improve its food. [Find out more.](#)



12 - 14 June 2020 The Virtual Conscious Festival

A two-day immersive virtual event that will help guide you on a journey towards embracing a more sustainable lifestyle through workshops, talks and brand booths. [Find out more.](#)



19 June 2020 Growing Microgreens at Home

Organised by social enterprise Edible Garden City, participate in this popular online workshop where you can grow your own microgreens in your home! These greens can be harvested in 2-3 weeks after growing. [Find out more.](#)

OTHERS



The Good People Show

Hosted by NTU Alumni and social entrepreneur Richardo Chua, this is a Facebook Live talkshow series that features different social entrepreneurs on how they are coping and rising above in the midst of this COVID-19 situation. In this talkshow, you can also contribute to help the good causes in Singapore. [Find out more.](#)



COVID-19 Mutual Aid Hub (Singapore)

This hub serves to help connect those who need resources with those who can offer them, by listening initiatives to redistribute items, services, money and opportunities across CareHut Student Care Centres Singapore. Click [here](#) to see how you can do your part.



The centre serves children from low income and/or single parent families. Funds are required to continue running operations for children whose parents work in essential services. Click [here](#) to read more and donate.

CONNECT WITH US:



Student Community Engagement aims to empower students to make a difference through positive social actions. We believe that young people have a critical role to play in building a better world for themselves and the community. 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.

This is a fortnightly newsletter. You can read our past issues [here](#)