

20 March 2010

Media Release

YOUNG NTUC STEPS UP EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE GREEN MESSAGE THROUGH RUN 350

1,000 Young NTUC members and friends will take part in the first-ever mass run on Pulau Ubin to raise funds for "Plant-a-Tree" programme

1. Young NTUC, the official youth wing of the Labour Movement, looks at engaging youths through meaningful and purposeful programmes. This is achieved through a framework allowing youths to better themselves, their families, the community and the world.
2. Run 350 is a programme aimed at allowing Young NTUC members to do something for Singapore and the world. Environmental consciousness has always been an important engagement platform for youths and Young NTUC has thus far conducted dialogues and eco-movie screenings. Run 350 is the first programme of this scale organized for Young NTUC members.
3. Run 350 is organized in support of the Global 350 Movement¹. The movement aims to raise awareness of the upper safety limit for carbon dioxide (CO₂) to be at 350 ppm (parts per million), the level scientists have identified as critical to allow humanity to continue sustainably. The current CO₂ level stands at 387.5 ppm and has remained above the safety limit since early 1988.
4. Guest-of-Honour, NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say will flag off the inaugural run symbolically at 3.50 pm on 20 March 2010 at Pulau Ubin. He will be accompanied by Assistant Secretary-General and Advisor of Young NTUC Mrs Josephine Teo, Mr Wilson Ang of Environmental Challenge Organisation (Singapore) or ECO Singapore, as well as Professor Leo Tan, Chairman of Garden City Fund.
5. Some 1,000 Young NTUC members and friends will take to Pulau Ubin to complete either the 5 km or 10 km runs to help raise funds for the Garden City Fund's Plant-A-Tree (PAT) programme.

¹ Please refer to <http://www.350.org/understanding-350> for more details on the Global 350 Movement.



6. Launched on 3 November 2007, the PAT programme was conceptualised by the Garden City Fund in partnership with the Singapore Environment Council to provide an avenue for individuals and organisations to do their part for nature through planting of trees at designated areas including parks and nature reserves. Trees are planted in designated parks and nature reserves around Singapore, including Pulau Ubin. For this reason, Run 350 is held on Pulau Ubin so that our participants know where their trees will be planted at.
7. Young NTUC has engaged ECO Singapore to help conduct a carbon audit of the event. The audit results will guide the organizers for subsequent follow-up programmes.
8. "As the Official Green Partner of Run 350, ECO Singapore has been providing advice and support on the best means to minimise the environmental impact of the run and to ensure that the important message it supports is spread effectively. ECO has liaised with Young NTUC to ensure their members are aware of the steps Run 350 is taking to make the run more sustainable, and what the public can do in turn to compliment these efforts. We hope that future events will learn from the example set by Run 350," said President and Founder of ECO Singapore, Mr. Wilson Ang.
9. **"Young NTUC is proud to be able to organize this run in support of the global 350 movement. The world as we know it should be passed on to our future generations. We hope that with Run 350, more people are now aware of the need to minimize our carbon footprints and that no effort is too small," said Advisor, Young NTUC Mrs. Josephine Teo.**
10. All proceeds from RUN350 will be channeled towards the PAT Programme at Pulau Ubin. Young NTUC targets to raise enough funds to plant 350 trees during its 5th Anniversary celebration on 30 April 2010 to commemorate this inaugural run.
11. "In the face of increasing global concern over climate change, destruction of forests and species extinction, we can make a difference by minimising the negative impact of rising CO₂ levels on the earth. Planting trees is an excellent way to reduce such an impact. It provides an opportunity for anyone, as an individual or an organisation, to take action to improve the environment that our future generations will live and play in," said Professor Leo Tan, Chairman of the Garden City Fund.



12. Young NTUC hopes that participants will appreciate the rustic and natural beauty of the island as they complete their run, and understand what they are running for and helping to preserve. More details may be found on the event's official website: www.run350.com.

Mrs Josephine Teo
Assistant Secretary-General, NTUC
Advisor of Young NTUC

About National Trades Union Congress

The National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) is a national confederation of trade unions in the industrial, service and public sectors representing more than 500,000 workers in Singapore. NTUC comprises 60 affiliated unions, six affiliated taxi associations, 12 social enterprises and four related organisations. NTUC's objectives are to help Singapore stay competitive and workers remain employable for life; to enhance the social status and well-being of workers; and to build a strong, responsible and caring labour movement. NTUC's vision is to be an inclusive labour movement for all collars, all ages and all nationalities. For more details on NTUC, please visit our website at www.ntuc.org.sg.

About Young NTUC

Young NTUC was launched on 30 April 2005. Formerly known as the NTUC Youth Committee, Young NTUC is the official youth wing of the National Trades Union Congress. With 120,000 members below 35 years old, Young NTUC is the largest youth movement in Singapore.

Working with the youth chapters of the 60 NTUC-affiliated unions, Young NTUC aims to reach out to the young workforce of Singapore, representing them as a voice and thus helping to advance the cause of the labour movement. For more information on Young NTUC, please visit our website at <http://www.youngntuc.org.sg>.

About ECO Singapore

Environmental Challenge Organisation (Singapore), or ECO Singapore, is a not-for-profit social enterprise. ECO Singapore aims to establish a voluntary environmental movement, thereby creating opportunities for active involvement by Singaporean youths, instilling a sense of commitment and awareness of environmental issues and global hazards. By providing youths a holistic approach towards environmental issues, ECO Singapore's mission is to encourage youths to take initiative and choose to live environmentally sustainable lifestyles.



About Garden City Fund and Plant-A-Tree

The Garden City Fund is a registered charity and IPC that was established in 2002. It is supported by but independent of National Parks Board. The Fund works with corporations, organisations and individuals to engage members of the public to be involved in our Garden City through conservation efforts, research, outreach and education. In doing so, it hopes to cultivate a love for the environment, promote a sense of ownership, and encourage the community to play its part in preserving Singapore's legacy as a lush and vibrant garden city.

The Plant-A-Tree programme was conceptualised by the Garden City Fund, in partnership with the Singapore Environment Council, to provide an avenue for individuals and organisations to do their part for nature through planting of trees at designated parks and nature reserves. More information on the Garden City Fund can be found at www.gardencityfund.org.

For media queries, please contact:

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Chinese Names and Terms 中文名称与词汇

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|---------------------------------------|------------|
| National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) | 全国职工总会（职总） |
| Young NTUC | 职总青年团 |
| Run350 | 350 环跑 |
| ECO Singapore | |
| Garden City Fund | 花园城市基金 |
| Plant-A-Tree Programme | 个人植树计划 |
| Josephine Teo | 杨莉明 |
| Assistant Secretary-General | 助理秘书长 |
| Advisor of Young NTUC | 职总青年团顾问 |
| Prof Leo Tan | 陈伟兴博士 |
| Chairman | 主席 |
| Garden City Fund | 花园城市基金 |



Annex

RUN350 – 10km (Flag off: 3.50pm)



RUN350 – 5km (Flag off: 4.50pm)





MEDIA FACTSHEET ON PLANT-A-TREE PROGRAMME

The Plant-A-Tree (PAT) programme was conceptualised by the Garden City Fund in partnership with the Singapore Environment Council to provide an avenue for individuals and organisations to do their part for nature through planting of trees at designated areas including parks and nature reserves.

The PAT programme was launched on 3 November 2007.

When will it be? Which type of trees and where will they be planted?

Tree planting will generally take place on the last Sunday of each month or on special days like World Environment Day or Earth Day. The schedule may vary but they will be announced on the NParks website. The trees will be tropical trees that belong to our part of the world and will be planted in designated areas including parks and nature reserves around Singapore.

How to Get Started

- ✓ The public can log on to the Garden City Fund website (www.gardencityfund.org) to check on the tree planting schedule.

Alternatively, NParks officers can also plant the tree(s) on their behalf if their schedule does not allow them to do so.

For more information about the Plant-A-Tree programme, please call the Garden City Fund at 1800-4717300, SEC at 63376062 or visit <http://www.gardencityfund.org>.