

Eco Action Day 2016 Event Report

In 2016, Eco Action Day marks its 10th anniversary. The campaign theme “Green the Red Dot, Join the Movement” continues to rally organisations, schools and individuals to make pledges that are positive to the environment on 5th June. The campaign is held in conjunction with United Nations Environment Programme’s the World Environment Day (WED) to raise global awareness of the importance of keeping the environment at the healthy level.

Organized by Ricoh Asia Pacific, a Japanese electronic multinational, the campaign continues to receive supports from various government and private sectors which includes the *National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS)*, *National Environment Agency (NEA)*, *Building and Construction Authority (BCA)*, *Energy Market Authority (EMA)*, *Singapore Environment Council (SEC)*, *Global Compact Network Singapore*, *Keppel Land*, *Keppel Reit*, *Panasonic*, *ComfortDelGro* and *Eco-Business*.

A series of intensive public engagement began since the month of April. This includes bus advertisements running along the central business districts, town and heartland areas, putting up posters and banners at commercial buildings and offices, campaign sharing during NEA’s Eco Connect seminar and Responsible Business Summit Asia 2016, online advertisements and featuring stories, social media and door-to-door office tenant outreach to share about the Eco Action Day at various office buildings: Bugis Junction Tower, Keppel Tower, Keppel Bay Tower, Ocean Financial Centre and among others.

A total of 176 companies, 36 schools and 417 individuals pledged to take positive actions to reduce their resource consumption and environmental impact. This is accounted to a collective effort of 95,844 kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions saved in this one day initiative.

As part of the campaign, Eco Action Day Panel Discussion & Awards Ceremony 2016 was convened at Ricoh Printing Innovation Centre, on 3rd June. In partnership with Eco-Business, themed “From Agreement to Action: Singapore’s Climate Pledge” gathered more than 120 senior business leaders, government officials and civic society leaders in Singapore to take stock of the country’s efforts on climate change and chart the way forward, following the successful agreement of the Paris Agreement at COP21. It was an utmost honoured to have the presence of Mr. Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment & Water Resources to grace the event as the Guest of Honour.



Prior to the Panel Discussion, the event began with the opening remarks by Mr. Sergio Kato, Vice President of the Sustainability Management Division at Ricoh Group, who shared about Ricoh's Global Eco Action since 2006 and his thoughts on environmental sustainability. This was done via live feed through the use of Ricoh's Interactive White Board and Unified Communication System to connect to Ricoh's headoffice at Tokyo, Japan. The 10th Anniversary video was the next highlights of the event which featured the environmental journey of Eco Action Day since 2007. To play the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enNC6Lglwpc>

The panel discussion commenced with the opening by the moderator, Ms. Jessica Cheam, Editor at Eco Business. Together with Minister Masagos, distinguished speakers who shared their views includes Mr Sandeep Chamling Rai, Senior Advisor, Global Adaptation Policy at WWF International, Professor Ann Florini, Professor of Public Policy at Singapore Management University, Mr David Kiu, Vice President, Communications and Sustainability at Unilever and Mr J.D. Kasamoto, General Manager, Service & Environment Division at Ricoh Asia Pacific.

Minister Masagos highlighted the role of the government is to balance Singapore's international role and domestic objectives in ensuring environmental sustainability, economic competitiveness and energy security. From the business perspective, despite facing challenges to achieve both business and environmental targets, there are also business opportunities in continuous growth through partnership with government and other business. The discussion ended off by reiterating that everyone has a responsibility to sustain the environment and we need to be conscious and have the conscience.



Starts from left: **David Kiu**, Vice President, Communications & Sustainability at Unilever; **J.D. Kasamoto**, General Manager, Service & Environment Division at Ricoh Asia Pacific; **Jessica Cheam**, Editor at Eco-Business; **Masagos Zulkifli**, Minister for the Environment & Water Resources; **Ann Florini**, Professor of Public Policy at Singapore Management University; **Sandeep Chamling Rai**, Senior Advisor, Global Adaptation Policy at WWF International.

Eco Action Day Awards Ceremony took the center stage after the fruitful and interactive discussion. The award recognized organisations (corporate, schools,

institutions, associations) for their commendable efforts towards making a difference for the environment. The award winners are:

Most Creative Eco Award – CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace

Most Inspiring Eco Award – Nan Hua High School

Most Fun Eco Award – West Spring Primary School

Most Fun Eco Award (Merit) – Queenstown Primary School

Most Effort Eco Award – Systems on Silicon Manufacturing Company Pte Ltd

Most Effort Eco Award (Merit) – Panalpina World Transport (S) Pte Ltd

Best Eco Practices Award – Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace, walked away with the Most Creative Eco Award. The school inspired the students to be innovative and creative by using recycled material such as cardboard and biconvex lenses (which can be reused) to make into Google Cardboard VR. The school also made use of recycled materials, cardboard boxes and trash/recyclable bags to create arcade games for the whole school and community to enjoy and to make into beautiful clothes and parade in class respectively.



The winner for the Most Inspiring Eco Award goes to **Nan Hua High School** who led its school in a 1 year environmental activities given titled: “Sustainable Environment Education (SEED)”. The school focused in the area of Curriculum, Leadership, Community and Environment from February 2015 to April 2016 by organizing activities such as environmental learning journey for the students, environmental awareness outreach to the Xin Yuan Community Care Centre to plant vegetables, DIY vermicomposting bin and harvest the earthworms’ waste as fertilizers and among others.

For the Most Fun Eco Award, we are happy to recognise two schools for their fun student engagement environmental activities. The highlights of the winner, **West Spring Primary School**, is its original Environmental Story Script Composing and Play which brought together the involvement and creativity of both the parents and

students and the Eco Lantern and Community Garden Edibles Competition which receive tremendous support from the parents and the community.

The Merit Winner, **Queenstown Primary School**, stands out through its Earth songs composing and cheer video competition.



Left Picture: Environmental Story Script & Play bring about by the West Spring Primary School's parents and students. **Right Picture:** Earth Song Composing & Performing by the Queenstown Primary School

The Most Effort Eco Award for this year recognised two organisations for going beyond their job responsibilities and working hours, contributing to the environment and showing passion in doing what they believe in in making a difference for the environment, what their companies strive to achieve in long term in terms of their environmental goals and mission and driving sustainability that go beyond their workplace.

Systems on Silicon Manufacturing Company Pte Ltd (SSMC), who was also the 2015 Best Eco Practices award winner, continues to keep up its work by earning the Most Effort Eco Award this year. Aside from sustaining its environmental practices, SSMC adopted a school for garden making and expanding in the Pasir Ris community. They call it the "SSMC Wafer Gardens". This initiative is also recognized by the National Parks for the Best Community in Bloom Show Garden and Best Innovation Garden Design in 2015.



Panalpina World Transport (S) Pte Ltd, on the other hand, focused on recycling drives, partnering with Recycler Company to collect e-waste for resource recovery. Their Project Homecoming Programme which outreach to the national libraries and

mosque continues to bring in more ink and toner waste, wood, plastics, metal and papers for recycling. Their effort has bring them the Merit Winner in this category.



The Best Eco Practices Award marked the last and yet the most significant award of the year and the Winner goes to **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU)**. The school set an Eco Campus Initiative to reduce consumption of resources (energy, water and waste) by 35% by 2020. Some of the environmental initiatives includes the paperless admission applications, recycling bins allocations, Managed Printing Document services, eco-friendly printing modes, air-conditioning reduction, chiller plant systems motion sensor and solar photovoltaic installation in campus, green roof etc. While the Earth Link NTU is the biggest student organization dealt with all the NTU's environmental issues, the school also actively engage the communities and schools and partnership with corporate and government on eco events. To add on, NTU's environmental achievements also includes the Building and Construction Authority's Green Mark Gold Awards, Singapore Environment Council's Environmental Achievement Awards and Eco Office Label and Public Utility Board's Water Efficient Building Award.



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