

SEC holds inaugural induction programme for its Earth Helpers



Singapore, 18 December 2011 – The Singapore Environment Council (SEC) met its volunteers yesterday under its Earth Helpers initiative to thank them for their contributions. The Earth Helpers Initiative was launched in April 2011 to bring together businesses interested in green projects with volunteers who have specialised skills or experience in such green endeavours.

The Earth Helpers were warmly welcomed by SEC staff members at the Swordfish Room of the Bukit Merah Library and they were given a short briefing on the various volunteering opportunities available at each of SEC's key events scheduled for 2012.

Michele Tang, a Geography teacher, said, "I came for this briefing because I wanted to know how an environmental NGO is run. I am interested to find out SEC's goals and the direction it is headed so I can see how I could volunteer my time."

The ice-breaking session encouraged lively interaction and active participation among the volunteers and this was followed by demonstrations on eco-enzyme and terrarium-making by SEC staff members.

"I like the demonstrations on the eco-enzyme and terrarium making because these are ideas I can implement at home. I came because I wanted to get ideas like that, and hopefully, I will have some to share at future sessions like this," commented Ranjith Kumar, an IT professional.



The highlight of the afternoon was a talk by Ms Olivia Choong, the founder of Green Drinks Singapore, on "Why Volunteer for the Environment?"



A Quantity Surveyor turned stay-home mum, Shobhana said, "The Induction program was really good. I would be happy to hear from Green experts or supporters from various industries at other SEC sessions."

The Earth Helpers induction programme ended with volunteers sharing their own experiences in their green journey. Everybody walked away from this meeting feeling a warm sense of satisfaction having heard from others who are like-minded.

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The Earth Helpers Initiative

With increasing environmental awareness among corporations and individuals, SEC has received more requests for volunteering opportunities. Each organisation or individual would have specific interests and requirements when selecting environmental volunteering opportunities.

With this in mind, a new volunteer matching scheme known as Earth Helpers has been launched by the SEC. SEC will form partnerships with various entities to provide a list of volunteering activities that will cater to different needs.

Both corporations and individuals will be able to choose from a selection of projects with different community and industry groups. Short stints will be available for those who have limited time to commit to a project.

The Earth Helpers programme will also include a component for recognising and rewarding outstanding contributions by volunteers or volunteer groups.

Please contact Grace Ang at 63376062 for more information or head over to <http://www.sec.org.sg/earthhelper/signup.php> to sign up as an Earth Helper now.

Upcoming key events by SEC include but are not limited to the Eco-Office 10th Anniversary Road Show cum Presentation Ceremony in February, Singapore Green Labelling Scheme 20th Anniversary in March, Earth Helpers' Awards Ceremony in April, and the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards in August. For more information on SEC volunteering programmes, please visit www.sec.org.sg/earthhelper/