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Singapore's Green Label Gets a Global Boost

Singapore's Green Label, which turns 20 in 2012, is certified by Global Ecolabelling Network's Internationally Coordinated Ecolabelling System

Singapore, 27 October 2011 – Singapore's most recognised eco-label, the Green Label, which is administered by the Singapore Environment Council, today received a global boost when it was officially accredited by the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN), an international non-profit association of third-party, environmental performance recognition, certification and labelling organisations.

2 The certificate of accreditation was awarded to SEC at the 2011 GEN Annual General Meeting and International Conference of the Global Ecolabelling Network in Yilan, Taiwan, this afternoon.

3 This independent accreditation from a global authority on eco-labelling sets the Green Label apart as Singapore's one and only Type 1 Eco-labelling scheme.

4 "Type 1" is an important distinction that identifies Singapore's Green Label Scheme (SGLS) as an eco-certification scheme that considers multiple criteria, examines the overall life cycle of a product and which incorporates principles of life cycle thinking, and which is administered on a voluntary basis. This ensures that all aspects of the product have been analysed to ensure that the product is truly an environmentally preferable alternative to one that does not carry the Green Label Logo.

5 The peer-review process of the Global Ecolabelling Network's Internationally Coordinated Ecolabelling System (GENICES) accreditation process also lauds the appropriate and good practices of the SGLS, as verified by international auditors. The SEC is the only eco-labelling body in Singapore that is a member of the Global Ecolabelling Network.

6 Receiving the accreditation certificate on behalf of the SEC was Executive Director Jose Raymond. He said, "We are very proud that Singapore's Green Label has stood up to such stringent scrutiny from GEN. The SEC works hard to constantly develop new criteria for eligible products, and tighten up requirements for existing categories as well. By expanding our outreach to as many types of consumer products, construction materials, personal electronics and home appliances, as well as constantly improving the credibility and distinctiveness of the Green Label, we hope that the already familiar logo will become an instantly recognisable and trusted symbol of environmentally preferable products."

7 The GENICES certification also sets a solid foundation for the Singapore Green Label Scheme to ramp up its drive to expand its scope, in terms of criteria development and regional outreach.

8 The GENICES certification helps SEC achieve multilateral, mutual trust with other GENICES members. This is a very important step, as it qualifies the SGLS to sign Mutual Recognition Agreements with other GENICES certified countries, such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, the United States and many European countries. This makes it easier for SGLS certified products to get certified in these countries. The achievement of multilateral mutual trust also enables SEC to cut costs for products certified by other GENICES members.

9 “We are happy to be able to offer more value-for-money to SGLS applicants, and hope that more manufacturers will avail themselves to this attractive opportunity for regional outreach by applying for the SGLS certification. For the Singaporean consumers, having as many products labelled under the SGLS will mean allowing them to make more environmentally preferable purchasing decisions across. For example, the very same construction manager who chooses Green Label-certified cements containing recycled content, and paints low in volatile organic compounds at the workplace can pick up a Green Label detergent, dishwashing soap or light bulbs on their way home,” added Mr Raymond.

10 As of 22 October 2011, 1,940 products are certified under the SGLS.

For more information about the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme, please visit www.greenlabel.sg.

****END OF MEDIA RELEASE****

ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-government organisation that nurtures, facilitates and co-ordinates environmental causes in Singapore. SEC's work is founded on three pillars of action – Firstly, partnership with the people, private and public sectors of Singaporean society, to nurture a culture aligned with sustainable development concepts. Secondly, SEC rewards environmental excellence through awards schemes and product endorsement programmes, such as the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme. Thirdly, the SEC collaborates with partners to develop and implement training and learning programmes to build competencies in environmental sustainability within companies, thus keeping our business leaders ahead of the curve. Visit our website at www.sec.org.sg.

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ABOUT THE SINGAPORE GREEN LABELLING SCHEME



Launched in May 1992 and administered by the Singapore Environment Council (SEC), the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme (SGLS) is Singapore's leading environmental standard and certification mark. The SGLS is applicable to most products except food, drinks and pharmaceuticals. Green Label products include items produced locally or internationally that have been evaluated through stringent standards.

Green Label certified products have become a competitive advantage for companies, marketable and readily accepted by consumers or business associates in making their purchasing decisions. As of 22 October 2011, **1,940** products are certified under the SGLS.

SEC is recognised as a member of the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN), an association of third party ecolabelling organisation for the improvement, promotion and development of ecolabelling products. The SGLS has been successfully audited by the GEN as meeting ISO 4024 standards for ecolabelling.

Application for the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme is open to both local and foreign companies.

For more information about the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme, please visit www.greenlabel.sg.

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