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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **SEC & SMa Join Hands to Showcase Companies with Best Green Practises** - **More Companies vie for The Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards**

**Singapore, 3 August 2010** – For the first time in 14 years of recognising companies for their excellent green practises, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is working with the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation (SMa) to co-organise this year's Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards (SEAA).

This collaboration highlights the important role of a sector that contributes to 25 percent of Singapore's GDP – the manufacturing sector. It signals the commitment of SEC and SMa to widen the reach to local manufacturers. It also drives the message that sustainable manufacturing is key to gearing for an imminent shift towards a green global supply chain.

The SEC and SMa today honoured three organisations for their commitment and corporate leadership in striking a balance between sustainable development and environmental conservation throughout their business strategy and practises. Guest-of-Honour, Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, presented the merit and top achievers for the SEAA with their awards at the Shangri-la Hotel.

Honourees at the fourteenth SEAA include:

- **Gammon Construction Limited**, one of the top achievers in the manufacturing sector, is a leading construction company in Southeast Asia. Its recent key project, the ITE College West, clearly demonstrated how a construction company can achieve outstanding results for energy and water efficiency, site environmental management, and indoor air quality. It is the first contractor in Singapore to have its site offices certified with the Eco-Office label. Gammon is also very innovative, introducing an in-house carbon trading scheme that involves employees in reducing their environmental impact.
- **Samwoh**, a leading integrated construction company and green products supplier is the other top achiever in the manufacturing sector. Its initiative in constructing a building using concrete with up to 100% recycled concrete aggregate; and innovative green

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products, like RenewCrete, Roaddeck, Samiphalt and MegaGrip for road and footpath maintenance impressed the judges on how these products greatly reduce waste generation, save on natural materials and minimize traffic disruption.

- **Siloso Beach Resort**, whose commitment to sustainability and ecological preservation helped it clinch the top achiever spot in the services sector. These two aspects have been demonstrated from the construction and design of the resort, to its procuring processes where they ensure 79 percent of their food purchases are from the ASEAN region. This is to reduce the need for long distance transportation that would contribute to higher carbon emissions.
- **Winrigo (S) Pte Ltd**, is a waste management and recycling company in the plastics industry. It receives the top achiever award under the SEC-Senoko Energy Green Innovation Awards for its innovation in the production process for R3plas Bio-composite and Bio-mass technology for eco- cutlery and green buildings.

President and CEO of Senoko Energy, our main corporate sponsor, Mr Brendan Wauters, said, “The potential for environmentally-friendly solutions is considerable. By sponsoring the SEAA and SEC-Senoko Energy Green Innovation Awards, Senoko Energy hopes to encourage companies to pursue innovative solutions which are beneficial for both their business as well as the environment.” Senoko Energy has been the sponsor of the SEC-Senoko Energy Green Innovation Awards since its inauguration in 2005. The awards were initiated to encourage the development or improvement of products that are environmentally-friendly.

Commenting at the SEAA, Mr Howard Shaw, Executive Director of SEC said, “Driving sustainability within industry is a key factor in reforming our economy such that it remains competitive in the global arena. I am happy to report that the SEAA has fielded out increasing numbers of success stories annually, which is indicative of how excellence in environmental management has grown to become an integral part of business.”

Representing the interest of local manufacturers, Mr Gwee Seng Kwong, Secretary-General of SMa said, “More consumers are making eco-conscious decisions today. This is gaining momentum and presenting manufacturers the opportunities to use sustainability as a competitive advantage to grow market share. But more importantly, manufacturers must do their part for the environment, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility much or even more than what they have gained and benefited from the environment for the businesses.”



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He added, “SMa is committed towards assisting manufacturers to develop their green capabilities and foster industry collaboration. We facilitated in a pilot project to develop by-products by Winrigo, using homegrown brand Prima’s bran waste. We are looking to develop such success cases, and start the momentum to bring in more manufacturers in the green movement.”

Gammon, Samwoh and Siloso Beach Resort, demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment towards environmental sustainability through the way they do business. All pioneered projects that pushed the benchmark of environmental excellence in their respective industries, and all three are also first time recipients of the top achiever award.

Deemed as the environmental ‘Oscars’ among the business community in Singapore, the SEAA aims to inspire Singapore-based organisations to commit to the protection of the natural environment. It also encourages them to be open and transparent not only in the reporting of the economic results of their activities, but also in the areas of social and environmental consequences. Other partners supporting the SEAA include the National Environment Agency (NEA) and Association for Small-Medium Enterprises (ASME).

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## Notes to the Editor

### Key Points about the SEAA 2010 Recipients:

#### **1. Gammon (manufacturing sector- construction)**

Gammon a multi-national contractor was awarded for demonstrating strong commitment from its management in driving sustainability efforts with its good industry practices in the areas of economics, environment, social responsibility, and health and safety.

Over the years, their efforts have paid off with environmental sustainability being embedded in its corporate culture with staff involvement in producing initiatives in reducing the organisation’s environmental impact.

One such local initiative- Environmental Corporate Fund (ECF) which works similarly to “carbon credit” that was successfully conceptualised and implemented here is now adopted by other Gammon companies worldwide.

#### **2. Samwoh (manufacturing sector- construction)**

Samwoh is a leading integrated construction company and green products manufacturer such as recycled concrete aggregate (RCA). Samwoh uses concrete waste as a substitute for natural aggregate for road construction and even structural building.

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Notably, it has pioneered many R&D works together with government agencies and tertiary institutions on the recycling of waste materials with many of been accepted and supported. One recent and praiseworthy research project is the Samwoh Eco-Green Building. This is the first building in this region that is constructed using concrete with up to 100% recycled concrete aggregate.

Samwoh's leadership in reducing its environmental impact through innovative means is leading the way in solving our waste problems of land scarce and pushing Singapore towards a 'Zero Waste' country.

### **3. Siloso Beach Resort (services sector- hotel)**

Siloso Beach Resort is a family-owned hotel with more than 60 employees and 200 rooms including 12 villas was built with the environment in mind right from the design to the construction stage.

Upon a visit at this resort, it is evident that preservation for the environment is at the heart of the owners. Only 30 percent of the entire land is built environment with the remaining 70 percent preserved in its natural state. Even its 90m long swimming pool was designed and built around the natural terrain which meant minimal digging was involved in its construction.

It currently uses technology to improve its efficiency and to reduce its waste such as air conditioning that is run on a third generation system that has energy efficient chillers with heat exchangers that is tapped to provide heat for hot water showers. PL and LED lightings are also installed to save energy. And a garbage converter that converts food waste into liquid waste and treated water that can be discharged into the drains. All these efforts have resulted in savings up to 25 percent in energy costs.

### **4. Winrigo (Green innovation product)**

Winrigo is a biodegradable-plastics company that produces 3Rplas- bio-composite that is composed of polypropylene (PP) and rice husks fibre. It is manufactured from recycled plastics waste in reducing the dependence on fossil fuel-based plastics.

In order to address its weak performance properties, rice husks fibre is added and to reinforce its strength. The final product is a re-engineered eco-friendly plastic with superior properties over prime polymer which posses the look and behaviour that of wood.

This innovative product closes the loop in reusing plastics waste and by the changing of formulation to the plastic to make it more durable. More importantly, it also looks at the carbon footprint to significantly reduce the emissions of its manufacturing process.



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## About Singapore Environment Council (SEC)

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. For more information, visit [www.sec.org.sg](http://www.sec.org.sg)

## About Singapore Manufacturers' Federation (SMa)

Established since 1932, SMa's mission is to represent the interest of the Singapore manufacturing community and to drive its competitiveness and sustainable growth through serving industry-specific needs.

SMa is supported by 11 industry groups to serve diverse industry-specific needs, as well as five Centres of Excellence to offer a holistic approach towards improving competitiveness, upgrading skills and capitalizing on new technologies to grow market share. Current membership is more than 2,600 corporations ranging from MNCs to SMEs. SMa carries out a myriad of activities to enhance the competitive edge of our members. For more information, visit [www.smafederation.org.sg](http://www.smafederation.org.sg)

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