

## SEC AWARDED ACCREDITATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

***SEC to participate in the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment***

**Singapore, April 23, 2018:** Singapore Environment Council (SEC) has been awarded accreditation to the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment).

The accreditation means SEC can participate in the work of UN Environment's governing bodies, such as the United Nations Environment Assembly<sup>1</sup> (UNEA) – the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment – as well as the Committee of Permanent Representatives<sup>2</sup>.

As Singapore's first UN-accredited non-government environmental organisation, SEC will use its expertise and scientific knowledge to inform the world of Singapore's needs and opinions on environmental matters, in addition to playing a role in UN Environment's policy decisions.

The accreditation comes after a six-month evaluation by UN Environment, including SEC's ability to promote environmental causes in both Singapore and neighbouring countries.

The Chairman of SEC, Ms Isabella Loh said accreditation to UN Environment is a major milestone for the organisation.

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<sup>1</sup> The UN Environment Assembly has the universal membership of all 193 UN Member States and the full involvement of UN organizations, specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. In bringing together these varied communities, the Assembly provides a ground-breaking platform for leadership on global environmental policy.

<sup>2</sup> The Committee of Permanent Representatives prepares the meetings of the UN Environment Assembly and regularly reviews the implementation of its decisions. The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) is composed of all accredited Permanent Representatives to United Nations Environment Programme.

“We are very honoured by this recognition. The UN Environment’s accreditation is a clear endorsement of SEC’s environmental programmes and is an important milestone for Singapore’s civil society. This accreditation recognises the international impact of SEC’s activities such as the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme which is used in 42 countries.”

“SEC now has a voice at the highest level of international decision-making on environmental policy. This accreditation will assist our efforts to bring government, corporates, NGOs and Singaporeans together to take collective action to reduce carbon emissions and to create a sustainable future for Singapore and the world,” Ms Loh said.

Mr Jorge Laguna-Celis, Director, Governance Affairs Office, UN Environment Programme, said, “The United Nations Environment Programme is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda. Our mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.”

“We are delighted to partner with the Singapore Environment Council, which shares this vision, and look forward to working together to protect the health of the planet,” Mr Laguna-Celis said.

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For more information, please contact:

**Lorraine Chua**  
**Rubicon Consulting**  
Tel: (65) 9819 9151  
lorraine@rubicon.com.sg

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## ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-profit and non-government organisation (NGO). We influence thinking on sustainability issues and coordinate environmental efforts in Singapore.

We are also an approved charity and offer tax exemption to donors. SEC continuously engages all sectors of the community by formulating and executing a range of holistic programmes, such as the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards, Asian Environmental Journalism Awards, School Green Awards, Singapore Green Labelling Scheme, Project: Eco-Office, Project: Eco-Shop and Project: F&B. In addition, we build a pool of committed volunteers under our Earth Helpers programme. Our Training and Education arm provides the people, public and private sectors with the opportunity to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and tools in order to protect and improve our environment for a sustainable future.

Strong partnerships with corporations, government agencies and other NGOs are valued by us. These partnerships are vital for sustaining our programmes, leading to positive action and change. Over the years, SEC has given strength and direction to the environmental movement in Singapore.

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