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## **Tripartite Enhancement of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Butterfly Habitat in Celebration of SG50**

- *APRIL Group supports butterfly habitat initiative as part of NParks' 'City in a Garden' SG50 celebrations*
- *Young environmentalists from regional NGOs join in butterfly shrub planting*

**Singapore, 24 July 2015** – About 100 young environmentalists from Southeast Asia, Singapore students, and representatives from APRIL Group and the National Parks Board (NParks) came together this morning to enhance a butterfly habitat in Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. Mrs Josephine Teo, Member of Parliament for Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC and Senior Minister of State for Finance and Transport, graced the event as Guest-of-Honour.

The tripartite group made up of public, private and people sector participants planted more than 300 trees to create a natural and thriving environment for butterflies to breed. 15 new plant species were added with the objective of attracting five to seven more butterfly species to the biodiversity of the current habitat.

The enhancement effort is part of APRIL Group's five-year sponsorship of S\$100,000 to NParks through its registered charity and IPC, Garden City Fund. The APRIL-NParks partnership includes putting in place educational signage for the enhanced butterfly habitat, as well as the planting of 250 trees at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park later this year.

Besides enhancing the landscape of the park and providing a place for relaxation, the butterfly habitat serves as an outdoor classroom where park users can observe and learn about caterpillars, butterflies and the different types of plants that they thrive on.

Mr Bey Soo Khiang, Chairman of APRIL Group: "This partnership with NParks is particularly meaningful for APRIL as it reflects our focus on conservation and community engagement. As a company headquartered in Singapore, we're happy to jointly mark SG50 through greening and enhancing the biodiversity of the nation in our own small way."

Mr Kong Yit San, Assistant CEO/Parks Management and Lifestyle of NParks: "We are encouraged that APRIL Group has chosen to celebrate Singapore's jubilee through this meaningful project. The butterfly habitat will be an asset, enhancing the biodiversity in the park, while providing an outlet for green-fingered

community members to forge new friendships and as an educational platform for neighbouring schools.”

The young environmentalists from 10 Southeast Asia nations who joined in this morning’s activity are in Singapore for ASEAN Power Shift 2015, the inaugural ASEAN youths’ climate change conference. Powered by Young NTUC, the three-day conference is spearheaded by Team Young NTUC 350 Singapore (one of its affinity groups). The conference brings together youths from the region to formulate an ASEAN youth position for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, learn about climate change and provide opportunities for ground-up climate initiatives in the region.

Mr Desmond Choo, Executive Secretary of Young NTUC: “We are glad that our youths are participating in the golden jubilee celebration in such a special way. At Young NTUC, we recognise that many youths are passionate about the environment. Hence, we strive to do what we can to empower our youths to pursue their passion and take action for beneficial causes.”

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**About APRIL Group**

APRIL Group is a leading producer of fibre, pulp and paper with manufacturing operations in Pangkalan Kerinci, Riau Province, Indonesia. APRIL is a pioneer in the implementation of sustainability best practices in Indonesia’s pulp and paper industry, including the elimination of deforestation from its supply chain. APRIL Group is working towards conserving, protecting and restoring one hectare of high value conservation forest for every hectare of renewable plantation concession. Today, APRIL Group conserves more than 250,000 hectares with a further 70,000 hectares undergoing ecosystem restoration.

For more information, visit [www.aprilasia.com](http://www.aprilasia.com) and follow Twitter #aprilpulp.

## **About National Parks Board (NParks)**

National Parks Board (NParks) is responsible for providing and enhancing the greenery of our City in a Garden. Beyond building green infrastructure, NParks is actively engaging the community to enhance the quality of our living environment.

NParks manages over 350 parks and 4 nature reserves. Adding to this is the extensive streetscape, or roadside greenery, that forms the backbone of our City in a Garden. An island-wide Park Connector Network is also being developed to link major parks, nature areas and residential estates.

As the lead agency on biodiversity conservation, NParks has developed an urban biodiversity conservation model, which aims to conserve representative eco-systems in land-scarce Singapore. NParks also monitors and coordinates measures to enhance the presence of biodiversity in our urban landscape.

NParks is working closely with partners in the landscape and horticulture industry to increase productivity, and provide training for all levels of the workforce. Enhancing competencies of the industry will support Singapore's vision of being a City in a Garden.

For more information, visit [www.nparks.gov.sg](http://www.nparks.gov.sg) and [www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz](https://www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz)