



**ADDRESS BY MR BEY SOO KHIANG, CHAIRMAN APRIL GROUP BUTTERFLY
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT ON FRIDAY 24 JULY, 8.30AM**

Mrs Josephine Teo,

Member of Parliament for Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC and Senior Minister of State for
Finance and Transport

Mr Kong Yit San, Assistant CEO, NParks

Ms Elim Chew

Friends from 'ASEAN Power Shift 2015' conference.

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. A very good morning to you.
2. On behalf of APRIL Group and my colleagues who have joined us here today, I wish to thank the Minister and NParks for the opportunity to participate in this project.
3. I would also like to extend a further welcome to the next generation of environmental leaders from across Southeast Asia who have joined us today, reminding us that environmental concerns are regional and multi generational issues.
4. It is also wonderful to see so many community members and students from Hillgrove Secondary, Ang Mo Kio Secondary and the National University of Singapore here today as well. I hope you're all ready to get your hands dirty!
5. APRIL is a pulp and paper company founded on the belief of doing what is good for the Country, doing what is good for the Community then only will it be good for the Company. Protecting the environment particularly through forest conservation benefits all three – Country, Community and Company. Let me explain.

6. For the last 10 years, we have succeeded in creating a ring of plantations around high conservation value forests in Riau, Sumatra. Every year, APRIL will harvest the trees from areas about 1.5 times the size of Singapore. These trees are used in the production of pulp and paper. The harvested area is replanted immediately with fast growing trees like Acacia or Eucalyptus. So each year, we plant around 160 million trees which absorb a lot of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere for the next 5 years before we harvest again. That way we have created 90,000 jobs in the area thus benefitting the community. The 250,000 hectares of high conservation value forests, about 3.5 times the size of Singapore, is rich with biodiversity and is well protected by the ring of plantations surrounding it.

7. More recently, APRIL has committed to the goal of conserving one hectare of forest for every hectare of plantation we have. In line with that goal, we have recently acquired an additional 70,000 hectares of degraded peat land forest for an eco-restoration project. We have started working with the local community and NGOs to restore this area which is about the size of Singapore by replanting indigenous plant species in this area. This is real conservation delivered today and protected for many years to come.

8. As part of fire prevention, APRIL also works very hard with the communities on fire free village programs to incentivise them to use alternative means to clear their land. Where fire prevention fails, APRIL has fire-fighting resources, including helicopters ready to extinguish any fires in our plantation and conservation areas. This is another aspect of sustainable forest management.

9. In Singapore, this focus on sustainable forest management has motivated us to launch a schools programme last year, called “The Fascinating World of Forestry”, to engage and educate students on the need to manage our environment and resources responsibly, so that we can all enjoy the tree-based products made sustainably for generations to come.

10. The enhancement of this butterfly habitat and the tree planting that will follow later this year is therefore an extension of APRIL’s fundamental commitment to conservation and community engagement. The enhanced butterfly habitat will

provide urban biodiversity like butterfly, dragonfly and even birds a habitat to grow. It will be a natural environment for learning and the community will have a chance to get closer to nature. And I am sure that the habitat will be a favourite spot for hobbyist photographers.

11. As such, we from APRIL are very pleased to be sharing today's event with tomorrow's leaders who have the job of continuing with our journey towards a sustainable future.

12. Thank you all again for honouring us with your presence this morning.