

# SCOPE

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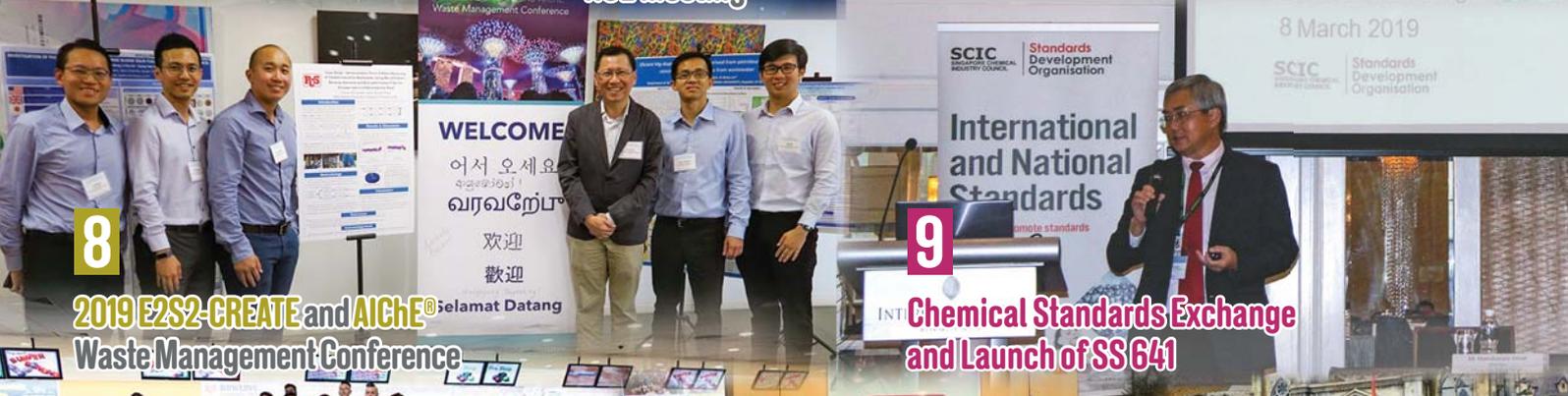
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# Jurong Island Vision Zero Cluster's Learning Journey



Bernard Leong  
HSE

The learning journey was jointly organised with the Workplace Safety and Health Council, together with support from the Singapore Chemical Industry Council Limited (SCIC).

In opening the Dialogue, PCS Managing Director, Mr. Akira Yonemura, shared that the Dialogue is an ideal avenue for him, PCS managers, as well as contractors' management to obtain feedback and feel the ground, aside from regular walkabouts in the plant.

He mentioned that when WSH Council approached PCS to open one of our events to Jurong Island stakeholders, we chanced upon this Dialogue to share our belief and our programmes, which are in alignment with the Vision Zero mindset. He further stressed that, in PCS, contractors are regarded not just as service providers, but as partners who are accorded the same health, safety and security provisions as our employees.



PCS schedules regular meet up with our contractors' Senior Management and their workers, as part of our communication, engagement and feedback programme.

Every quarter, contractors' Site Management and workers (on roster) join a dialogue session, a platform where HSE and wellness programmes are shared and a forum for contractors to air their views as well as give suggestions towards a healthy and safe workplace.

PCS is glad to be one of the Vision Zero Champions to proactively advocate health and safety at work on Jurong Island.



1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019  
Dialogue cum Vision  
Zero Sharing.



PCS MD and GM(Plant) addressing the participants



PCS General Manager (Plant), Er. Lucas Ng HK, as the chairperson of the Jurong Island Vision Zero Working Group, in delivering his welcome address, mentioned that the Group has plans to organise events like forums and dialogue sessions with management and workers, as more companies pledged to the Cluster. An example is PCS' Dialogue sessions to showcase to companies that do not or have not created an engagement platform with the contractors' management and workers to embark on such a programme.

He reiterated that PCS has a strong cultivated health and safety culture and unique teamwork culture, and has always been an advocate of open sharing.



Guests from Contractors, the Workplace Safety and Health Council (WSHC) and Ministry of Manpower (MOM) registering for the event.

Following the Jurong Island Vision Zero Cluster launch last November, we took the opportunity to encourage contractor companies to come on board and pledge their commitment to the Vision Zero movement, at our annual gathering with contractors' Senior Management in January.

In keeping with the momentum, the recent 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019 PCS Contractors Dialogue event on 7 March, included a "Learning Journey" (WSH Council's terminology) on Contractor Management and Behaviour Based Safety, for companies that have pledged to this Cluster.

In providing a balanced view, Mr. Apostol Ivan, President of the Petrochemical Complex Contractors Association (PCCA), shared, from their perspective, how they have come to reap the benefits of such a partnership with PCS.



Mr. Apostol Ivan giving the contractors perspective on PCS-PCCA partnership.



A panoramic view of guests, contractors and employees at the Event in Merbau Room of Maintenance Building.

Following PCS' Contractors affirmation of the strong bond and partnership in health and safety matters, the floor was opened for questions and feedback. PCS Management and PCCA President took turns to clarify queries as well as consider suggestions from the participants.



PCS Management and PCCA President took questions from the floor



HSE Manager, Er Bernard Leong LW, introducing guests to the features of Merbau, and shared on PCS' Contractor Management strategies and Behaviour Based Safety programme.



A hearty lunch to tackle the afternoon session.



After having tucked into a hearty lunch, Jurong Island companies' pledgees were then transported to Training Room T12 at Administration Building, for the "Learning Journey" portion where PCS shared its programmes and practices on Contractor Management and Behaviour Based Safety.



A mug as a constant reminder of Vision Zero.



GM(Plant) addressing guests' queries.



HSE Manager with SCIC staff supporting the event.

WSH Council have since published an article on the first Jurong Island Vision Zero learning journey, at PCS' quarterly contractors dialogue, with more than 50 participants from pledgee companies in attendance. PCS, as well as WSH Council, received feedback that the experience was eye-opening, and that the participants are looking forward to attending more of such learning journeys in future.

Not to be left out, the Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC) Ms. Wendy Chai shared on the Responsible Care® programme in Singapore. The Vice President of Association of Process Industry (ASPRI) Mr. Francis Tay, who is also a member of the Jurong Island Vision Zero Working Group, supported the event.

The day ended with a small reception where guests were treated to "finger food" and to catch up with fellow Jurong Islanders.



# Singapore World Water Day 2019



Sim Kai Sheng  
T&O



Identified by the United Nations (UN), International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

In Singapore, the annual month-long Singapore World Water Day (SWWD) movement, inspired by the UN, was launched on 2 March 2019, as a platform to rally the community to celebrate and create awareness about water conservation through various events. The theme for SWWD 2019 is **"Make Every Drop Count"**.

Prior to the launch of SWWD 2019, Public Utilities Board (PUB) also organised the "Walk for Water" activity, covering a distance of 2.4km between Gardens by the Bay East and Marina Barrage. As a corporate partner of SWWD 2019, PCS employees and PCCA representatives showed up with great enthusiasm in support of water conservation efforts.

During the launch of SWWD 2019 at Marina Barrage, President Halimah Yacob mentioned that while the Government will continue to plan and invest in infrastructure to ensure a secure, diversified and sustainable supply of water, Singaporeans must play their part and use water wisely.

Additionally, she also stressed that the eventual goal is for everyone to take ownership of and be proactive in transforming Singapore's water journey, not just in the month of March, but as a lifelong commitment.

Let us all play a part in water conservation, starting from the five easy to remember water saving tips (W-A-T-E-R)!



**Just remember: W-A-T-E-R**

- W** WASH clothes on full load
- A** ALWAYS use half-flush when possible
- T** TURN off shower when soaping
- E** ENSURE tap is off when brushing teeth
- R** RINSE vegetables in container

Water saving tips (W-A-T-E-R).



# GoBlue4Sg Movement

- Refreshed campaign of water conservation on the theme "Make Every Drop Count"



Francis Tan  
T&O

Following the official launch of Singapore World Water Day (SWWD) 2019 on 2 March 2019 by President Halimah Yacob, there were many initiatives organized by PUB in the month of March to rally the community to celebrate and conserve water.



The carnival which saw Marina Barrage transformed into a blue wonderland, saw people from all walks of life coming together and visiting the food and games stall put up by community partners. The main highlight included a stunning fire-works show which lasted around 3 minutes played over the Marina Barrage Green Roof. The lovely evening continued with an outdoor movie screening aptly chosen called "Aquaman" which continues to carry the important message to conserve our precious water resources. A record 30 landmarks and buildings including Gardens by the Bay and Marina Bay Sands were lighted up in blue, as a show of their commitment to water conservation.

Let's continue to conserve water and **GoBlue4SG!**



GoBlue4SG Movement - Make Every Drop Count.



As part of PUB's campaign on the theme 'Make Every Drop Count', the inaugural **GoBlue4SG** movement is a nationwide initiative to rally all Singaporeans and businesses to support the water cause by turning blue, wearing blue or offering products and promotion in blue. The **GoBlue4SG** movement was culminated in the **GoBlue4SG Night Carnival**, which was held on 22 March 2019 at Marina Barrage which also marked the closing of the month-long celebration for SWWD 2019 [1].

The Guest of Honour (GOH) for **GoBlue4SG Night Carnival** was MEWR, Minister Masagos Zulkifli. In his speech, Minister Masagos Zulkifli thanked partners and participants for their involvement in SWWD 2019. He also reiterated the need for households and industries to commit to using less water. He said: "Water demand is projected to double by 2060 and that is also around the time when Singapore's water agreement with Malaysia ends." [2]



Marina Barrage turned into blue wonderland.



GoBlue4SG Carnival at Marina Barrage.



Gardens by the Bay and Marina Bay Sands lighted in blue.

Pledge for W-A-T-E-R today!

Pledge page: [www.MakeEveryDropCount.sg](http://www.MakeEveryDropCount.sg)

- [1] PUB Press release dated 25 Feb 2019 and events/activities for SWWD 2019
- [2] The Straits Times - Saturday, 23 March 2019 (Home B8)

# Annual PCS - Contractors HSE Meeting



Ngai Jia Ming  
T&O



PCS Management Team

The Annual PCS-Contractors HSE meeting was held on 21 January 2019. This meeting provides an annual platform for PCS and Contractors Management to review past safety performance and realign our common goal of a healthy and safe workplace.



Guests registering for the event.

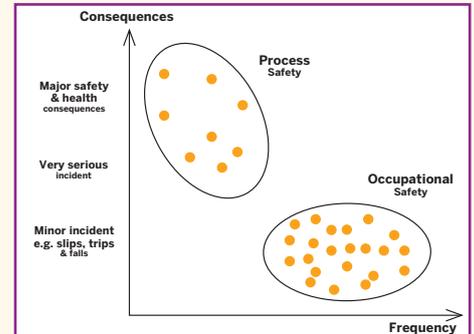
This year, 27 “in-house” contractor companies (those pre-qualified and approved contractors who have a long-term daily maintenance or unit rate contract with PCS) and another 19 SDM contractor companies participated in the event. A representative from the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council was also present at the event.

In their opening addresses, PCS Management emphasised on the multiple programmes and avenues (eg. SOS, STAR and BBSO) available in PCS where everyone is empowered to make safety critical decisions. In particular, PCS General Manager (Plant), Er. Lucas Ng Hong Kiang introduced the new Jurong Island Vision Zero Cluster to Contractors Management which was just launched on 23 November 2018.

Next, Manager, Production Planning & Coordination, Er. Ng Chai Ling presented the

past safety performance and highlighted the safety milestones achieved. 2018 was a significant year in terms of safety because PCS and contractors achieved a combined 3.3 million hours worked without Lost Time Incident (LTI) which included SDM 2018 activities.

Health Safety & Environment cum Quality Control Manager, Er. Bernard Leong next presented the Responsible Care® and Objectives & Targets for 2019. He highlighted the distinction between personal (occupational) and process safety and explained the importance of preventing a process safety incident. Personal safety events are typically higher in frequency but



Graph illustrating the difference between personal and process safety events shared by Er. Bernard Leong.

low in consequence whereas process safety events are typically low in frequency but severe in consequence.

Chairman of PCS Maintenance Contractors HSE Committee, Mr. Ivan Apostol, next reviewed PCC / PCCA activities in 2018 and provided the WSH Action Plan for 2019. He emphasized the need to continue to submit near miss reports by contractor workers so as to contribute towards making a safer environment for all to work in.

This was followed by the presentation of 2018 Safety Performance Awards to in-house Contractor Companies and presentation of SDM 2018 / Projects Performance Incentive Awards. In addition, 9 of the long serving Contractors HSE personnel were also recognised with tokens of appreciation.

The event ended on a high note with closing address by PCS Deputy Managing Director, Mr. Chiew Nguang Yong, followed by a buffet lunch for all.



Mr. Ivan Apostol answering a question at the dialogue session.



Awards galore!



Panoramic view of the event.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Mass Tool Box Meeting 2019 – Message from General Manager (Plant)

on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019



Lim Kian Huat  
Maintenance



The mass TBM on 2<sup>nd</sup> January in progress at the contractors rest shed.



Cheering for Safety First.

General Manager (Plant) Er. Lucas Ng thanked the contractors through PCS Contractors HSE Committee (PCC) / Petrochemical Complex Contractors Association (PCCA) for their contributions and partnership with PCS to achieve zero Lost Time Injury (LTI) and zero Total Recordable Combine Frequency (target TRCF  $\leq 1.4$ ) for the year 2018.

He reminded that we should not be complacent with good performance but have a sense of vulnerability. The in-house ongoing HSE activities such as Behaviour Based Safety Observation (BBSO), Stop and Report (STAR), and Speak Out for Safety (SOS) are key pillars amongst other initiatives to our success.

He urged the workers and foremen / supervisors to continue to contribute to facilities reliability and thus ensuring process safety by:

- Delivering good quality in all works – Mechanical, Electrical & Instrument, Painting, Insulation, Projects etc.
- Being always watchful when working in the plants – look out for abnormal signs such as leaks, smell, abnormal noise, abnormal temperature, etc. He shared an example of our contractor scaffold foreman hearing a hissing sound from a pipe rack above him. As he approached the pipe rack, his gas meter recorded some readings. He immediately stopped the lorry crane operations to eliminate ignition source, and informed a PCS staff nearby. Subsequent investigation indicated a gas leak from a valve bonnet flange due to a damaged gasket. The prompt “Stop and Report” (STAR) action by this foreman prevented a possible serious Process Safety Incident involving fire and/or explosion.
- Watchful not to damage key plant facilities – pressure/temperature gauges, instrument tubing, instrument in analyser house, small tubing and piping around ROT machinery

Er. Ng updated the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) statistics of 2018 from Ministry of Manpower (MOM). He highlighted that Working at Heights (WAH) incidents have been the main concern over the years as they accounted for more than half of the workplace fatalities in Singapore. As work at heights is conducted in many workplaces at our premises, measures for working safely at heights have to be well managed and never take shortcut.

Each month, PCS HSE function circulates the BBSO statistics as well as Near Miss Report highlights. All the information is helpful to remind us of those potentially high HSE violations / gaps. Never compromise safety!

Practice and perform in-situ Risk Assessment (iRA)!

Once again, he emphasised the importance of process safety in our industry.

On Vision Zero Movement, Er. Ng quoted what Minister of State for Manpower Zaqu Mohamad said during the launch of Jurong Island Vision Zero Cluster; that workplace safety and health (WSH) standards on Jurong Island must be kept as high as possible as the process operations here involve hazardous materials such as crude oil, flammable petroleum products, and corrosive chemicals.

“Any lapses in safety procedures may result in loss of lives and injuries. There will certainly be business losses as well”.

The new cluster is an initiative by the Jurong Island Vision Zero Working Group, which

was formed in February 2018. Vision Zero is a nationwide movement launched in 2015 to promote the mindset that all injuries and ill-health at work are preventable.

GM (Plant) urged everyone to support this new initiative by exchanging and sharing our good practices and experiences, to drive and champion Vision Zero Movement in Jurong Island. This will ensure we are able to preserve our cultivated WSH culture, and continue our every effort working towards both occupational safety and process safety excellence!

## Lunar New Year Gathering with Contractors on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

To welcome the Lunar New Year of the Pig, PCS Contractors HSE Committee (PCC) and Maintenance function held a combined PCS and Contractors lunch gathering on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Contractors Rest Shelter.

About 750 Contractors workers and PCS Employees got together to enjoy the New Year delicacies and bento set lunch. All who were present wished one another a safe, healthy and blissful year ahead.



PCS GMP Er. Lucas wishing all a blessed year in his HSE address.



About 750 Staff and Contractors enjoying their bento lunch.



# 2019 E2S2-CREATE and AIChE® Waste Management Conference



Calvin Neo  
T&O

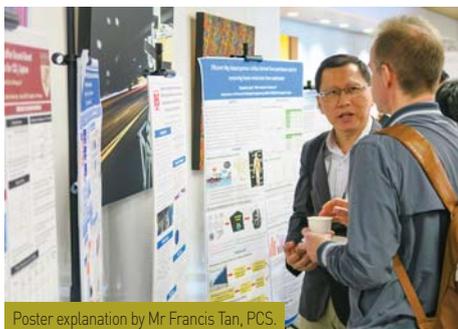
The 2019 E2S2-CREATE and AIChE® Waste Management Conference was co-organised by American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and Energy and Environmental Sustainability Solutions (E2S2) – Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise (CREATE) from 11 to 13 March 2019 in CREATE Tower, National University of Singapore (NUS). This conference aims to provide a platform for technical and scientific professionals from industries, academia, research, government organizations working in diverse fields of waste management to exchange knowledge and expertise on emerging state-of-the-art technologies. Day 1 of the program was scheduled for registration and E2S2-CREATE laboratory tours while Day 2 and 3 were conferences with site tour to Tuas South Incineration Plant.



PCS delegations for 2019 E2S2-CREATE and AIChE® Waste Management Conference.

There were a total of 8 keynote and 46 invited speakers from academia and National Environment Agency (NEA). The presentations were focused on areas such as “Overview of Waste Management in Singapore”, “Recycling Behaviour”, “Waste to Energy and Resources” and “Circular Economy<sup>[a]</sup>”. In addition, there were 9 posters contributions from academia and industries. PCS had proudly contributed a poster on its demonstration plant for Treated Industrial Wastewater Recycling using Microfiltration/Reverse Osmosis and Activated Carbon Filter for industrial sharing.

In a keynote presentation titled “Closing the Waste Loop: The Role of Research and Development in Singapore’s Waste Management” by Mr Patrick Pang, Chief Technology Officer and Director of the Environmental Technology Department of NEA, he highlighted that Singapore’s offshore landfill, Pulau Semakau landfill capacity is projected to run out earlier on 2035 instead 2046. Therefore, the agency is collaborating with research programmes such as E2S2-CREATE, in areas such as Waste Segregation and Value Recovery, Landfill Conservation and Environmental Remediation to achieve a Close Waste Loop. Based on Singapore’s increasing trend of e-waste generation, Hydrometallurgy methods for e-waste recycling is one of the research emphasis for Waste Value Recovery.



Poster explanation by Mr Francis Tan, PCS.

#### Annotation

<sup>[a]</sup> Circular Economy is a system in which value is created by minimising waste and the use of energy and natural resources. This is achieved by utilising models for slowing, closing and narrowing loops of material and energy flows regeneratively and following the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle <sup>[1]</sup>

#### References:

<sup>[1]</sup> Jiří Jaromír Klemeš, Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic



Keynote Presentation by Mr Patrick Pang, Chief Technology Officer and Director of the Environmental Technology Department, NEA.

From this conference, I learned that one of the most effective ways for sustainable waste management is reducing waste generation at individual behaviour level. By reducing waste generation, we can directly reduce the energy and resources required to manage waste. Therefore, let’s play our part in waste reduction by these simple 6R <sup>[1]</sup> tips:

#### Rethink

- Consider and question consumption habits

#### Refuse

- Make the choice of not generating waste

#### Reduce

- Make decision that decrease the amount of waste produced

#### Reuse/Repair

- Expand the uses or extend the shelf lives of products

#### Recycle

- Reclaim any raw materials

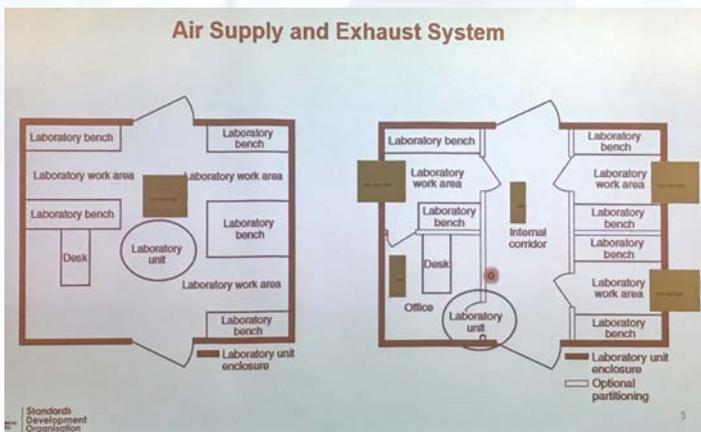
#### Replace/Rebuy

- Buy recycled product

# Chemical Standards Exchange and Launch of SS 641: 2019 Code of Practice for Fire Safety for Laboratories Using Chemicals



Tok Ai Tee  
Quality Control



Photographs - Courtesy by SDO@SCIC taken during the Chemical Standards Exchange on 8 March 2019.

Chemical Standards Exchange is an annual seminar organised by the Chemical Standards Committee to highlight the importance of Singapore Standards in promoting health, safety, environment, productivity and sustainability in the chemical industry. For this year, the annual seminar also covered the official launch of "SS 641:2019 Code of practice for fire safety for laboratories using chemicals".

The half day seminar was held on 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Intercontinental Singapore Hotel. More than 200 laboratory representatives from various industries including those from research and educational institutions attended the seminar.

The event kicked off with the welcome speech by Dr. Keith Carpenter, the Chairman of the Chemical Standards Committee. He presented on the overview of the structure of the Chemical Standards Committee and shared the key initiatives currently driven by the Committee.

PCS GM (Plant) Er. Lucas Ng HK, who is also the Deputy Chairman of the Chemical Standards Committee, presented a topic on "Importance of Safety in Chemical Industry". He shared several catastrophic incidents in the chemical industry as well as two deadly incidents that took place in chemical laboratories. He also spoke on the challenges in safety improvement efforts and stressed on the need for code of practice and safety standards to ensure safety compliance in the chemical industry.

At the launch, it was revealed that SS 641 was developed out of a review of SS 532 Code of Practice for Storage of Flammable Liquids whereby the scope did not cover that for laboratories. The new SS 641 covers a wider scope across healthcare, research institutions and commercial laboratories and largely referenced to the available European, US and Australian standards.

The working group experts who developed the new standard presented the highlights of the code of practice. The presented topics by the five key speakers were comprehensive and ranged from laboratory unit design and construction, fire protection, explosion hazard protection, ventilating system requirements as well as the storage, handling and disposal of flammable and toxic chemicals. Many participants including us were overwhelmed with information as the event progressed with more requirements unveiled.

The panel discussion took place at the end of the seminar with the working group experts forming the panellists. The session triggered a number of questions with many participants sharing their laboratory design constraints and concerns on the implementation of the new requirements. Several questions were directed to SCDF LTC Han Fook Kuang on the clarification of how the regulatory authority is going to enforce the new code requirements during site inspections. He explained that while SCDF will be using this new standard as a conformance reference for fire safety in the Singapore Fire Code with immediate



effect, a reasonable timeframe would still be given to the laboratories for addressing their gaps.

Despite the assurance, many of the participants including PCS QC shared similar sentiments that older laboratories would not be able to meet some of the requirements stipulated in the code of practice, and to make changes for compliance would definitely incur huge capital costs especially if it involves infrastructural changes. Several laboratory representatives urged SCDF to take this into consideration and if possible, on by case-by-case basis, grant exemption.

Now with the official launch of SS 641, the immediate task for PCS QC is to perform a thorough compliance review against the fire safety standard and propose solutions to close the gap.



# PCS Bowling Tournament

## - 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019 (Sat)



Pauline Lim  
Accounting & Finance



Group Photo - Bowling Tournament 2019



Men's High Game.



Team Champion - Ole-II.

**Tournament Results**

- Team Champion **Olefin II**
- 1st Runner Up **Fire & Security**
- 2nd Runner Up **Olefin I**



Ladies' Champion & High Game.



Men's Champion.

This year, the annual PCS Bowling Tournament was held on 23 February 2019 at Mount Faber Safra.

All players were given a warm up practice beforehand. When the actual game commences, competition started to set in as the first ball hits the bowling pins! Everyone began cheering for themselves or for their team mates. When it was the 4<sup>th</sup> and final round, the excitement was building up among the players as their scores were just a few points ahead or behind one another! They were looking for the **sweet spot** with a STRIKE in their mind.

The perfect way to roll the bowling ball is to aim for the sweet spot that usually causes a domino effect that knocks down the pins all at once. Finding the right spot may take time and lot of practices but it will be all worthwhile when you have mastered that skill.

I was told that my style and pose before each throw gave others the impression that I am a professional bowler. I was aiming for the sweet spot too, but the ball just rolled straight into the gutter. Alas!

Nonetheless, we have to say that the Wong's family are a force to be reckoned with. Both father and son were winners of this tournament, with the son emerging as the overall champion. They were kind enough to give an interview after the game:

*“ To be honest, the feeling was normal as I had won previously but the feeling was more surreal when I won the Function trophy because it is the first time OLE-II had won. I have been trying to win it (the trophy) for 5 years and finally on the 6th year we have managed to win it. ”*

**Joshua Wong (Men's Champion)**

*“ The younger generation has taken the lead and emerged as the winner. Just as the waves of the Yangtze River behind drive on those ahead, so does each new generation replace the old one. ”*

**William Wong (Men's 3<sup>rd</sup> position)**

When the tournament was over, everyone took time to relax with some light snacks and refreshments. It was indeed a great social company outing organised by the SSRCC committee. MD A Yonemura, GMC Lilian Lee and GMP Lucas Ng were cordially invited to give away the prizes to the winners.

Last but not least, congratulations to all and a big thank you to PCSian who participated in this successful event!



# Employee News

## LONG SERVICE

Presentations on 7 & 21 January 2019



### 5 Years

Almahdi bin Anuar	Fire & Security
Mao Xuanzhen	Olefin I
Muhammad Rafneezan bin Noordin	Olefin I
Chandrasuriyan Venkatachalam	Olefin II
Tan How Chwen	Olefin II

### 15 Years

Aw Swee Sze	Fire & Security
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### 20 Years

Sam Kok Foo	Olefin II
Soo Wing Teen	Olefin II

### 30 Years

Koh Chen Tong Simon	Engineering
Chan Tiew Ching	Olefin I
Chng Siew Wah	Olefin I
Krishna Moorthy Vaiyapuri	Olefin I
Lee Min Chee	Olefin I
Noryazid bin Yahya	Olefin II
Rahmat bin Yusope	Olefin II

### 35 Years

Tan Bok Koon	HSE
Aw Yong Kit Hoong	Maintenance
Adnan bin Hassan	Olefin I
Rajamogan P	Olefin I



From left : Muhammad Rafneezan bin Noordin, Lee Min Chee, Krishna Moorthy Vaiyapuri, Rajamogan P, Lucas Ng (GMP), Rahmat bin Yusope, Sam Kok Foo, Mao Xuanzhen, Almahdi bin Anuar & Aw Swee Sze.



From left : Soo Wing Teen, Aw Yong Kit Hoong, Noryazid bin Yahya, Lucas Ng (GMP), Koh Chen Tong Simon, V. Chandrasuriyan & Tan Bok Koon.

## births

NAME	FUNCTION	NEW BORN
Azri Hairi bin Affendi	Olefin I	Girl
Muhammad Sirajuddin bin Ghazali	Olefin I	Boy

## SSRCC Committee 2019

From left:

Jumali b Anwar (F&S), Lincoln Lee (HRA), Sim Kai Sheng (T&O), Joshua Wong (Ole-II), Sri Zulaikha (QC), Pauline Lim (ANF), Cerine Lim (HRA), Francis Tan (Chairperson), Lilian Lee (GMC), Chan Yew Oon (Ole-I), Tey Tai Keat (BDP), Low Kah Yi (MAI), Vincent Woo (HRA), Ryan Lim (Ole-II), William Wong (Ole-I) [not in picture] & Loh Sing Keong (HRA) [not in picture].



# Captivating Cities of Vietnam

## Hoi An & Hue



Angie Lim  
Marketing & Sales



Hai Van Pass

### Hue

Our final stop for this trip would be the imperial city of Hue, which is located 3 hours ride away from Hoi An. The journey to Hue involved passing by Hai Van Pass, a winding coastal road with a spectacular view of old war-time forts, misty mountains and sandy beaches. We were not so lucky as it rained throughout our drive, clouding out the scenery, but we were happy to finally set foot in Hue, where lots of good food await.



Banh Beo

Bun Bo Hue

Nem Lui

Anthony Bourdain, celebrity chef and traveling foodie, calls Vietnam “one of his favorite places on earth” and you must be wondering why. When it comes to Vietnamese cuisine, most people would only think of pho (Vietnamese beef noodles). Little is known about other dishes of Vietnamese cuisine, not until you’ve visited Hue, a city with rich food history where dishes were specially curated and created to appease the appetite of kings in the past. We were introduced to a hole-in-wall restaurant by our driver, who stands extremely proud of his home town’s food heritage. We particularly enjoyed Banh Beo, a delicate dish made of rice cakes, dried shrimps, fried pork lard, drizzled with fish sauce. The flavors were distinct and satisfying, without the cloying taste usually associated with pork lard. Nem lui, a dish of pork skewers served with signature Vietnamese rice noodles and rice paper, made the perfect entrée. The most outstanding dish we had in Hue was Bun Bo Hue – a seemingly simple bowl of pork and beef bone noodle soup, but with each mouthful a burst of umami. It was so good that my 3 year-old son finished a portion on his own!

Apart from food, we spent a considerable amount of time exploring the Imperial Palace of Hue and the intricate tombstones of ancient kings in the Nguyen Dynasty. I’ll let the pictures do the talking!

Although my kids are probably too young to appreciate the historical visits towards the last part of the trip, they had a lot of fun enjoying local food with us and exploring new places together as a family. We can’t wait for the next family vacation already!



Imperial Palace of Hue

Whenever I mention to people that Vietnam is one of my favorite countries to travel, I get raised eyebrows. Understandably so, Vietnam wouldn’t always be the first option for travel compared to popular Southeast Asian countries like Thailand or Indonesia. After living in Ho Chi Minh City for a couple of months in my previous job, I find Vietnam as captivating, if not more, than its neighboring counterparts. My Vietnamese friends always tell me that I have to visit Hoi An and Hue located in Central Vietnam to get a real feel of the country and so with my two boys in tow, we set off on a 5-days adventure of these exotic towns.

Yellow buildings in the Ancient Town

Fun in the sun

Shopfronts decorated with colorful lanterns

entering the walking street, we see shop fronts being adorned with colorful vibrant lanterns, lighting up the streets in the evening and making it the perfect Instagram hotspot.

After two days of exploring the Ancient Town, we decided to unwind by visiting An Bang beach, a stretch of sandy, unspoiled shoreline located just 10 minutes by shuttle from our hotel in Hoi An. Unlike other Southeast Asian beaches, we were surprised that there were no peddlers promoting overpriced jewellery, or offering manicure services along the beach. In addition, visitors to the beach are free to sit under any parasol of their choice without having to pay an exorbitant fee. The beach was the perfect place for my kids to relax and play to their hearts’ content under the sun, while my husband and I kick back and enjoy a glass of nice cold beer by the beach.

### Hoi An

We landed at Da Nang airport after a short 2.5 hours flight away from Singapore and hopped onto a private hire car to Hoi An, which is just another 45-mins car ride away. As we entered town, we were greeted with juxtaposed architectural styles and predominantly yellow houses. Hoi An was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999, which explains the well preserved look that the buildings and shops bore. Our first stop was the Ancient Town. Walking around the Ancient Town was very comfortable with the temperature around 24°C. Upon

### Ba Na Hills

Located approximately 1.5 hours away by car from Hoi An was our next destination for this trip, a mountain-top resort known as Ba Na Hills. Situated at an elevation of 1,500 metres, temperature at the mountain top was vastly lower than ground at about 18°C. With the cool weather, coupled with the cobblestoned walkways and stone walls modeled after European architectural style, it was hard to believe that we were in Vietnam! This family-friendly attraction houses hotels, restaurants, a theme park, as well as the newly opened Golden Bridge (a long bridge which looked like it is being held aloft by two giant hands). It was fun to be able to spend an entire day here exploring the various attractions with my family.



Ba Na Hills