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A Quarterly Newsletter by Petrochemical Corporation of Singapore (Private) Limited Registration No. (UEN) 197701742H



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CS CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

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SCOPE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE • Tan Tee Hong • Lincoln Lee • Loh Sing Keong • Cerine Lim • Jessica Tan • Low Kok Tong









# **PCS** CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

Message from Managing Director, Mr Akira Yonemu

In PCS, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is part of our corporate mission. Our CSR activities are conducted based on the understanding that we can sustain our efforts and maximise the impact of our contributions towards the nation and society. We are mindful of our responsibility as a corporate citizen and are committed to achieving and maintaining high standards in health, safety and environmental protection.

#### **OUR CSR APPROACH AND FOCUS AREAS**

Our commitment to social responsibility starts from our Core Values and Responsibilities. Over the years, this has been manifested in the way PCS runs its business operations and contributes towards the nation and society. The focus areas are shown in the diagram.



In this aspect, I would like to highlight that we are aligned with the objectives of the United Nation's (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which Sumitomo Chemical and Shell uphold. The UN SDGs contain a set of 17 goals which the world is expected to work on. The UN calls on business corporations around the world to advance in their endeavour toward building a sustainable society through its business activities.

Based on our focus areas, and to strengthen our commitment to CSR, we would adopt the following 5 UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in our CSR framework and ecosystem.

OAL 3



## all at all ages.

041 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning

opportunities for all



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

#### **GOAL 11**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive. safe, resilient and sustainable

#### SOAL 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

<del>.....</del>.....

#### **OUR CSR FOCUS AREAS**

#### **HSE Protection**

Active adoption and excelling in the Management Practices prescribed under the 6 Responsible Care® codes namely, Employee Health and Safety Code, Pollution Prevention Code, Community Awareness and Emergency Response Code, Process Safety Code, Product Stewardship Code and Distribution Code.

#### Communication & Sharing with Employees / Community

Foster communication and sharing with the community by hosting regular plant visits for students from schools, tertiary institutions, CDCs, Union etc. to enhance awareness on petrochemical manufacturing activities including environmental protection amongst other focuses.

#### Long Term Support of Community Chest of Singapore

Provide support to Community Chest of Singapore (CCS) in charity work for the community through the Corporate Share O Scheme and regular participation in CCS fundraising activities for the underprivileged in the community.

#### Humanitarian

Support for International Humanitarian aid program organized by humanitarian organisation, such as the Singapore Red Cross Society to help victims of natural disasters.

#### Education

Participate in internships and industrial attachments with educational institutions and offer scholarships to aspiring engineers and technicians at the local tertiary educational institutions





Arts

Promote specific arts & cultural events and programmes to foster close community relationships.

#### OUR CSR ACTION PLAN

- Participate in the National Environment Agency Clean & Green Singapore
- Outreach program/sharing of practices to the industry partners and the community, e.g. National Fire and Civil Emergency Preparedness Council (NFEC) Fire Safety Seminar
- Outreach Program for Students including 0 yearly ChemEx exhibition
- ComChest Events Sponsorship
- O Corporate Share Scheme
- Scholarship / Bursary Program / Merit Awards for NUS, NTU, S'pore Poly, Temasek Poly and Ngee Ann Poly
- Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) Sponsorship

Successful implementation of our action plan will be key to the success of the 5 SDGs that we are embracing. Doing so, we will strengthen the enabling environment for doing business and building sustainable market and society. The case for action is clear for business to get involved, hence, I would like to encourage all employees to take a concerted effort to contribute and implement our CSR Action Plan.



# **BBS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 2017 BEHAVIOUR BASED SAFETY AIN'T A MYSTERY**

he Behaviour Based Safety (BBS) Steering Committee launched the BBS Safety Awareness Campaign 2017 "Behaviour Based Safety Ain't A Mystery!" on 19 June 2017. The objective of this campaign was to create BBS awareness among employees and contractors, through challenging and interesting game puzzles. Solving the puzzles will reveal BBS keywords as the answers. The campaign was opened to all PCS employees, contract staff and PCC members.



The committee had engaged one of the best Escape Room Game Specialists in Singapore, Nomis Piy, to design the

game puzzles for the campaign. For those who might not be familiar with Escape Rooms, it involves a group of players who will be locked up inside a confined room with a storyline or theme for an hour. Participants will have to solve a series of challenging puzzles and interact with the game props, in order to "survive and escape" the room before the time runs out. Such game rooms are particularly popular among local youths, and great for team bonding, as teamwork

is definitely required to solve the puzzles faster

A total of 8 mini puzzles, 1 final and 1 bonus puzzle were rolled out on a weekly basis for 4 consecutive weeks (19 Jun – 10 Jul). The puzzles were sent out through emails and also posted on each Function's notice board. Participants were issued with a game worksheet prior to the start of the campaign. Puzzles were challenging and interesting, hence captivated many participants and most looked forward to every Monday morning to receive the new puzzles. Many participants discussed the solutions and solve the puzzles together during lunch/break time.

The first puzzle required the participants to get a copy of the BBS Observation Data Sheet and to compare that with the "burnt marks" in the puzzle to reveal missing alphabets. The missing alphabets would form a question "What Is Four.One", referring to CBI 4.1 on the data sheet - "Lock Out and Tag Out". The purpose of this puzzle was to create awareness of the usage of the BBSO Data Sheet to conduct observation on workers for both "safe" and "at-risk" behaviours.

behaviours. Through teamwork and some through individual brilliance, more than 500 participants managed to complete the game and submitted their worksheets with the correct answers. 100 lucky winners were picked by the committee and each won \$15 NTUC vouchers for their hardwork and efforts. Congratulations to all the winners!!

On behalf of the BBS Steering Committee, we sincerely thank all participants for



Ho Jia Quan BBS Facilitato

Other subsequent puzzles involved looking up chemical symbols from the periodic table, solving a crossword puzzle based on PCS core values, and visiting PCS's famous landmark for clues - The Ethylene Molecule Commemorative Monument which is situated in front of the Admin Building. This monument is a photo-taking hotspot for PCS visitors. This puzzle gave participants a unique adventure-style experience in puzzle solving.

> The final puzzle was the most challenging of all, as most participants did not expect that the game worksheet itself was actually the most

important clue to obtain the final answer. By folding the worksheet at an angle to overlap the helmets on the cartoon characters -"Put Helmets On Everyone", the final message "Change Behaviour" was revealed. Changes in behavior can bring about changes in attitude, leading to lower "At-Risk"



the tremendous support. Behaviour Based Safety is neither a difficult, nor mysterious concept to grasp at all! After this awareness campaign, the committee hopes everyone has now a better understanding of BBS, and

exhibit safe work behaviour every day, either in the plants, or in the office. BBS observers must continue to conduct "No-Name-No-Blame" observations on fellow peers to feedback and correct any at-risk behaviour during their course of work.

Finally for those of you who love solving puzzles and are still suffering from withdrawal syndrome after the campaign ended, here are the last two BBS special puzzles just for you!!! Have fun solving these puzzles one last time!

Remember: Behavious Based Safety Ain't A Mystery!

SPECIAL PUZZLE #1 STEP 1: MOVE LETTER DO ON VERTICAL LINE STEP 2: MOVE LETTER ACR ONCE HIT A HORIZONTAL L STEP 3: MOVE LETTER DOV ONCE HIT ANOTHER VERTIL LINE STEP 4: REPEAT STEP 2/3	ROSS INE VN	5 H		H A P
SPECIAL PUZZLE #2	1	V	А	Н
SAFETY STARTS WITH	0	т	А	Ε
<b>e</b>	U	R	$\bigcirc$	в
	R	Ť	S	к

Answers can be found on the last page.



Complex HSE Campaign is held annually, with the primary objective of creating and elevating Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) awareness among employees and contractors. The 31<sup>st</sup> Complex HSE Campaign was organised by TPC with the support and active participation from the other member companies of the Complex and was held from 6<sup>th</sup> July to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

ne campaign theme this year "You are the Key to Process Safety" reiterated the Complex's collective and continuous efforts in ensuring a safe and healthy work environment for its workforce. It also served to remind the importance of the role of Process Safety to maintain safe and stable plant operation in the Complex.

The Opening Ceremony was held on 6th July 2017 with an exceedingly overwhelming turnout with more than 800 Complex staff, contractor workers and Senior Management of the Complex companies attending the their role with due diligence in maintaining

The ceremony started with an opening address given by TPC Managing Director, Mr Ikuhiro Tamaru, stressing the importance of the campaign theme "You are the Key to Process Safety". With series of major hazards accidents occurring around the region, it is



critical and essential that everyone plays event held at the PCS Contractors Rest Shed. a safe and stable plant operations for the wellness of all stakeholders in the workplace and community. Although the likelihood of a major process safety incident is low in the petrochemical industry with stringent workplace safety and health requirements, the Complex operating environment with large volumes of highly hazardous chemicals





Feedstock Procurement



will mean that any accident can potentially result in catastrophic consequences with tremendous severe harm and damages to people and environment. A moment of ignorance and negligence by any individual in the workplace can lead to a disastrous accident. Therefore, each and every one of us regardless position and function is KEY to Process Safety.

This was followed by the Guest of Honour Er. Go Heng Huat [Director, Major Hazards Department, Occupational Safety & Health Division, MOM] giving his keynote address. He elaborated that, at the national level, the Authority recognises the importance of effective implementation of Process Safety, especially in the oil and petrochemical industry. MOM is now moving towards the Safety Case Regime. The enabling provisions to effect the Safety Case Regime have been introduced through the recent enactment of the WSH (Major Hazard Installations) Regulations that takes effect 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. Plants are to systematically identify major potential incident, assess the possible consequences and likelihood. In addition, to demonstrate that appropriate control measures and emergency procedures have been put in place. With Safety Case approach, this allows plants to have an improved understanding of overall hazards and risks, hence enhancing their ability to better manage risks arising from major accident hazards.

Attendees at the Opening Ceremony not only learnt about Process Safety through exhibits. but also important messages on SGSecure from other participating agencies such as Singapore Police Force, Singapore Civil Defence Force & Ministry of Manpower.

Throughout the three weeks, the Complex HSE Campaign also lined up interesting

continued on page 5

# **ANNUAL HNS & OIL SPILL EXERCISE**

ne annual HNS (Hazardous and Noxious Substances] & Oil Spill Exercise was organized by PCS Fire & Security on 18 July 2017. Apart from Olefin I, the berth owner, downstream companies namely CPSC, EMPL & SEPL-EGS that utilize the berths also participated in the exercise. PCS's HNS & Oil Spill contracted service provider, Singapore Oil Spill Response Centre (SOSRC) also participated with two salvage boats Salvern & Salvixen and the crew.



A safety and exercise briefing was held at the PCS Fire Brigade training room for all participants prior to the physical drill. The scenario comprised of the breaking of a loading arm during fuel transfer operation from the ship due to inclement weather resulting in fuel oil spill into the sea. To prevent the spill from escalating further, deployment of oil booms had to be initiated.

The old methodology consisted of manually connecting individual booms on land before launching them into the sea, with the assistance of the mooring boat crew. The task was physically demanding which needed massive manpower and coordination to link up the 300 meters boom.

This tedious system of boom deployment was changed with the aid of the Boom Reel. The reel housed 300m boom that can be dropped into the sea using a hydraulic mechanism. It requires much lower manpower requirement.





This new system was put into effect during the exercise when the full 300m of boom was casted into the sea. The deployment of oil boom at the simulated spilled area was done at 1/3 the time and with little physical exertion by the participants. Likewise, the retrieval of the boom at the end of the exercise was done with ease, including rinsing of the boom before it was housed into the boom reel.

The general consensus by all participants was that the task of booming could be done much faster and with less strain. Vast area of a spill could be contained at a speedier pace unlike previous one. The primary goal

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#### continued from page 4

events such as safety bulletins, safety guizzes and HSE talks to raise awareness among Complex employees and contractor workers.

ОТН	OTHER ACTIVITIES HELD DURING THE 3 WEEK LONG CAMP			
6 July	Complex HSE Campaign Opening Ceremony			
7 July	Distribution of Campaign Souvenir			
10 July	Bulletin #1 on Lorry Crane Safety			
13 July	HSE Talk #1 on Lightning Safety and Protection			
17 July	Bulletin #2 on Maintenance of Ageing Plant and Equipm			
18 July	Distribution of Health Drink			
20 July	HSE Talk #2 on Process Safety			
27 July	Complex HSE Campaign Closing Ceremony			

The closing ceremony was held on 27th July at TPC Plant Office, with a Talk on Radicalisation given by Associate Research Fellow of S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies. The subsequent handing over of the Complex HSE Flag to Chevron Phillips Singapore Chemicals (Private) Limited, the organising chair for 2018, marks the closing of 2017 Complex HSE Campaign.





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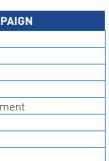






in a HNS & Oil Spill situation is to contain all spills within a shortest possible span of time so as to minimize spread and damage to the environment. With regular drills and practices, the task of deploying the boom can be further improved without compromising safety.

Many thanks and our sincere appreciation to all participants, the mooring crew members and the SOSRC team for their participation, relentless support, teamwork and cohesiveness displayed, to bring about a successful execution of this exercise.







This year, the biennial PCS Family Day is once again held back at Universal Studios Singapore (USS) due to popular demand! As one of the main attractions on our island country, the appeal of USS never cease to attract both the young and alike, serving as a major crowd pleaser among our employees.

> ne event was held over two Sundays this year – 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September in rder to cater to our shift employees schedules. All employees were also given a T-shirt each as souvenir to be donned on the day itself so as to forge a sense of PCS identity when we visit the park with our families and friends.

> The USS theme park boasts of 7 zones Ancient Egypt, Far Far Away, Madagascar, Hollywood, New York, Sci-Fi City and Lost World, offering a wide range of rides, shows and attractions catering to different age groups and 'guts-level'. The ultimate challenge must unarguably be the Human vs Cylon - the world's tallest dueling roller coasters. Or you may choose to get soaked instead at the Jurassic Park river raft ride through primeval dinosaur habitats. The younger (or less adrenalin-driven) ones can have fun at the Sesame Street Spaghetti Space Chase and Puss In Boots' Giant Journey too.

> Many PCS employees also had fun taking photographs in their white T-shirts to take part in the Family Day Photo Contest. Do check out the entries on the next page to cast your votes!













# FOUNDATIONS OF PROCESS SAFETY (Process Safety Boot Camp 2017)

The 5<sup>th</sup> run of the Process Safety Boot Camp was held from 11~14 July 2017 at the ParkRoyal Hotel at Kitchener Road. The boot camp has been a yearly affair since 2013 and with this run a total of 106 participants have been trained in the necessary knowledge and skills to improve process safety.

his year, 30 participants attended the boot camp. Although comprising nainly PCS employees, there were 6 participants from invited institutions; 2 from the Petrochemical Complex Contractors Association (PCCA), 2 from the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and 2 lecturers from the Temasek Polvtechnic.

The Foundations of Process Safety course, frequently referred to as Process Safety Boot Camp, was developed by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) for the Center of Chemical Process Safety (CCPS), especially for companies looking to train key personnel in process safety.

The 4-day camp was conducted by the expert trainers from CCPS, Mr Byron Sun and Mr Jim Conner. These trainers brought with them a wealth of knowledge, experience and know-how, and reinforced the training materials with many interesting case studies and videos of past incidents.

In his closing speech, GMP Mr Lucas Ng thanked the trainers from CCPS for their sharing of their expert know-how on process safety and their contribution to the introduction of process safety in PCS. He mentioned that although this was the last planned full process safety boot camp, thoughts are already put in place to consider refresher trainings in the coming years.

-66-I now have a better understanding of Process Safety and its important contribution to a safe working environment





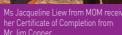
















isit was to profile Singapore's petrochemical industry as well as showcase how industry associations (Association of Process Industry [ASPRI] and Singapore Chemical Industry Council [SCIC]) have helped the process construction and maintenance (PCM) industry sustain safety and quality works through workers' training and certification. The close collaboration of industry associations, as a combined voice representing the industry, with regulatory formula for Singapore.

PCS has certain information exchange relationship with Formosa Plastics Group (FPG), facilitated by Marsh LLC, since 2011. Following those exchanges, several PCM service providers in Singapore introduced their services and practices to FPG. A Formosa subsidiary, formed from such collaborations, Formosa Technologies Corporation, who is the developer of software systems for the Formosa group, has businesses in Zibo / City, Shandong, China. Zibo City has many small private refineries and chemical plants (nicknamed "teapot refineries" as opposed to larger establishments, such as China National Petroleum Corporation), of which HSE, operations efficiency and maintenance/ reliability are deemed not up to mark. The Zibo City government is taking the lead to

objective of accepting the subsidise these private operators to upgrade and one of the initiatives is to arrange a study visit to Singapore.

The two-day visit, facilitated by ASPRI, and supported by SCIC and PCS, kicked off on 10 August 2017, with an introduction to Singapore's Energy & Chemicals industry by the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB). EDB presented an overview on Singapore's economics including the economic contribution of the process authorities, was also highlighted as a success industry, as well as portraying a strong tripartite partnership (collaboration among unions, employers and the government) within the industry.

> ASPRI gave an introduction and its key milestones in propelling the growth of the PCM sector in Singapore. In levelling-up competency and development of workforce,



SCOPE NEWSLETTER- 9



Bernard Leong



ASPRI also covered briefly the training regime in Singapore through its training division, Institute of Process Industry (IPI), comprising 13 skill sets.

This was followed by a presentation by GM (Plant), Er. Lucas Ng HK, on a topic aptly titled "Always be Prepared - Anticipate - Resolve", covering various areas ranging from safety, security, operations and reliability management, sharing excellent insights on process safety and reliability. He emphasised that asset owners must have adequate knowledge of own facilities and processes to ensure overall integrity and reliability. Owners must also learn lessons from past incidents elsewhere to speed up their learning curve, and should never neglect ignition sources as many catastrophic incidents were due to presence of ignition sources following loss of containment.

Er. Ng also stressed on the benefits of trade associations, and close collaboration and consultation approach with regulatory authorities. PCS, as a SCIC Responsible Care Leadership Award recipient, shares its practices and experience, at various sharing platforms. PCS is also among the handful of leading companies in SCIC, having several staff serving key appointments within SCIC, among them, he is serving as Deputy Chairman, Chemical Standards Committee of the Singapore Standards Council.

The delegation was hosted to a site visit by PCS on 11 August 2017, where SCIC's Ms Agmer Lee shared SCIC's role and thrusts, activities and Responsible Care® programme in Singapore.

The visit brings ASPRI, SCIC and supporting organisations one step closer in promoting regionalisation. All parties are indeed happy with this budding relationship with Shandong, keeping an open mind and exploring ways to achieve a win-win situation for all.



# JURONG ISLAND DRAGON BOATT RACE







After many years of participating in the Jurong Island Dragon Boat (JIDB) annual race, PCS dragon boat team, PCS Spitfire, won our second gold. In the final race on 29 July 17, our Veteran (over 40s) team held off and beat strong teams like ExxonMobil, Land Transport Authority (LTA), Ministry of National Development (MND) and Defence Science Organization (DSO), to win in a time of 57.84 seconds!

also participated in the Open Category. Our gallant Open team raced in the heats and repechage, but was not able to advance further in the face of traditionally strong teams from ExxonMobil, LTA, and SCDF. Still, we put up a great fight and did not allow the other teams to relax.

Our Veterans' gold was to add to our first gold won in the 2011 plate final in the Mixed category. Over the years, PCS managed a silver in 2009 (Mixed), a bronze in 2013 (Veteran) and a silver in 2014 (Veteran).

After a hiatus in 2015 and 2016. PCS participated in this year's JIDB race, held on 29 July 2017 at the Lower Seletar Reservoir. A total of 43 teams from 19 companies (on JI) and 3 invitee companies (MND, LTA and DSO) took part in the races in the Women's, Mixed, Open, Veteran and Management categories. The organizers were the staff of JTC and the main sponsors for the event are ExxonMobil and Air Liquide.



The race ceremony started with the CEO of JTC, Mr Png Cheong Boon, presenting sponsorship plagues to the various companies. Our MD, Mr Yonemura received the plague on PCS' behalf. This was followed by the traditional opening ritual of the JIDB race - the "dotting of the dragon's eyes" by senior officers from JTC, Exxon Mobil and Air Liquide.

The event was carnival-like and had a colourful look, with many teams from the various companies coming together to mingle,

bond and challenge each other in the different categories. The teams donned their own designed outfits, adding to the many splashes of colour visible along the reservoir front. To kick-start the event, a lively mass work-out for all participants was conducted by able-bodied instructors. Indeed, it was a fun way to loosen our joints and stretch our muscles.

Besides the races, there was also an art contest for the children, keeping our young friends happily engaged while their parents and older siblings raced each other on the breezy waters on the reservoir. Balloons were also given out by the kind sponsors from Air Liquide.

As soon as the races started, the atmosphere became a wee bit more intense with increased rivalry amongst the teams. On the reservoir, the starter's shouts of "Are you

continued on page 11



### **EMPLOYEE NEWS**

### LONG SERVICE Presentation on 10 & 11 October 2017 Award

Chia Kok Wee Marcus	Maintenance	
Ho Yeow Hsing	Technology & Optimization	
10 Years		
Cai Xinglai Lionel	Engineering	
Ng Chai Ling	Technology & Optimization	
25 Years		
Joyce Lee	Marketing/Sales	
30 Years		
Cheryl Liew	HR & Admin	
Alice Tan	Marketing/Sales	
35 Years		
Janet Ng	HR & Admin	
Koh Teck Guan	Maintenance	
Janie Ang	HSF	

HEARTIEST CONGRA			births		•
NAME	FUNCTION	SPOUSE	NAME	FUNCTION	NEW BORN
Muhd Haiqal bin Masri	Olefin I	Neny Hariany bte Razali	Almahdi bin Anuar	Fire & Security	Girl

#### continued from page 10

ready?' "Attention", and then the blast of the horn were heard over and over again, signaling the start of the many exciting races. On the land, supporters' cameras were heard clicking away amidst the many shouts of encouragement. Many gathered near the finishing line, cheering and excited over the neck-to-neck finishes of the races.

In the preceding months to JIDB 2017, our PCS dragon boat paddlers trained relentlessly on Saturday mornings at the Kallang Water



SCOPE NEWSLETTER- 10 -3rd Quarter 2017



From left: Joyce Lee, Alice Tan, Foo Siang Tien (GMC), Cheryl Liew & Janet Ng



From Left: Cai Xinglai Lionel, Ho Yeow Hsing, Janie Ang , Lucas Ng (GMP), Ng Chai Ling & Koh Teck Guan

Sports Centre along the Kallang River, and often under the hot sun. In July our trainings intensified as additional trainings were held on Wednesday afternoons at the Pandan Reservoir. Thank you paddlers for your hardwork and sacrifice!

> We hope that more PCSians will come forward and join the dragon boat team. As an exercise, there is no better sport than dragon boating to

build up strength, stamina, and "working" the heart ... and gaining strong muscles on tanned bodies. We are proud of what our paddlers have achieved in JIDB 2017. This year we have new and young paddlers in our teams and the challenge and racing experience would definitely inspire and spur them to train hard for the JIDB race next year.

Lastly we would like to thank our senior management for their support of the PCS Spitfire Dragon Boat team, and our managers for giving us time-off to train on the Pandan Reservoir. And not to forget our many PCSians supporters who were present on the race day to lend us their relentless support. Thank you all!

# Multiple Nat Geo Experience in **South Africa**



Joyce Lee Marketing & Sales

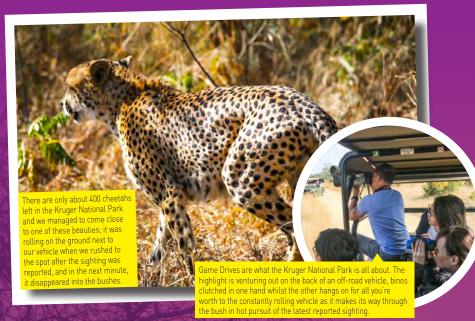
Imagine a vast open landscape with a herd of buffalos running through the bushes, kicking up a mini-sandstorm; or a leopard opening its jaws and sinking its sharp canines into a dead rhinoceros. Those scenes are just one among the many that have etched lasting impressions in my mind during my South African adventure in June. It was my first safari experience and it felt like I had literally walked into a National Geographic documentary.



he Lion King.

he Kruger National Park - one of the largest game reserves on the Africa continent, is a short flight away from Cape Town. Covering over two million hectares, it is an extremely good place for spotting big games. We were very fortunate to have a wellseasoned safari guide, who together with his eagle-eye vision and supersonic driving of the safari vehicle, enabled us to spot animals far and near, regardless in the day or pitch-dark night. Beyond the usual herds of impalas, kudos, zebras and giraffes, the excitement that kept us on the edge of our seats was spotting the Big Five - the Africa lion, African elephant, Cape buffalo, leopard and rhinoceros. Talk about thanking our lucky stars!

Seeing the animals in the natural, wideopen habitats and visiting the educational Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, this trip reinforced my belief that animals have a right to live on this planet as much as mankind does. They should not be pushed to the edge of extinction from habitat loss for the sake of economic progress.



Besides a 4-day safari-trip, the Boulders Beach in Simon's Town, along the scenic drive from Cape Town to Cape Point, is also worth visiting. A boardwalk winds around the breeding ground for the 2000 plus African penguins and every now and then, a cute penguin would be waddling beside me. It was such a relaxing and peaceful experience viewing the penguins as they swam ashore in batches at dusk, wave after wave in the turquoise waters.

Viewing Great Whites up close in a shark cage was another unforgettable experience. We had an early start at 3 am from Cape Town we waited patiently and stayed alert for any locked eyes on our first shark which cruised in gracefully. The excitement on board could be felt as our first cage of eight divers quickly entered the waters. When it was my turn in the freezing 14 deg C waters, my enthusiasm was rewarded tenfold as I witnessed with my very own eyes, one lone shark leisurely swimming pass our cage. In total, we encountered

four different Great Whites around 3 meters each, taking their turn in passing





by our vessel. One of the sharks even tried to entertain us by trying to get hold of the bait line several times and refusing to let go once he bit it!

South Africa has a plethora of activities and sceneries to offer. Be it the prominent UNESCO World Heritage site of Table Mountain, or the and wine, or simply being at one with nature and experiencing unrivaled panoramic views and magical encounters with the wildlife; Nat Geo wins hands down for me.



2. At Kisk Behaviour dis On Path . ANSWERS for the two BBS Special Puzzles are

age a few times.