

**SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN DR TONY TAN AT SUN CLUB'S 5th  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT  
10.00AM AT SUNGEI BULOH**

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**Professor Leo Tan  
Chairman of the Garden City Fund**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Boys and Girls**

**Welcome to the 5th anniversary celebrations of the SUN Club  
Programme jointly organised by SPH Foundation and NParks today.**

**Five years ago, the SUN Club programme, which stands for “Special  
projects to Understand Nature”, was founded to bring tailor-made nature  
appreciation projects to students with special needs.**

**Before this, there had been similar programmes for mainstream students.**

**We believe that nature is for everyone, and that our special needs students  
will benefit from more interaction with the environment.**

**It was at this very same place at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve that SUN  
Club was launched by Professor Leo Tan, the then Chairman of NParks.**

**Five years on, the programme has touched more than 3,500 students  
from over 13 special schools, including those present here today.**

**Last year, despite the H1N1 epidemic, a total of 760 students benefitted from the 32 sessions organised in the six parks, namely, East Coast Park, Fort Canning Park, Pulau Ubin, Pasir Ris Park, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and of course, Sungei Buloh.**

**Today, the SUN Club programme is still the only large scale nature outreach programme for special needs children in Singapore.**

**We hope that through this programme, the children can step out from their homes and schools to explore the great outdoors.**

**We also hope that more organisations and individuals will be inspired to do something to enhance the quality of life for those who are physically or intellectually disabled.**

**I am heartened to hear that SUN Club has a ready and committed pool of volunteers who would regularly bring the children out to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of nature.**

**Some of these are students and retirees.**

**Others are working professionals who take leave from work to volunteer their services for the programme.**

**Some of the SUN Club volunteers are present today.**

**I thank you, as well as the nature guides, principals and teachers, for making nature come alive for our children.**

**Conservation is one of the key areas which the SPH Foundation promotes and supports actively.**

**Besides our involvement with the NParks in the SUN Club programme, we are also long time sponsors of the Singapore Wildlife Reserves, as well as of other ad hoc conservation projects.**

**SUN Club is unique in that it is not just an environmental project. It also covers the Foundation's two other areas of support - that is, education and charity.**

**The children get to go beyond the classrooms to learn more about Singapore's rich biodiversity, and document their thoughts and feelings in simple journals.**

**Aids to learning, such as worksheets and notebooks, are provided as part of a "Discover Nature Pack".**

**The educational field trips also serve to enrich and enhance the lives of these children, and promote volunteerism.**

**Together with our partner NParks, SPH Foundation is committed to make SUN Club bigger and better.**

**For the first five years of the programme, the focus had been on raising awareness of our parks and reserves.**

**We will now enter into the next phase of the programme, which is to promote active learning with nature.**

**With this aim in mind, SUN Club members will get to be involved in a myriad of hands-on activities.**

**There will be horticultural activities like re-potting of native flora, planting and restoration works.**

**They can also take part in cultural activities like traditional games, ulam or malay herbal salad appreciation, and traditional prawn farming.**

**Some of them will be roped in to help save the earth with conservation efforts like weeding and coastal clean ups.**

**There will also be arts and crafts using the gifts of nature, such as patchwork and quilt design, making of photo frames as well as potpourri.**

**Besides the new activities in the pipeline, we will also include new parks.**

**On top of the six parks covered in the programme, SUN Club members will get to visit HortPark, a one-stop gardening hub, for the first time.**

**They will go on a garden tour of this 23-hectare park, and learn the basics of how to take care of their own potted plants.**

**This means that regular SUN club participants can look forward to a new venue and experience.**

**With the close partnership between SPH Foundation and NParks, I am sure the programme will flourish in the years to come.**

**I also hope that more special needs students will venture out of their classrooms to learn about the wonders of nature.**

**I wish all of you a pleasant morning ahead, and for SUN Club to grow from strength to strength.**

**Thank you.**

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