



Media release

Monday 17th October

Singapore Leads Global 'Urgent Run' for Toilet Workers

Fun run on 5th November to celebrate UN World Toilet Day

Registrations are now open for the Urgent Run Singapore, a 5km fun run on Saturday 5th November in East Coast Park. The run, organised by the World Toilet Organization, draws attention to the global sanitation problem and calls for urgent action amongst the world community to tackle this silent crisis. The facts are grim; 2.4 billion people do not have access to proper sanitation, 1 billion people still defecate in the open and 1,000 children die every day due to poor sanitation.

The Urgent Run Singapore is the first in a series of global events organised in different places around the world leading up to the World Toilet Day on 19th November. Singapore was given this privilege because the World Toilet Organization and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs successfully lobbied for the day to be designated as World Toilet Day at the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly. All funds raised at the event will go towards supporting World Toilet Organization's crucial sanitation and advocacy work.

The theme for this year's UN World Toilet Day is "Toilets and Jobs" which highlights the importance of sanitation in the workplace. In line with the theme, the Singapore Urgent Run, in collaboration with NTUC U Care Centre, will be advocating for greater respect of our unsung heroes through the "Appreciating U" movement. This movement aims to raise awareness on the contributions of low-wage workers to our society, including the unsung heroes who keep our toilets clean. The key message "Value and Respect every worker" for a more inclusive society, will be shared with Urgent Run participants.

This year's Urgent Run will feature a goody bag with an exclusive runner's t-shirt, a toilet-themed fancy dress competition and prize giveaways. Guest of Honour, Mr Seah Kian Peng, CEO of NTUC Fairprice Co-operative Ltd and Member of Parliament for Marine Parade GRC, will be flagging off the run.

This is the third year for the annual event spearheaded by World Toilet Organization. Last year, there were 33 global Urgent Run events in 22 countries including Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Pakistan and Vietnam, involving thousands of people in communities across the globe, with more events expected this year.

What is the Urgent Run?

The Urgent Run Singapore is World Toilet Organization's fun run event to draw attention to the global sanitation crisis. This year's event will feature:

- A 5 km run, with a fancy dress option (preferably sanitation-themed of course).
- An exclusive Urgent Run pack including a designer runner's t-shirt.



- Guest of Honour Mr Seah Kian Peng, CEO of NTUC Fairprice Co-operative Ltd and Member of Parliament for Marine Parade GRC will be flagging off the run.
- Due to popular demand, we've decided to include finisher medals for all finishers.
- An Instaprint booth and an exhibition on local and global sanitation issues on the day.
- Attractive prizes to be won on the day for the best-dressed, great lucky draw prizes and other interactive games.
- And what's more, all funds raised will support World Toilet Organization's crucial sanitation and advocacy work.

When is the Urgent Run? The event will kick off in the picturesque East Coast Park on the 5th November from 8.00am to 12 noon.

How can I join? Go to www.urgentrun.com to find out more and register. Special prices for NTUC members apply until 24th October: \$25 for students; \$35 for adults, with great pricing for groups and special rates for the silver generation (over 55).

ABOUT THE URGENT RUN

The Urgent Run, World Toilet Organization's annual event for UN World Toilet Day, is a global run to call for urgent action to end the sanitation crisis. The event brings together communities around the world for a sanitation-themed run or walk in November, in the lead-up to UN World Toilet Day on 19th November. In 2015, the second year for the global event, 33 events took place in 22 different countries. This year the Urgent Run aims to raise an even bigger 'stink' for sanitation. Find out more and join the global 'movement' at www.urgentrun.com

ABOUT WORLD TOILET DAY

In 2013, a joint initiative between the Government of Singapore and World Toilet Organization led to Singapore's first UN resolution, entitled "Sanitation for All", calling for collective action to address the global sanitation crisis through the commemoration of World Toilet Day. The resolution was co-sponsored and adopted by 122 countries at the 67th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. On July 24, 2013, World Toilet Day on 19th November became an official UN day. Each year UN World Toilet Day calls on the global community to do more to address the sanitation crisis. The theme for 2016 is 'Toilets and Jobs'. More details can be found on the World Toilet Day website here: <http://www.worldtoiletday.info/>

ABOUT WORLD TOILET ORGANIZATION

World Toilet Organization (WTO) is a global non-profit working towards a world with a clean, safe toilet and sanitation for everyone, everywhere, at all times. Our mission is to continue to build the global sanitation movement through collaborative action that inspires and drives demand for sanitation, and provides innovative solutions to achieve sustainable sanitation for all. WTO has commemorated its founding day, 19 November, as World Toilet Day since 2001. In 2013 the UN adopted 19 November as UN World Toilet Day. WTO achieved special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2013. www.worldtoilet.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jeremy Khoo, Communications Manager, World Toilet Organization

+65 6352 8921, jeremy@worldtoilet.org