

MEDIA RELEASE

Inter-Trade Collaboration and Expanded Programme at WasteMET Asia Symposium 2017 for a More Sustainable Living Environment

Singapore, 19 October 2017 – Themed *REINVENT: Transform the Industry*, the 4th edition of WasteMET Asia Symposium (WMAS), a leading international waste management event in Asia opens its doors on 19 October 2017 at MAX Atria @ Singapore EXPO. Organised by the Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS) and SingEx Exhibitions, this year's event will see seven Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to identify individual industry challenges and develop joint projects and solutions for the benefit of their member-companies as well as to promote the business prospects of their respective sectors and contribute to a more sustainable living environment.

The TACs taking part in the signing ceremony for the MOU on inter-TAC collaboration on the morning of 19 October are (*in alphabetical order*):

- Association of Property and Facilities Managers [APFM]
- Container Depot and Logistics Association (Singapore) [CDAS]
- Landscape Industry Association of Singapore [LIAS]
- Singapore Food Manufacturers' Association [SFMA]
- Singapore Industrial Automation Association [SIAA]
- Singapore infocomm Technology Federation [SiTF]
- Singapore Water Association [SWA]
- Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore [WMRAS] (Lead TAC)

Gracing the occasion will be Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and Ministry of Health. Accompanying Dr Khor, who is also WMRAS' Advisor, to witness the signing of the MOU by the TAC presidents/chairmen or their senior council members, will be Mr Ronnie Tay, CEO of the National Environment Agency (NEA), Ms Chew Mok Lee, Assistant Chief Executive, Capabilities & Partnership of SPRING Singapore and Mr Charles Ho Nai Chuen, Vice-President of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI).

Besides the signing of the MOU on inter-TAC collaboration and the conference proper, this year's 2-day event from 19 to 20 October will have about 20 exhibitors showcasing IoT solutions and robotics in response to the existing labour crunch and the need to reinvent business models to increase productivity. Key speakers at the symposium will come from Microsoft, Tata Communications, Volvo Trucks and Hyundai Autoever.

Finally, in the evening of 19 October, Guest-of-Honour, Dr Khor will return to Max Atria @ Singapore EXPO to present the WMRAS Excellence Awards to recognise and reward 10 individual “Unsung Heroes” and corporate winners from the waste management and recycling industry for excelling in their frontline operations work, contributing to environmental sustainability and promoting safety and health in the work environment.

Dr Khor will also be presenting certificates to the graduates of WMRAS Academy’s 1st Professional Course in Waste Management & Resource Recovery for PMETs, developed and delivered in collaboration with Griffith University of Queensland, Australia. Prior to this course, WMRAS Academy only developed and conducted Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) courses for frontline operations workers. However, in response to the industry’s need for training to allow PMETs working in the waste management and recycling sector to upgrade their skills and knowledge and promote their career prospects, as well as to professionalise the industry and attract more Singaporeans to join its PMET ranks, the new course was developed.

So, from May to August this year, Griffith lecturers were flown into Singapore to impart their environmental studies knowledge and practices from an international and Australian perspective to 17 PMET-course participants from 11 local waste management and recycling companies. To provide the students with a more holistic view of how waste and recycling businesses are managed, WMRAS Academy also organised a number of sharing sessions with industry practitioners and took them on a couple of field trips.

Said Ms Melissa Tan, *PBM*, Chairman of WMRAS, *“SMEs faced with a limited local market coupled with manpower and space constraints must think out of the box, especially in these economically challenging times. We have to find new, innovative ways to run and grow our businesses; reinvent and transform our industries.”*

She added, *“WMAS 2017 exemplifies the growing need for waste management and recycling companies to adopt digital technologies in order to achieve sustainable growth and yet optimise productivity and deliver more to their clients with end-to-end solutions. This was also the motivating factor for WMRAS to take the lead to initiate the collaborative arrangement with the other TACs. With each TAC’s openness, commitment and most importantly, a positive “can-do” spirit, and with the support of SPRING, NEA and SCCCI; I’m confident that our MOU will result in joint projects that will bring benefits to our respective member-businesses and upgrade our industries”.*

Mr Adrian Sng, General Manager of SingEx Exhibitions said, *“Digitalisation and technology are continuously disrupting industries and communities at large; we are seeing a paradigm shift in the waste management industry to reinvent businesses with the introduction of new technology in the Asian marketplace. We are excited to once again work with WMRAS in providing an all-encompassing and borderless platform for businesses, government, academia and associations to connect and explore business opportunities across Asia.”*

To attend WMAS 2017 or conduct interviews before 19 October, please contact:

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About Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS)

Established on 8 August 2001, the Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS) aims to professionalise and develop a leading waste management and recycling industry in Asia.

With the aim to promote business networking and best practices amongst members, the Association has been organising activities such as overseas mission trips, seminars, conferences, exhibitions and professional sharing sessions etc. As an Approved Training Organisation (ATO), WMRAS also develops and conducts Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) training courses (some of which are mandatory for licence renewal) for frontline operations workers. In 2017, the Griffith University – WMRAS Academy Professional Course in Waste Management and Resource Recovery was conducted for the 1st time for PMETs.

To foster information exchange, the Association has organised regular dialogue sessions with relevant authorities to keep members updated on regulatory and policy developments. Meetings with the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, National Environment Agency, Ministry of Manpower, Economic Development Board, International Enterprise Singapore and SPRING Singapore, have allowed members to feedback their concerns and discuss how the public and private sectors can work together to address the issues raised.

In 2015, to expand the business opportunities for its local member-companies and to promote the transfer of knowledge and technology, WMRAS initiated the Asia Pacific Waste and Environment Alliance (APWEA). The MOU was signed at the 3rd WasteMET Asia Symposium by the trade associations from six territories. In 2017, the number of APWEA member-associations increased to 11. The same year, WMRAS took the lead in initiating an MOU on collaboration with other Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) to grow their respective member-businesses and upgrade their industries.

For more information, please visit: www.wmras.org.sg

About SingEx Exhibitions

SingEx Exhibitions is a subsidiary of SingEx Holdings, and is wholly owned by Singapore's investment company, Temasek Holdings. The company harnesses insights and its strategic networks to organise and manage a series of trade exhibitions and conferences in various industries, including automotive, environment, e-commerce and logistics, technology, healthcare and lifestyle. These events aim to connect businesses in Asia and globally, and facilitate business matching with opportunities and knowledge sharing.

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