



**Outward Bound
Singapore**



Photo Release

5 March 2016

OBS Project IsLand-A-Hand in honour of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew's legacy of a clean and green city

More than 300 young volunteers lent their hands in various environmental conservation initiatives organised by Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) at Pulau Ubin and Coney Island this morning, to commemorate the first death anniversary of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and honour his legacy of a clean and green Singapore.

2 Debunking the myth that young Singaporeans lack idealism, these youths aged between 15 and 35 years old proactively did their part for nature through reforestation, coastal and swamp cleanup, invasive weed clearing, flotsam fence maintenance, species survey and bird box construction. This is the second time OBS has organised this large-scale outdoor conservation classroom, with overwhelming participation.

3 “Service is an integral part of OBS programmes, as reflected in the Outward Bound motto ‘To serve, to strive and not to yield’. We have always encouraged participants to care for the environment, and this is an extension of our efforts to harness the shared passion of the community to inspire young people to take greater ownership of our environment and shared spaces,” said Nicholas Conceicao, Executive Director of OBS.

4 After the conservation efforts, Mr Lim Liang Jim, Director of National Parks Board shared about the balance between urban development and biodiversity conservation in an educational talk to the volunteers. This was followed by a *SGfuture* engagement session where youths contributed ideas on how they could take action to promote greater environmental consciousness, responsibility and stewardship.

5 Bringing environmental initiatives into the urban landscape to make them more relatable to youths, encouraging schools to engage in a more extensive discussion of green initiatives with students and supporting more environmental ground-up initiatives from youths are just some ideas generated during the focus group discussion.

6 The day ended with a closing address by Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Mr Baey Yam Keng, who lauded the efforts of the youth volunteers to conserve and protect the natural environment.



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7 To further encourage youths to appreciate the environment, OBS will also be opening its campus to the public for the first time for a series of March school holiday Nature Appreciation Programme. A total of 11 workshops will be organised featuring activities such as nature treasure hunts, mangrove appreciation and nature photography to promote family bonding and a greater understanding of Pulau Ubin's history, geography and ecology. Members of public could register for the free workshops at <http://bit.ly/NAPinOBS>

High resolution pictures could be downloaded from <http://we.tl/sS2C2vChxG>



Volunteers conducting a species survey at Coney Island using the NParks SGBioAtlas, covering a total distance of more than 4Km as part of the Outward Bound Singapore Project IsLand-A-Hand event.



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Volunteers cleaning up more than 1,342kg of trash from the mangrove and northern shores of Coney Island as well as the southern shores of Pulau Ubin in the largest outdoor conservation classroom organised by Outward Bound Singapore.



Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Mr Baey Yam Keng, joining volunteers in the SG*future* engagement during the Outward Bound Singapore Project IsLand-A-Hand event.

Volunteers' Profiles

Total Number of Volunteers:

- 336

Age Range:

- 15 to 35 Years Old

Various activities happening:

1) Reforestation

Total Number of Saplings planted:

- 40

Total Number of Volunteers for Reforestation:

- 78

2) Coastal and Swamp Cleanup



Total Area Span:

- 400m stretch along Southern Shore of Pulau Ubin and Northern Shore of Coney Island

Total Number of Volunteers for Coastal and Swamp Cleanup:

- 145 volunteers

3) Flotsam Fence

Location

- Northern Shore of Coney Island, Beach C

Length of Flotsam Fence created

- 100 metres

Total Number of Volunteers for Flotsam Fence:

- 20 volunteers

4) Invasive Weed Clearing

Total Area Span:

- Around 500m² around Ketam campsite, South West Shores of Pulau Ubin

Total Number of Volunteers for Invasive Plant Management:

- 75 volunteers

5) Species Survey using Bio Atlas App

Total Distance Covered:

- 4Km on Coney Island Park

Total Number of Volunteers for Species Survey

- 10 volunteers

6) Bird Box Construction

Total Boxes constructed:

- 13 boxes

Total Number of Volunteers for Bird Box Construction:

- 25 volunteers



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SGfuture engagement session questions

1. What is the current state of our youths' involvement in environmental works?
2. How can we (NYC/OBS) support youth advocacy, and inspire actions towards environmental consciousness (I Know), responsibility (I Want) and stewardship (I Lead)?

Media Requests

- NYC will also be pleased to facilitate media interviews with volunteers and OBS spokesperson. Please contact the media contact persons below for assistance:

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About the National Youth Council (全国青年理事会)

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard, and have the ability to influence and make a difference to the world. Together with our partners, we develop a dynamic and engaging environment where young people can realise their aspirations and play a part in making Singapore an endearing home for all.

About Outward Bound Singapore (新加坡外展训练中心)

With more than 45 years of legacy, Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) is the pioneer and leader in outdoor education in Singapore, providing adventure-based experiential learning to help develop rugged and resilient youths. From 1 January 2015, OBS is part of the strengthened National Youth Council to drive youth development and broaden outreach to young Singaporeans and youth sector organisations.