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MAKING WAY TOGETHER

2022 KEY HIGHLIGHTS



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Nicholas Conceicao
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Outward Bound Singapore

In 2022, as Singapore transitions to new normal with COVID-19, our operations moved smoothly on an upward trajectory with greater activity. We were poised to get back into the full swing of things because of our constant [transformative efforts](#) – in streamlining work processes and upscaling our staff's digital skillsets – over the past two years.

Not yielding to the challenges faced, we shifted seamlessly from a non-residential two-day [Ministry of Education-OBS Challenge \(MOC\)](#) programme to a residential format when safe management measures allowed for it. We have resumed the full five-day residential MOC in 2023 – with greater rigour than before – having our staff upgraded both [hard and soft skills](#) during the hiatus.

OBS has also consistently kept external stakeholders and our alumni engaged with various events, such as the [MOC Parents' Webinar](#), our [coastal clean-up in partnership with the Singapore Sailing Federation](#) and [collaborations with local nature groups](#), building up a strong community of partners as we continue to bring young Singaporeans on a unique journey of self-discovery and inner transformation.

2022 was a big year for us as we celebrated [OBS55](#). We took the opportunity to honour our colourful history with several ground-up initiatives. Some noteworthy initiatives included the RIOT (Round Island on Trailer) 110km performed by Rennie Iskandar Suprayitno and the scaling of the Ama Dablam summit by Khalique Arshad. I was reminded of our vision of building '[Inspired Individuals, Transformed Communities](#)', and heartened to note that our commitment to the outdoor adventure has remained steadfast over the years.

In tandem with the [Singapore Green Plan 2030](#) to advance the nation's agenda on sustainable development, I am proud to share that OBS will be building ecological literacy and capabilities to support the plan. These include rainwater harvesting and waste composting initiatives, as well as [Environmental & Sustainability Education \(E&SE\)](#) training programmes that empower our people with the knowledge to share with the many youths who go through the OBS experience.

Looking back on 2022, I am grateful for the support that was shown to us by our valuable industry partners and stakeholders – especially at the inaugural [National Outdoor Education Conference](#) jointly organised by Republic Polytechnic, OBS, Ministry of Education and Outdoor Learning & Adventure Education Association. OBS continues to strive for higher standards in outdoor adventure learning, and forge ahead to uplift the outdoor adventure education sector.

May we continue 'To Serve, To Strive and Not to Yield'!

A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

Some lessons are best learnt from the great outdoors.

Since 1967, OBS has inspired more than 650,000 individuals, filling them with enough memories and lessons learnt, to reflect and act upon. The OBS experience is packed with adventure and learning moments one cannot find in a four-walled classroom, guiding individuals to discover and overcome obstacles both in the outdoors and within themselves.



VISION

Inspired Individuals, Transformed Communities



MISSION

Developing mentally and physically rugged youths to be active citizens inspired to serve the community



OBS MOTTO

To Serve, To Strive, and Not to Yield

”

There is more in us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less.

Kurt Hahn
Founder of Outward Bound

2022 AT A GLANCE

32



Types of programmes conducted

20,772



Total youth outreach ranging from schooling to working adults

24



OBS partnerships* formed

*Organisations we offer programmes to

FEEDBACK ON OBS EXPERIENCE IN 2022



COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Provided me with a positive course experience overall

4.64



95% rated 4 and above



OVERALL

I feel that the course objectives have been achieved

4.36



91% rated 4 and above



SATISFACTION

I am satisfied with my course experience

4.27



86% rated 4 and above



WHAT THEY SAY

“As one of the sea expedition leaders on Day 2 of the programme, I embraced my responsibilities to encourage teammates who were lagging behind and got the whole fleet moving together. I learned that one leadership style cannot be applied to everyone and I have to lead different people in different ways. I would be glad to come back to OBS again to experience more of the outdoors.”

Gan Boey Lai

Temasek Polytechnic Student

“Experiencing (outdoor activities and OBS) first makes it easier – in terms of perspective-taking and the pedagogy needed – to ensure students have an enriching learning experience. I am now more confident of the impact I can make on my future students and how I can help shape the society. Overall, I loved my Outward Bound experience and I would definitely be keen to take part in another programme if given the opportunity”

Omar Danish Bin Idris

Physical Educational & Sports Science student (Teacher Trainee)

“I am very grateful to OBS for partnering Republic Polytechnic (RP) because the 21-day LSA allows our students to hone their leadership skills. Being away from home, they also get the opportunity to appreciate their parents as well as the finer things in life. This camp is an opportunity for them to figure out which values are important to them, and I’m sure they have grown as a person in terms of their values.”

Goy Soon Lan

Director, School of Sports Health and Leisure (RP)

RITE OF PASSAGE MOE-OBS CHALLENGE PROGRAMME

2022 OVERVIEW

83 
Total school
outreach

18,560 
Total number of
MOC participants

38 
Total number
of runs held

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES



Be able to deal with challenges positively through self-directed learning and making right choices to influence their circumstances

RESILIENCE

4.13



82% rated 4 and above

CONFIDENT PERSON

4.09



80% rated 4 and above



Commit to play an active role to improve the environment and community

CONCERNED CITIZEN

4.10



82% rated 4 and above

“During the expedition, I learnt about the different wildlife in Singapore as well as the severity of plastic pollution at the beaches. I am now more aware of where the plastic I throw goes to and will try my best to reduce my plastic usage.”

Ethan Wong
Hwa Chong Institute



LEARNING FROM THE GREAT OUTDOORS

With the resumption of our overnight residential camps from May 2022, Secondary 3 students were able to experience an overnight camp programme for the first time in two years, albeit a slightly different format than before.

The 2022 programme was structured as a 2-day residential course as opposed to the pre-pandemic five-day format. The students participated in a variety of outdoor activities – such as land and sea expeditions – designed with the outcomes of Resilience, Concerned Citizen and Confident Person despite the shortened programme duration.

Removed from the rigours of their academic lives and without technology in sight, they were better able to immerse fully in the programme as they forged stronger ties and deepened friendships through challenging shared experiences. In addition, components such as journaling and reflection sharing were specially designed to aid them in identifying key lessons to be learnt from each of these activities.

As a key contributor to OBS' goal of developing holistic and well-rounded individuals, the MOE-OBS Challenge remains a valuable opportunity to help youths in Singapore develop critical life skills that can be applied beyond their OBS experience.

RESUMPTION OF THE FULL 5 DAYS MOE-OBS CHALLENGE PROGRAMME IN JANUARY 2023!

Despite the shortened duration of MOC in 2022, course objectives were achieved for **91%** of students, **85%** were satisfied with the course and **more than half** look forward to the resumption of the full 5-day residential MOC in January 2023. We are pleased to announce the resumption of the full 5-day MOE-OBS Challenge programme in January 2023. From 2026, all Secondary 3 students will be given the opportunity to attend the programme.



The MOE-OBS Challenge Programme serves as a shared experience for all Secondary 3 students, as part of the National Outdoor Adventure Education (NOAE) Masterplan.





CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF IMPACTING LIVES

Driven by passion and purpose, OBS staff embarked on several ground-up initiatives and physical challenges in honour of OBS' 55th Anniversary, embodying qualities like an enterprising curiosity and tenacity in pursuit.

- 55hours Community Service
- 55km Round-Tekong Kayak Expedition
- Ama Dablam Summit by Abdul Khalique Bin Arshad (Capability Development)
- Batch B0217 Trek 55km
- Coney Implementation Office Swim 55km
- Hair for Hope
- Nature Bound: 55 Perspectives
- OCC UTMB Mont Blanc by Alex Tan (Programmes Development)
- Partnership Engagement Run 11x5km
- Programmes Department Sail 55km
- RIOT 110km by Rennie Iskandar Suprayitno (Training Unit)

Click [here](#) to view the NatureBound book!



NATURE BOUND

Nature Bound is a handwritten and hand drawn book, created by the first batch of Environment and Sustainability Education coaches trained at OBS. It features 55 sharings of local flora and fauna that inspired our coaches. The book invites the reader to reflect on our connections with nature.



RIOT (ROUND ISLAND ON TRAILER) 110KM

In July, Rennie Iskandar Suprayitno, Assistant Director (Training Unit) / Master Instructor, successfully organised the Ubin 55km Ultra after four months of preparation. In August, he embarked on a longer solo run around Singapore (which he named "RIOT 110km") with the 'Trailwalker', an expedition modality in OBS programmes.

"After some time, it was just pure mental push," shares Iskandar. "The 110-kilometer route fits the OBS55 narrative nicely as a double-dare challenge, as well as the rhetoric of 'putting 110% effort' into any task. This also accords some limelight to our Trailwalker. I dedicate this run to past and present colleagues who had shaped and supported our mainland programme operations."

AMA DABLAM SUMMIT

Abdul Khalique Bin Arshad, Lead Training Consultant (Capability Development), was inspired to continue the tradition of accomplishing amazing mountaineering feats by seniors before him and for this, he picked Ama Dablam, which stands at a height of 6,812m. He picked the mountain which is technical and filled with a fair amount of uncertainties – in terms of erratic weather patterns, logistical issues, administrative issues and climbing conditions – a challenge worthy enough to be attempted. He shares a couple of important takeaways from the experience, which coincide with the OBS Workplan's theme of scaling peaks, achieving and celebrating successes:

1. The mind is as strong as you want it to be. "Despite the harshness and bitter coldness of winter, you have to seek the summer deep within yourself to push yourself forward'. This quote helped recalibrate my mind towards positive thinking and allowed me to push forward."
2. To inspire the next generation, OBS instructors need to ignite the flame of adventure within themselves and show that as long as we push hard enough, we can all conquer the mountain within us.



OBS is very supportive towards the development of her staff – whether through formal or informal means – as long as resources permit. This is the epitome of an organisation that embraces a culture of being learning-driven."

Abdul Khalique Bin Arshad

IN THE HEART OF OBS



In tandem with our 55th anniversary celebrations, we are honouring our celebrated history with a photo montage of OBS personnel from the past five-and-a-half decades, who form the core of our organisation. Can you spot any of your instructors, colleagues, participants or friends within these images?



ENHANCING SKILLS FOR GREATER SUCCESS

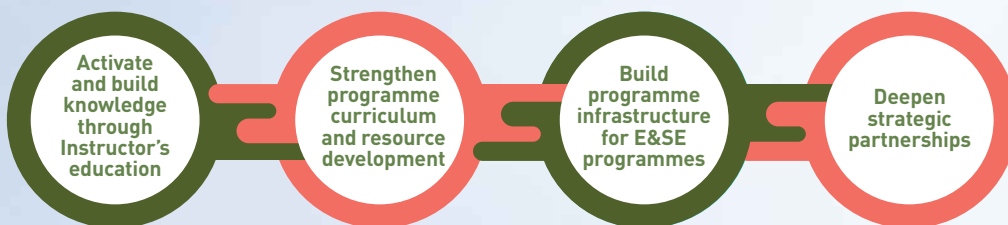


Outward Bound's classroom is the outdoors. Developing connections to the natural world and fostering respect and responsibility for the environment is an essential part of all Outward Bound courses around the world.

Extracted from OBI Global Impact Report 2020, Page 31

Since 1967, OBS has grown tremendously in paving the industry standards for risk assessment, as well as technical and soft skills. In view of the growing importance of environmental awareness, OBS launched the OBS Environment & Sustainability Education (E&SE) Framework to provide a structured approach in strengthening our staff's ecological literacy and capabilities to facilitate learning outcomes related to Concerned Citizen this year.

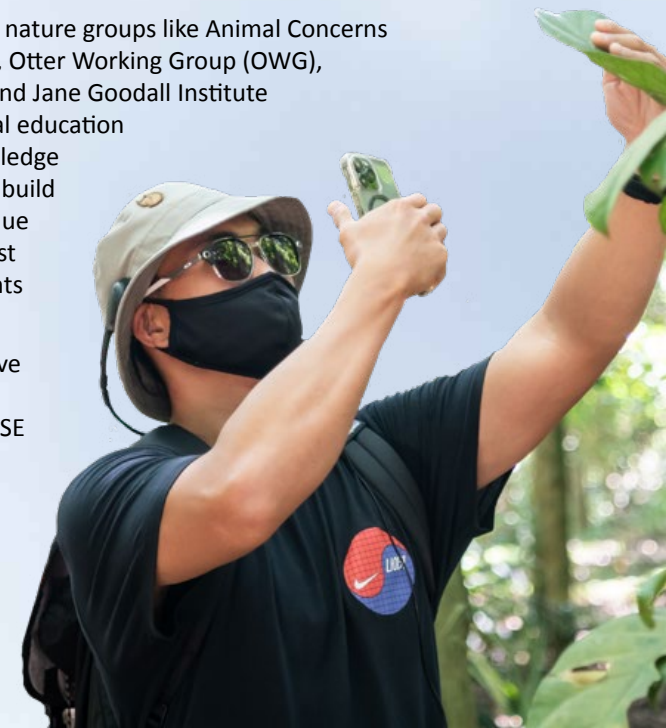
The OBS E&SE framework is built on **four pillars**:



OBS supports the Singapore Green Plan (SGP) 2030 by educating participants on SGP pillars like City in Nature, Sustainable Living, Energy Reset and Resilient Future.

Since its launch, OBS has partnered with nature groups like Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES), Otter Working Group (OWG), National University of Singapore (NUS) and Jane Goodall Institute (Singapore) to learn about environmental education technologies and resources. These knowledge sharing sessions in turn, enabled OBS to build a team of E&SE Coaches, who will continue to impart these E&SE knowledge and best practices to all Instructors and participants in our programmes.

Currently, there are 85 OBS staff who have attended at least seven of such sessions. Of these, 16 are the pioneer batch of E&SE Coaches who have spearheaded E&SE training, and who will be taking the lead in conducting workshops for other OBS staff in future. The plan is for all operational staff to be competent in E&SE by 2025.



TRAINERS IN FOCUS

The great outdoors is our classroom, and it is with this in mind that we recognise the need to equip our instructors with Environmental & Sustainability Education (E&SE) knowledge. Here, we find out more from three E&SE Coaches – who are also OBS instructors – about their respective E&SE journeys.



Follow Maurice's Instagram account (@SGWildLifeWonders) and see all the birds he has photographed in Singapore thus far.

MAURICE LEE JIAN RONG

I am part of OBS' pioneer batch of 16 E&SE coaches. Together with the Nature Society Singapore and other environmental workgroups, we conducted various flora and fauna workshops – of which one was about bird watching identification. It was through these workshops that I developed a strong interest in birdwatching and photography; with the hope to spread awareness, share knowledge and educate others about our local bird species.



SONIYA CHIN ZHEN YUE

I thought that my background in life sciences and farming would be applicable in my role as an instructor. However, at my first land expedition assessment, I realised that my environmental knowledge was very limited. Except for the Indian snakeweed, Simpoh Air, and Senduduk, I didn't know other trees that existed in the Pulau Ubin forest; and I could only recognise the call of the kingfisher out of the many birds that call the forest home. In the six months of E&SE training, I was able to relearn and improve my environmental awareness. Now armed with new knowledge, I feel that I can contribute more through environmental education at OBS.



In a group of like-minded individuals, it is highly motivating to help each other learn and improve together.



MUHD AWALLUDIN MISMAN

As the E&SE training went on, my knowledge and passion about the environment grew. These sessions also changed the way I interact with our participants, and now I involve them in activities that teach them the value of slowing down and enjoying nature, which is important in our fast-paced life. Currently, I am participating in the Youth Action Challenge under the E&SE category, which has allowed me to share my ideas and interact with others who are equally passionate about the environment. Recently, I joined the Singapore Bird Race with other E&SE coaches, which was a very memorable and enriching experience.



When others see your passion towards something, it will rub off on them slowly, and they might even be inspired to pick it up themselves.

OB(SUSTAINABILITY) IN ACTION

As an environmental steward, we are committed to protecting the natural environment while carrying out our programmes and maintaining our infrastructure. We have implemented some initiatives at OBS to try to shape a better world through conservation efforts and sustainability practices.

In land scarce Singapore, with most residents spending time in urban city space, we strongly believe it is increasingly important to develop a connection with nature and respect it.

COMPETENCY BUILDING ON ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION (E&SE)

In Q2 2022, OBS instructional staff learned about Singapore's water heritage and commitment to sustainable development through a learning journey to the Sustainable Singapore Gallery at Marina Barrage.

We partnered with nature groups such as Nature Society Singapore and Otter Watch Society on workshops to enhance our coaches' knowledge of E&SE topics, who could in turn pass this knowledge to other OBS staff and trainers.

SOLAR LANDSCAPING LIGHTS

12 sets of solar lights were installed in OBS Camp 1 on Pulau Ubin between Blk 3 and 10, minimising potential safety hazards at work by providing additional illumination while also saving on maintenance and utility cost. Instructors could also use them as talking points to raise awareness and inculcate a greater appreciation for releasable energy efforts.

REPLACING FLUORESCENT LIGHT TUBES WITH LED

We have completed the replacement of the fluorescent light tubes with more energy-efficient LED lighting across OBS campuses in December 2022.

FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING

We implemented an initiative to educate staff and students on reusable waste and reducing food waste. We also hope to use composted food waste to maintain the greenery in OBS Camp 1, thereby reducing carbon footprint and our need for synthetic fertilisers.

We started the first Bokashi composting (a process that converts food waste and similar organic matter into a soil amendment which adds nutrients and improves soil texture) trial in Q3 2022 to determine the most optimal composition of food waste for this composting method.

DEVELOPMENT OF IMPACTFUL E&S CONTENT TO SUPPORT THE SINGAPORE GREEN PLAN 2030

We aim to begin works in 2023 for the four new Citiponics Aqua Organic farming units for the Pulau Ubin campus. We are liaising with NParks on the Tree Planting initiatives at Pulau Ubin. Several sites around Camp 1 and 2 have been identified as possible tree planting spots, and we will begin deploying watches for mangrove/beach cleanups from January 2023.

HARVESTING RAINWATER

At Camp 1, we implemented a development project to harvest rainwater for washing equipment and landscape irrigation. The Programme Development unit has also finished the conceptual designs for rooftop rainwater harvesting systems at Camp 2 and ECC.

INSTALLATION OF WATER METERS

Water meters were installed at Camp 1 and 2 to collect water usage data for the monitoring and planning of conservation measures.

SAFE WATER GARDENS

With the MOE-OBS Challenge programme resuming in May 2022, we started trials for the Safe Water Garden concept at selected Ubin campsites to manage toileting issues in the wilderness. OBS will work alongside National University of Singapore for this project. By August 2023, we project to have the trial results data for analysis, and draft a proposal to scale up the project by 2025.

1. Closed septic tank connected to the toilet
2. Leach field (garden)
3. System of pipes connecting the parts
4. A separate kitchen sink - because kitchen wastewater should not be released into the septic tank!



SETTING SAIL ON AN ADVENTURE



On 24 July 2022, the sun, sand and sea came together in beautiful harmony at the Changi Sailing Club for the inaugural Singapore Regatta. Organised by the Singapore Sailing Federation (SSF), the event was designed to:

- Honour our maritime heritage
- Create more awareness for environmental sustainability
- Build character through sailing

Led by our instructors who are experienced skippers, five OBS Cutters – a type of sail boat – participated in the Regatta with a crew comprising youths from OBS alumni, Darul Ihsan, Institute of Technical Education (ITE), and SportsCare. Prior to the Regatta, the crew spent the day at Pulau Ubin to acquire basic sailing knowledge such as rigging and how to effectively control and manoeuvre the boat.

On the day of the race, eager to put their new-found skills to the test, the team took to the waters with much enthusiasm as they raced

fellow participants on an approximately 10 nautical mile passage. Along the journey, they also had the opportunity to interact with national youth sailors from SSF, who value added to their experience by sharing inputs on how to sail effectively to win the race.

After the regatta, a celebratory dinner and a prize presentation ceremony awaited the participants at the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club. The top three winners were recognised for their outstanding efforts by the evening's guest-of-honour, Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Social and Family Development.

In line with OBS' belief in creating opportunities for new experiences, the Regatta was a great way for youths – both from and outside of OBS – to experience racing a sailboat in an accessible and safe environment. But beyond that, it was also an opportunity to reinforce the importance of environmental stewardship while helping participants develop a strong character.



WHAT THEY SAY

"I loved seeing our cutter breeze by other cutters with the help of our experienced OBS instructors, who shared how minor details can have a compounding effect on the cutter's performance. It was surprising to see how fast the cutters could go under the perfect conditions."

Nur Syzana

Sailor, OBS Alumni

"The regatta teaches us values such as teamwork, resourcefulness, and awareness – all of which are useful in overcoming the challenges we face in our life. After all, the cutter can only sail towards the finishing line as a result of everyone's efforts."

Claudia Tay

Sailor, OBS Alumni



THE COAST IS CLEAR

As our cutters sailed past the regatta route, the coast played host to the day's second activity – the WYNIST Mass Coastal Cleanup. Organised in partnership with Better Trails, a social enterprise which promotes environmental education, the event was an educational effort engaging 500 volunteers on the impact of ocean pollution.

Taking place across an approximately 5.7km stretch of coastline, beginning at the National Sailing Centre and ending at Parkland Green, the volunteers spent the morning picking up debris that was washed ashore from the ocean, and litter that had been carelessly discarded on the beach.



Group picture of OBS staff and alumni, as well as partners together with Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment & Ministry of Manpower, Dr Koh Poh Koon, at the coastal clean-up.

While cleaning up the coast, our Environment & Sustainability Education coaches shared about how marine trash may land up on our shores, the impacts of these harmful objects, and how one may play a part in the protection and conservation of the marine environment by being socially responsible when on land and water. Also in attendance was Dr Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment, who shared his own knowledge and insights on responsible practices that promote coastal sustainability.

Marine litter is a continuous threat as it affects the biodiversity of our coasts and makes our shores unsightly. By organising educational outreach programmes such as these clean-ups, we strive to continually raise awareness and instil in our youths the importance of marine and coastal health, and nurture them into becoming successful stewards of the environment.

”

WHAT THEY SAY

“Engaging students in such hands-on experiences help build their problem-solving skills as they can put the knowledge gained from textbooks to practice in real-life situations”

Yvonne Tay

Teacher from Yishun Secondary School

“The best moment was when we saw volunteers enjoying the activities. We hope more corporations can join forces with us to scale up this coastal clean-up event more frequently.”

Anthony Ang

Managing Director of
WYNIST Retail Solutions Pte Ltd

“Events like coastal clean-ups allow participants to build a sense of ownership when they play their part in cleaning the beaches, reminding them that the environment is everyone’s responsibility.”

Xavier Ang

Better Trails Associate

JOIN IN THE FUN



Group picture of OBS staff and alumni Cecilia Tang together with ministers Mr Edwin Tong and Mr Desmond Lee who visited our booth on Ubin Day.

Situated in the north-eastern region of Singapore, Pulau Ubin is a place where nature and history intertwine. This charming island offers visitors a glimpse into Singapore's past as an island of granite quarrying and farming, and is also the site of our two main campuses – OBS Camps 1 and 2.

Over the years, volunteers and stakeholders have contributed to keeping the island's kampung spirit alive. One such contribution is Ubin Day 2022 in June with NParks, a stalwart of the annual Pesta Ubin organised by the Friends of Ubin Network (FUN). Comprising activity organisers, Ubin villagers and the public as one community, Ubin Day 2022 was a celebration of the rich heritage, and the many cultural and environmental aspects of the island.

CARING FOR UBIN

Given that OBS organises many of its land expeditions at Pulau Ubin, we have a vested interest in the conservation of the island, and have implemented and taken part in sustainability initiatives to do so. These efforts were exhibited at the event by the Partnership Engagement team to spread awareness on the importance of caring for the island.

Concurrently, attendees also got to learn more about the National Outdoor Adventure Education Masterplan and programmes such as the OBS Leadership & Service Award (LSA). One of our alumni members, Ms Cecilia Tang drew a crowd as she relayed her LSA experience!

FORMING CONNECTIONS

Among familiar faces from the nature groups present were our Guests-of-Honour Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law Mr Edwin Tong and Minister for National Development Mr Desmond Lee. Through the conversations that we had, it was heartening to witness the impact Pulau Ubin had on people across all ages and backgrounds.

Brimming with diverse habitats and ecosystems, Pulau Ubin is special not only because it offers a rare green spot away from the hustle and bustle of urban life, but also because it is home to a living community of people who care deeply about its heritage and wellbeing. All in all, Ubin Day showed us that we still have so much more to learn from the island and its inhabitants, and thus, even more of a reason to continue protecting it.



OPENING OUR DOORS

To offer our stakeholders an opportunity to learn more about our organisation and business operations in a fun and relaxed setting, we hosted two of our key partners at our premises:

MS EUGENIA LIM, DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR, STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM DIVISION 2 (SDSC2) ON 26 OCTOBER 2022

Co-chair of the Pedagogy and Programme Work Stream – which oversees the MOE-OBS Challenge programme – Ms Eugenia Lim's visit at OBS consisted of interactions with instructors and participants at various sea expeditions, and a campus tour of our key facilities and activity sites. She also stopped over at Coney Island to view the progress of the new OBS@Coney campus.

Having gained a better understanding of OBS' programmes and a greater appreciation of our operations and safety management systems, Ms Lim shared, "I learnt a lot through this half day engagement, and I am assured that the students are in good hands (at OBS)."



OUTWARD BOUND INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEETING FROM 27-29 OCTOBER 2022

OBS had the honour of hosting delegates from various Outward Bound Centres for an Outward Bound International Board Meeting. Comprising committed and engaged volunteers who represent the global network of Outward Bound Schools, the OBI Board convenes to facilitate the sharing of experience and expertise that assists the Outward Bound International in their operations. This was the first in-person meeting for the OBI Board and the respective committee members since Toronto in 2019.



Group picture of Outward Bound International staff and partners together with OBS staff during the visit.

With participation in activities such as a kayak expedition and a jetty jump, as well as a tour of Pulau Ubin Camp 1 for an understanding of camp operations, the delegates had a first-hand experience of the warm OBS hospitality over the three days.

OBS Executive Director Mr Nicholas Conceicao had high praise of the OBS employees who had helped out with the visit, saying "I wish to thank everyone who made a contribution in helping to host our guests and for demonstrating how we live up to our OB core values!"



WRMC TO USA, AND THOMPSON ISLAND STUDY TRIP

In October 2022, six OBS staff attended the Wilderness Risk Management Conference (WRMC) in United States. It was a milestone for OBS to have our staff give two posters and one workshop presentation for the first time, both of which received positive reviews. The presentation topics were:

1. A Systemic Approach to Heat Injury Management
2. Medical Screening for Wilderness Courses
3. Cultivating a Strong Safety Culture in Your Organisation with a Culture Safe Survey

The WRMC was a great opportunity for staff to hear from industry peers while sharing good practices from OBS.

The delegates also had the opportunity to visit Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Centre (TIOBEC) where they did a cross-sharing of each centre's programmes, operations and systems in place to conduct quality Outward Bound programmes. The delegates also shared about OBS facilities and team building activities as part of TIOBEC staff's professional development.



BROADENING OUR HORIZONS

A great outdoor adventure education (OAE) programme is more than just an effort from OBS, it also requires continual support from, and engagement with external stakeholders. As such, OBS actively participates in events beyond our organisation, and seizes opportunities to contribute to the nation's knowledge building on OAE initiatives.



KEYBORED WARRIORS

The Data Arcade Tournament is an annual visual analytics competition organised for the MCCY family. Comprising members Lim Bing Ru, Wayne Lim Tianshun, and Jena Chao, the OBS team clinched second runner up in one of the categories.



From left: Jena Chao, Lim Bing Ru and Wayne Lim Tianshun representing Team KeyBored Warriors, second runner up at the Data Arcade Tournament

Data Science is not something that is out-of-the-world or difficult to learn. Being well-versed in it allows us to make better informed decisions. We hope that through such opportunities, our endeavour will lead and inspire many others to follow us on this journey.

Wayne Lim Tianshun



OBI POWERBI DASHBOARD

To reduce the manual labour needed to collate and analyse the data of the Outward Bound Outcomes Survey (OBOS), Outward Bound International (OBI) spearheaded the development of a PowerBI Dashboard. One of the key developers of the Dashboard was Ms Grace Koh, OBS Senior Manager in Research & Pedagogy.

She shares, "It was an amazing experience working with OBI. They are very generous in their support of OB schools, and are committed to minimising the pain points caused by collecting, analysing and reporting data. I am deeply encouraged and inspired by them to continue to be supportive to the other OB schools, and to display that collaborative spirit within OBS."



THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Partnership Management (PM) team hosted three MOE-OBS Challenge (MOC) Parent Webinar in 2022. Catered for parents and guardians of participating youths in the 2D1N programme, the webinar provided deeper insights into the MOC experience, and afforded the attendees an open line of communication to have their concerns addressed.

In view of the pandemic, PM innovated and transformed the typically in-person event into a virtual one with a larger outreach. The parents did not have to travel down to Pulau Ubin to have their questions answered. Across the three sessions, a total of 481 questions, distributed into five core areas, were received:

The structure and management of OBS gives assurance to a parent who has not attended OBS programmes before.

**Parent from
Fuhua Secondary School**


- Programmes;
- Enrolment Requirements;
- Medical;
- Safety; and
- MOE and Curriculum

These concerns were either covered on the spot by a panelist, or responded to individually after the conclusion of the webinar.


Moving forward, OBS will continue reaching out to parents to build up a strong support network whereby the safety and operations expectations of our outdoor adventure programmes can be aligned between all parties involved in the MOC programme. This will ensure that everyone has a peace of mind for when our youths head off to camp!



2022 MOE PARENT WEBINAR OVERVIEW

80% 
of MOC
schools reached

2,173 
parents attended
the webinar

96.7% 
of parents felt that the webinar provided the
relevant information to address their concerns

94.6% 
of parents felt more confident in
OBS' ability to look after their child

57% 
of parents enjoyed
the Q&A session

GROWING THE OAE SECTOR TOGETHER



On 22 September 2022, close to 400 participants – comprising outdoor educators and practitioners, students, policymakers and academics in the fields of Outdoor Adventure Education (OAE) and general education – attended the inaugural National Outdoor Education Conference held at Republic Polytechnic.

With the common goal of uplifting the OAE industry and creating a thriving OAE sector, the attendees were engaged in a series of plenary sessions, workshops, and group discussions. These activities facilitated the sharing of OAE knowledge, best practices and its various approaches, while addressing pressing issues the sector was facing in recent years. The occasion was a significant one for the OAE sector, with Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law, Mr. Edwin Tong, also in attendance showing his support.

”

I am confident that the Council will be able to chart a roadmap towards an OAE sector that thrives and upholds high standards of safety and professionalism.

Mr. Edwin Tong

Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law

In his opening speech, Minister Tong announced the formation of the OAE Council, an advisory panel entrusted to oversee the long-term capacity and capability building of the OAE sector. Co-chaired by National Youth Council's Chief Executive Officer Mr. David Chua and National University of Singapore's Adjunct Associate Professor Tan Lai Yong, the 18-member Council comprises representatives from the private sector, government agencies, educational institutions, and industry experts on safety and standards.

With the shared goal of strengthening the OAE sector, the Council will focus on developing **four areas**:



Together with partners, stakeholders and the community, this initiative will support the OAE sector in the development of safe and well-managed outdoor education activities by equipping practitioners with the necessary knowledge and tools, strengthening providers' risk management systems and practices, and ensuring ample resources – such as manpower and expertise – are available when needed.



INTRODUCING THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EDUCATION COUNCIL

”

Experiencing the outdoors spurs our youth to grow well, equipping them with skills to meet challenges, enjoy teamwork and to embark on life with confidence. The OAE Council seeks to make outdoor learning relevant, to engage stakeholders as we think safety alongside robust activities, and to craft purposeful careers for instructors and ‘outdoor’ entrepreneurs.

Dr. Tan Lai Yong

Co-Chair, Outdoor Adventure Education Council



Front row (from left to right): A/P Chew Wai Cheong Eugene, Ms Jean See Jinli, Mr Krishnan Aravinthan, Mr David Chua (Co-Chair), Minister Edwin Tong Chun Fai, Dr Tan Lai Yong (Co-Chair), Mr Nicholas Conceicao, Mr Tony Tan Tuan Tiong, and Mr Tan Chin Jiat

Back row (from left to right): Dr Goh Yang Miang, Mr Ng Thian Choon, Mr Lim How Chuen Clement, Mr Mohammad Ridzuwan Ya'akop, Mr Delane Lim Zi Xuan, and Mr Wee Ren Chai Ronald

Not pictured: Ms Delphine Fong, Mr Lye Yen Kai, Mr Zishan Amir, and Ms Lim Leng Er

ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS, ENCOURAGING GROWTH

Recognising the importance of staying abreast with the latest industry practices and developments, OBS often send our staff on attachment programmes with industry leaders and partners. Through such knowledge exchanges, we can better enhance outdoor adventure education experiences for our youths. Here are some takeaways:

DANIA SYAZANA AND MELVIN LAM

Industrial Attachment to Forest School Singapore (FSS)

- Programmes at FSS are crafted in sync with the rising and setting of the sun. Mornings are for new discoveries and explorations, whereas afternoon activities tend to be more toned down and relaxed.
- FSS is guided by the following pillars of leadership:

CHILD-LED

Sessions are largely determined by the children themselves, with coaches present to provide support and stimulate thought processes. This prompts their creativity and independence.

NATURE-LED

Taking place in outdoor settings – primarily in the forest – these sessions put children in unfamiliar territories, and allow them to learn and grow from their experiences.

CONTEXT-LED

Unstructured programmes empower children to learn from their own interactions. They then generate organic connections of what is on their mind and how they perceive their surroundings.



Photo credit: Melvin Lam

HO JIANWEN AND MUHAMMAD SYAFIQ ZULKEFLI

Industrial Attachment to Grace Orchard School

For students with Mild Intellectual Disabilities (MID) and Autism,

- Verbal encouragement, in addition to verbal instructions and visual guides, will motivate them to become more self-reliant and interdependent with their peers.
- Building a positive rapport between their instructors and them will assist in creating a safe and comfortable environment for them to share their thoughts and feelings during debrief sessions.
- Instructors must plan facilitation techniques in accordance with the readiness and capabilities of these students in order to achieve the programme's learning outcomes.



ABDUL HAIREEL BIN ABDUL HALEEM

Industrial Attachment to National Institute of Education - Physical Education & Sports Science

Outdoor education should be guided by these practices to ensure training effectiveness:

- ✓ Lesson preparation has a direct impact to a meaningful experience
- ✓ Learning environment must be supportive and positive
- ✓ Facilitation of experiences must be guided and involved
- ✓ Assignments, projects and work must be meaningful
- ✓ Use of familiarity and ownership to deepen learning on outdoor education

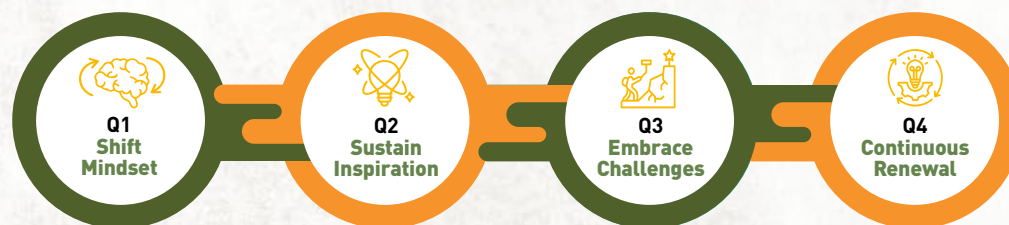


EMBARKING ON A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY

As times evolve and technology advances, we at OBS understand that we need to review our operations constantly to ensure the delivery of our outdoor programmes remains impactful to participants. This involves streamlining our work processes, and increasing digitalisation and the smart use of technology where possible to raise manpower efficiency.

In line with this, our Executive Committee (EXCO) members embarked on learning journeys to learn about best practices from fellow public agencies.

There are three to four learning journeys identified for OBS staff each year. The **objectives** for 2022 are:



HERE ARE SOME OF THE LEARNING JOURNEYS THAT OUR STAFF PARTICIPATED IN OVER THE PAST YEAR

CONVERSATION ON OBS'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

As COVID-19 becomes endemic, EXCO and ground staff thought about the possible futures of OBS, challenges and opportunities that could arise in these future scenarios, and how we could prepare ourselves to meet these challenges and continue thriving.



GUIDED TOUR WITH SMART NATION AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE (SNDGO) AT THE SINGAPORE CITY GALLERY

Through interactive exhibits and displays, EXCO members learned more about the various ways that digital technology improves the way we work, live and play. This helped the EXCO better imagine OBS' future in relation to Singapore's.

VIRTUAL SHARING WITH ICA DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

EXCO members got to converse with Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) Deputy Commissioner Cora to understand ICA's impetus for process changes, and how ICA overcame deeply entrenched organisational legacy mindsets and issues to implement their new services centre with a revamped operating model.

FIELD TRIP TO THE SCDF PUNGGOL FIRE STATION

EXCO members got to converse with Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) officers to learn about the strategies they adopted to overcome the challenges and pushbacks that came with increased digital technology implementation.



EXPANDING THE OBS EXPERIENCE TO ALL

In support of the National Outdoor Adventure Education Masterplan's aim of providing an outdoor camping experience for all secondary 3 students by 2026, OBS will be building a new eco-friendly campus on Coney Island (OBS@Coney).

Coupled with our existing Pulau Ubin, East Coast, and Changi premises, as well as the Reception and Activity Centre at Punggol, the new campus will enable our provision of outdoor adventure programmes for up to 45,000 youths every year, triple the current capacity.

In line with our commitment to environmental sustainability, OBS@Coney will adopt the following eco-friendly initiatives to minimise any adverse environmental impact on the island.

OBS@Coney was officially awarded the **Green Mark Platinum Super Low Energy (SLE)** status in November 2022.



Ensuring buildings are constructed in a low-rise manner to reduce disruption to flora growth and wildlife movement.



Incorporating greenery into the campus to enhance biodiversity.



Including sustainability features such as rainwater harvesting to reduce potable water usage.



Optimising natural ventilation to reduce reliance on air-conditioning

With convenient access to Pulau Ubin and mainland Singapore, the thoughtful construction of OBS@Coney will facilitate the design of more interesting and varied expeditions and outdoor education programmes for our youth in the future.



ONWARD AND UPWARD

Read on for details of several hardware and heartware updates that OBS is working on to propel us into a better future.

NEW COMMAND BOAT

To achieve operational excellence, we have seen many of our projects leveraging on A.I. and technology come to fruition. A case in point is the new command boat, Hornbill. Equipped with sophisticated functions that allows us to perform command, control and supervision, Hornbill will act as our eyes and ears in the sea, enhancing our operations and safety supervision at the heart of our sea expeditions.

ENHANCED FIELD SUPERVISION

Further supporting operations, we will be adopting two additional layers of supervision. First, we have expedition supervision by Senior Instructors on the ground to ensure safe and quality conduct of all expeditions. Second, we have the Lead Instructors tapping on the use of command, control, communication and intelligence (C3I) systems such as all-weather video capabilities and GPS tracking, and providing strategic directions to the expedition fleets.



NEW CUTTERS

Our 11 new cutters are easier to rig and provide for smoother sailing expeditions. They are also more spacious compared to the previous batches, allowing for more to camp on board. With this, we hope to achieve our goal of achieving 10-watch cutter sailing programmes soon.



OBS SAFETY CALENDER

As safety standards and practices are multifaceted and comprise multi-disciplinary domains, OBS seeks to organise this information in a meaningful and structured manner to ensure protocols and guidelines are current and validated. The annual safety calendar is comprised of safety-related trainings, exercises and drills, audits and reviews, as well as safety governance and case studies. It will also provide a more holistic oversight and synergic effort across departments to produce greater safety outcomes.

THIRD PARTY RISK MANAGEMENT (TPRM) SYSTEM

Safety standards are highly regarded, and are constantly reinforced and improved upon to ensure it is on par with international standards. That's where the Third Party Risk Management (TPRM) system comes into play. By looking beyond the standard risk assessment and into the control risks of OBS' business functions, TPRM serves to provide a structured governance and monitoring process. The aim is to avoid or minimise disruptions to operations, and prevent negative impact on OBS' reputation and monetary losses.

COMING FULL CIRCLE

The **OBS Leadership & Service Award (LSA)** recognises youth with leadership qualities and outstanding service within our community. Here, two LSA participants – Cecilia Tang and Loh Choo Teng – share how their experiences shaped them into who they are today.

CECILIA TANG

Cecilia's OBS journey began with an internship, which was developed and enriched by the 21-Day OBS Classic Challenge Course. She then took the leap of faith, joining OBS as an instructor upon her graduation from Republic Polytechnic. As an instructor, she hopes to share her experiences and pass on valuable lessons to inspire youths of today.

On the life lessons I've learnt from OBS...

1. Never stop learning
2. Success always comes after failure
3. Appreciate the little things

These three lessons have shaped me into a more independent and compassionate human being.

Outdoor education is important...

As it builds character and encourages self-discovery. In unfamiliar settings, our youths can step out of their comfort zones and improve their personal and social communication, problem-solving and creativity skills – all essential qualities that they can apply to their everyday lives.

”

My OBS experiences have helped me grow and enabled me to share and bring positive impact onto others too.



LOH CHOO TENG

As a Social Work Associate at COMNET Senior Service, Choo Teng offers welfare support to the seniors. An OBS Alumni herself, she now helps to facilitate and conduct inter-generational activity sessions together with other alumni youth to engage with and improve social interactions with the seniors such as our recent event, “Bringing Festive Cheers to our Senior Friends” on 19 December 2022.

From my OBS experience...

I picked up skills like cultivating proper teamwork in a group with different working styles, being comfortable working outside of my comfort zone, and being confident in voicing my opinions as a leader. Additionally, endurance and determination were two other strong values that I took away. On days when I feel overwhelmed, instead of taking the easy way out, I think back of how I rose up to the challenges I faced at OBS and I pressed on.

OBS has impacted my life...

By allowing me to discover my strengths and making me a more resilient person. I have learned to trust the process with my decisions, with the confidence that I will be able to face the consequences but also with the belief that the efforts I put in will pay off one day.

”

The journey has been tiring, but as I look back on all the lives touched and the achievements accomplished, I can say it definitely has been a fulfilling one.



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