

# Green Pulse

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June 5th marks yet another significant day to celebrate the planet. It also marks the day to elevate the awareness of protecting our environment from climate change, pollution and resource loss. It is World Environment Day 2025. Under the guidance of United Nations General Assembly, the world started observing this day in 1973, and has since grown into the biggest platform to promote environmental awareness.

This year, the theme is "Putting an end to Plastic Pollution", in tune with the UN Environment Programme - led BeatPlasticPollution. It is time we become more cognizant of how we employ plastic into our lives and how to manage it. Time to become aware of what we use, learn to change our attitude, and adopt better practices towards plastic - the three A's we Green In Future hope to inculcate in the common man's life as he navigates towards a sustainable living.



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# INTRODUCTION

## Panel Discussions: Fostering a Platform for Dynamic Exchange of Ideas

Panel discussions have become a common feature in many events today, for it presents a common ground for people from different backgrounds to professionally discuss significant topics and provide insights and solutions for audience to think and act. It facilitates interaction and better engagement with the audience. Two such interesting and stimulating panel discussions were presented by Signify and UN GCNS during their SME Day Event, where the topics were very relevant and the speakers were well-qualified to put forth views and information that not only gave audience ideas but also made them reflect on their actions of today for tomorrow. This is the very essence of sustainability, where we as a generation need to act without compromising the needs of the future generations.

We at Green in Future were honoured to be a part of these events where we got back with a lot of questions answered and our perspectives widened, but also a resolve to work harder in our sustainability journey.

If you would like to brainstorm and collaborate with us on activities and initiatives related to sustainability, do reach out to us. We are available at:

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## SIGNIFY - Profit with Purpose: Building the Business Case for Sustainability

Signify, the world leader in lighting, held a very thought-provoking panel discussion titled "**Profit with Purpose: Building the Business Case for Sustainability**", on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2025. The discussion focused on how collaboration is a crucial and strategic move in realising Singapore's Green goals, and that profit need not mean neglect to purpose. The conversation gave a 360° view, mainly because of the panellists chosen from relevant industries, who could give a holistic perspective on incorporating sustainability in the built environment:

- Derek Ang, Director of Green Mark Department, Building and Construction Authority
- Melissa Moi, Head of Sustainable Business, United Overseas Bank
- Ricarda Schneider, Director of Sustainability, Marriott International
- Elaine Tan, Sustainability Leader, Arup
- Jitender Khurana, General Manager, Systems and Services, Asia Pacific, Signify
- Dr Eugene Seah, CEO, DLS Consultancy Group (Moderator)

The panel also involved the audience through interactive polls and questions that boosted the conversation. Here are the key points on building sustainability discussed by the speakers during the panel:



*The panel members (L to R) – Moderator Dr. Eugene Seah from DLS, Derek Ang from BCA, Elaine Tan from Arup, Melissa Moi from UOB, Ricarda Schneider from Marriott International, and Jitender Khurana from Signify, joined by Fabrizio Pettazzi from Signify, who delivered the opening speech*

- Choosing either profit or purpose is a false dichotomy, businesses today focus profit and purpose to co-exist, on serving and fulfilling the customer's needs along with their own, and with an assiduous emphasis on the green purpose trend. The conversation that has evolved over time is that sustainability should be inbuilt into the project, it is no longer just a good thing to have. Sustainability has now become mainstream; it is the industrial revolution of our time. If it is not integrated into the profit of the business, it becomes difficult to find sustainable solutions when facing challenges and run the risk of losing out on the next big innovation which is going to create a big demand and be profitable. The profit achieved may not be financial, especially in the short term, but in terms of the value and the kind of impact it creates in the long term for the environment and the community at large. Embedding sustainability in everything is becoming increasingly important to not just the customers but also many employees who want their work to align with their values.
- The Singapore 2030 Green Plan is among the first interim steps to achieving the national net zero target by 2050. And part of this is the 80-80-80 initiative where the government wants 80% of the built area of commercial and residential spaces to be green, 80% of the new developments to be SLE (Super Low Energy) buildings and possibly achieve Platinum status, and 80% energy savings to be achieved by the best-in-class buildings that were built in 2005. The main focus is on the new developments where the government is driving the demand to create a market in both public and private sectors. One such initiative is the Green Mark Incentive Scheme 2.0 where the payout amount is directly proportional to the carbon amount saved, and it applies to both new and existing structures. The objective is to look at the technical feasibility and the commercial viability of the proposed steps to adopt sustainable goals and make sure that all the stakeholders of a project are completely committed to the strategies involved in achieving the goals. And financial institutions aim to help the businesses for two reasons – one is to keep the business financially up to date with the changing regulations and environments and two, to provide them with enough connections that can mitigate the risks when realizing their projects without compromising on the sustainability component of it, especially the SMEs.
- Technological innovations and efficiencies become key as the support system for any of the assets, old or new, on their decarbonization journey. And these systems are extended to not just energy savings but also water and water management and products and services offered in commercial assets. The built industry contributes about 40% of the global emissions, and a lot of the emissions from the processes and materials involved in the construction of a building come from scope 3. And the scope 3 elements can have a far-reaching impact during the performance of a building, if they are consciously produced with energy efficiency as core value. This then gives the asset owners a leverage on technology that is readily available to have better control on their emissions and future-proof the asset that usually lasts longer than the average human lifespan. It also paves way to practice circularity that presents the opportunity to the overall value chain that can be supplemented to with these interventions. The key point is to change the mindset of not only the owners and stakeholders but also the consumers through appropriate awareness and platforms to adopt these innovations.
- Active participation from all spectrums of the society is necessary to make sustainability a reality, every individual, company, and government body involved needs to embrace the process of taking diverse decisions to execute diverse actions to tackle the various challenges.

The challenges at the basic level can be twofold – lack of widespread awareness about the actions to take and lack of honest commitment to take those actions. Then there are challenges of time, resources, and investment, especially for SMEs. And this is where large companies can collaborate with institutions like banks and capitalists that can invest into the SMEs to provide not just the finances but also expertise in certain areas which can take some load off their shoulders which are least disruptive to their businesses. The issue is that people are not realising the impact of their actions as the negative effects will come in the long term and thus becomes unrelatable. The drivers for this mindset shift can come from three sectors – the regulators who impose it as policies, the investors who focus on investing in sustainability-related initiatives within the business, and the clients who necessitate demonstration of energy efficiency. And by offering capital, technical know-how, and expertise it comes down to the SMEs to make that mindset shift to form profitable partnerships with experienced companies that also bring about achieving purpose, which may be a long-term impact but is essential today.

- The climate crisis should be taken as an opportunity to bring or provide sustainability services. It may not look profitable in the immediate future but will those who jump on its bandwagon will reap benefits in the long run. The cloud of uncertainty that exists over sustainable technologies and practices will be removed eventually, since governments, consultants, and solution providers who have a clear sustainability purpose are willing to help give that advantage over other businesses and profit as a team. Regulatory bodies, financial institutions, asset managers, service and technology providers should be seen as enablers, those who can facilitate to expedite and accelerate the change in a business’ sustainability journey. Partnerships and collaborations are key and the time to act is now to see a significant impact on the environment because sustainability is already the enterprise strategy and no longer an isolated trend. Working together can create a holistic ecosystem that can enable both profit and purpose.



*The Signify staff take the audience through their facility to demonstrate their various products and technologies that are rooted in sustainability and energy efficiency.*

The event concluded with an experiential tour of the Signify facility called ‘Lighting Application Center’ showcasing the various products and services that are the foundation for making Signify known for their innovations embedded in green energy and inclusivity.

## UN GCNS SME Sustainability Day - *Will AI bring more challenges or problems for sustainability reporting?*

United Nations Global Compact Network Singapore (UN GCNS) conducted the SME Sustainability Day in celebration of the United Nations MSME (Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2025. The event recognised the significant contributions by SMEs in advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Singapore. One of the highlights of the event was the panel debate on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its credibility and effectiveness in sustainability reporting. AI is rapidly transforming the landscape of how every industry function with quick, efficient, and transparent results but also brings to question the authenticity and ethical risks it may generate. The question that needs an answer is, like the moderator Meaghan See, the Chief Commercial Officer of Eco-Business, puts it – ‘Will AI be a catalyst for progress or a source for greater complexity for SMEs navigating the future of responsible business?’



The panel consisted of two speakers each on either side of the debate:

1. Ashokan Ramakrishnan, CMO of IWOW Technology Limited (For)
2. Yuxia Zou, Assistant Professor at Nanyang Business School, NTU Singapore (For)
3. Benjamin Soh, Founder & MD of ESGpedia (Against)
4. Lynette Lee, CEO of Sirius Impact (Against)

The salient points argued through the panel brought out unfiltered views on the emerging AI trend, evaluating it as an enabler or an inhibitor in the sustainability journey:

### For Argument points:

- AI is a tool and should not be relied upon to replace human input and intelligence. It is a powerful tool and should be used as one and not a magic wand.
- AI generates results based on extrapolating data from the patterns it has been set on, which is not applicable to all businesses and in all scenarios. The data it depends on is from big companies and usually does not apply to SMEs, where the said tool could cause amplified issues in sustainability reporting such as limited data, constrained resources, and changing regulatory environment.
- It also cannot be applied to programmes where it has no foundational coding system embedded within the AI tool. In such a case, it presents a risk of inaccuracy, increasing the workload in correcting those mistakes. Then its functionality is limited and should be used within those limited programs.

- It still becomes necessary to be responsible when using AI in any spectrum especially when it involves generating reports related to the workings of the business, in this scenario, sustainability reporting. Reports need to be credible, giving up the agency to AI and letting it do the work can create a risk of error or greenwashing, that can render the whole company as dishonest, leading to its downfall.
- With incorrect data or manipulated inputs, it can generate a bigger mess, and there might be need for a bigger AI tool to call out the inconsistencies of the report that consumes not just time but also energy. And this extra consumption of energy goes against the ESG goals.
- With the fast-paced development seen in improving the AI technology to make it empathise and think like humans, there are chances that there may not be noticeable changes between humans and AI, which could lead to the loss of the human touch and an effective relationship being built between humans. It is necessary then to declare if AI is in
- It is necessary to be aware of the long-term cost, the loss of credibility, the loss of your own ownership in your own sustainability initiatives.



*The debate panel members (L to R) – Yuxia Zou from NTU, Ashokan Ramakrishnan from iWOW Technology, Moderator Meaghan See from Eco-Business, Benjamin Soh from ESGpedia, and Lynette Lee from Sirius Impact*

**Against Argument points:**

- AI cannot be dismissed and needs to be acknowledged as a tool that is here to stay and leveraged for the sustainability realm.

- Today, interfacing with AI is commonplace in every walk of life and could serve as an enabler. It is a tool that can be implemented just to start the process, to get a direction for the solutions required and can be used for certain parts of certain sections of the report that is common globally rather than expecting to produce a complete report.
- It can enable SMEs to start to generate their sustainability reports with the right data supplied and can streamline the work to be able to deliver a better solution or process or scale up more solutions to customers by relieving a lot of the workflows that are otherwise required.
- The key is to start small and figure how much and how well AI can be implemented into the SMEs system before expanding its operation.
- AI can help to increase transparency and ease the workflow by giving SMEs access to multiple data that help to make quick and effective decisions. It can give predictive data, on impact and performance of certain sections of work that facilitates lessening efforts, increasing business flow and profitability, and reducing workflow wastage.
- It could help to correct misinterpreted reports and erratic information, generated by humans or other tools.
- The cost of implementing AI into the business operations can be adjusted to the budget available, especially for SMEs. It could also be used to just start the journey in sustainability reporting. It could be as small an investment as digitising your data for the reporting to as big as personalising an app that caters to the company’s needs.

The debate concluded with a poll to evaluate the audience’s take on AI being a challenge or a solution in sustainability reporting. The fascinating effect of the stimulating debate was that the same poll taken at the start of the debate found the audience leaning towards against the topic but the results took a 180° turn at the end of the debate with many choosing to agree with the statement that “AI will bring more challenges and problems for sustainability reporting’.

[ OFFICIAL INVITE ]

# A GRAND FUTURE STARTS HERE

You are invited to a dedicated showcase and guided tour unveiling the sustainable transformation of **Grand Hyatt Singapore**.

This session offers a first look at our long-term roadmap - where thoughtful design, waste reduction, energy efficiency, and community partnerships come together to shape a more responsible future. Brought to life through our own lens of conscious luxury, this is sustainability with intention, purpose and lasting impact.

A hosted lunch will follow the tour. We would be delighted to have you with us.

**Thursday, 3 July 2025 at 8:30am to 1:30pm**  
**Grand Hyatt Singapore**  
 10 Scotts Road, Singapore 228211

GRAND | HYATT  
 SINGAPORE

## Ricarda Schneider

As Director of Sustainability, Ricarda leads Marriott International's sustainability charge in APEC, working closely with key stakeholders across all disciplines both in the region and with corporate headquarters. She is responsible for the rollout, implementation, activation of strategic sustainability plans and solutions, with a focus on achieving the short- and long-term sustainability goals of the company.

Marriott International is a leading global hospitality company headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland. It is committed to sustainability and community engagement, ensuring that its growth positively impacts the world around it.



**Could you elaborate on your role as the Director of Sustainability? How did your background in the hospitality industry help to prepare you for the role you have undertaken today?**

My years of experience in hotel operations around the world—particularly the past four years as Area Director of Operations in Indonesia—have provided a strong and invaluable foundation for my current role. Now, as I lead the implementation and activation of strategic sustainability plans and solutions, it is essential to understand the diverse landscapes in which we operate. Each region presents unique challenges and opportunities, requiring tailored approaches. With deep operational insight, I work closely with other disciplines and together, we anticipate potential obstacles and support hotels in exploring a range of practical solutions to enhance responsible operations and drive progress across our key sustainability focus areas.

**How important is it to have a sustainability department in an organization like Marriott International where there is a juxtaposition of luxury, heritage, and culture? Can you elaborate with examples from your department?**

We recognize that sustainability enables success at scale. So much so, that we formally defined it as an enabler in our global enterprise business strategy. It's an anchor of Serve 360, our global

ESG program and underpins how we shape our hotel operations in Asia Pacific excluding China (APEC) and beyond. Having dedicated sustainability teams in our head office provides Marriott with a clear strategic approach and operational direction. Sustainability teams in regional offices, such as myself in the APEC office, allow us to roll out sustainability initiatives, all while taking into account local considerations, challenges and opportunities.

**What is the significance of collaborations between stakeholders to maintain sustainability throughout the operational phase of a property? And how can this be enhanced?**

Marriott deployed Sustainability as 'enabler' on the enterprise strategy map in 2023, drawing a direct connection between topline revenue, customer expectations, associate recruitment, retention and cost savings. This was the result of thorough discussions between key stakeholders: from owners, investors, clients, associates, discipline experts and senior company leaders. All hotels and continents are pursuing globally aligned goals, and our design teams are planning how future new build, and renovated hotels can become more efficient. We are only just beginning to measure our work and are in the early days of really focusing on sustainability across the entire value chain, so I think the opportunities are infinite.

When it comes to sustainability on property, every department and all associates must be involved and play their part. From responsible supply sourcing to energy efficiencies, waste reduction and water savings to biodiversity initiatives and cultural experiences which are curated and marketed to customers. Building climate fluency and training our associates is key and forms a big part in elevating responsible hotel operations in our sustainability journey.

*What is the future of sustainable hospitality? Can you share some examples with the kind of materials, techniques, and technologies Marriott is adopting to reduce its carbon footprint and enhance energy efficiency?*

Marriott International (MI) is deeply committed to creating a positive and sustainable impact wherever we operate. Sustainability is not just a goal—it is integrated in our entire value chain. We actively work to reduce our environmental footprint, design and operate more sustainable hotels, and source materials responsibly, while managing climate-related risks.

Our efforts are guided by five global sustainability focus areas, aligned with our Serve 360 platform, which outlines Marriott’s sustainability and social impact goals. These focus areas include:

- Sustainability Certifications
- Marriott’s Climate Action Program
- Responsible Sourcing
- Water Reduction
- Waste Reduction

To reach our long-term goal of achieving net-zero emissions no later than 2050, we are presently driving progress through five key levers under our Climate Action Program:

- Building climate fluency across all levels of associates
- Reducing energy use through hotel-specific targets and action plans
- Expanding access to renewable energy
- Supporting suppliers in lowering their emissions and sourcing low-carbon goods
- Harnessing consumer demand for sustainable travel options

But sustainability goes beyond just reducing carbon emissions. Today, businesses play a vital role in addressing the world’s most urgent social, environmental, and economic challenges. With our global scale and nearly 100 years of heritage, Marriott has both the responsibility and the opportunity to be a force for good—a value that has been embedded in our DNA from the very beginning.

*What is your advice to those who are looking to delve into the sustainability realm in industries that are steeped in luxury and grandeur, where comfort and image takes precedence and cannot be compromised?*

Sustainability and Luxury are not mutually exclusive; in fact, they reinforce each other. The most forward-thinking luxury brands are showcasing well, that sustainability has the ability to elevate the luxury experience. When local components are consciously woven into the experience, waste reduced, natural resources preserved, and vegetables and fruits come from a nearby (or perhaps own) orchard, it’s not just better for the planet—it’s more thoughtful, more personalized, and frankly, more luxurious. That kind of attention to detail and element of curation is what modern luxury is all about.

In the realm of luxury travel, **gastronomy** plays a powerful role in shaping guest experiences. As dining becomes a key driver of travel decisions, it also serves as a cultural bridge—connecting people, places, and generations, and allowing travelers to engage deeply with the local heritage of their destination.

Recognizing this, **The Luxury Group by Marriott International** has released a compelling report titled “The Future of Food 2025.” Developed in collaboration with over 30 renowned chefs, mixologists, and industry experts from across the Asia Pacific, the report explores how food and beverage can evolve to meet the expectations of the modern luxury traveler—while staying rooted in sustainability and cultural authenticity.

## Ayana Bali Eliminates 52 Tons of Plastic Waste Annually

*From prioritising locally sourced food to expanding solar power, AYANA Bali is strengthening its resort-wide environmental initiatives.*

In celebration of World Environment Day 2025, AYANA Bali, the island's largest integrated resort destination, is reaffirming its commitment to sustainability by announcing a major milestone: since 2023, the resort has eliminated single-use plastic amenities from all guest rooms, reducing an estimated 52 tons of plastic waste annually.



This initiative aligns with this year's World Environment Day theme calling for collective action to end plastic pollution and reflects AYANA's dedication to nature-inspired hospitality. "Luxury should never come at the cost of the environment," says Giordano Faggioli, General Manager of AYANA Bali. "Along with strengthening our diverse range of environmental initiatives, by removing single-use plastic amenities we are taking tangible steps toward a cleaner, more sustainable future for Bali and beyond."

The reduction is based on 2024 guest data from AYANA Resort and RIMBA by AYANA, where each room night previously generated 88 grams of plastic amenities. Based on last year's total overnight stays, this translates to approximately 52 tons of plastic eliminated annually. Further plastic reductions include using glass bottles for drinking water, transitioning to biodegradable wooden keycards, and serving takeaway meals in compostable paper-based containers.

AYANA Bali's sustainability efforts extend far beyond plastic reduction. Water is sustainably sourced from deep wells, with plans to add sea water reverse osmosis (SWRO) treatment. Meanwhile, reverse osmosis is already used for cooking water to minimize environmental impact. Food sourcing prioritizes local producers, with over 81% of food locally sourced at RIMBA and more than 57% at AYANA Resort

and AYANA Segara. Waste management at the resort includes converting used cooking oil into biodiesel through a partnership with Green School Bali, which supports its Biobus program used in Green Camp mangrove planting activities. Garden waste is composted and averages six tons monthly, while an on-site wastewater treatment system recycles all wastewater for irrigation.

Renewable energy is harnessed through solar panels, resulting in approximately a 15% reduction in electricity usage at AYANA Segara. Additional solar installations are planned through the end of 2025. The resort's biodiversity and climate resilience initiatives include an on-site bee farm producing black honey every three months, supported by 21 flower species cultivated throughout the property. AYANA Bali is also constructing retaining walls and breakwaters to protect vulnerable coastal landscapes.



“AYANA Bali is proud to currently hold Silver EarthCheck certification, an internationally recognized benchmark for sustainability in tourism that covers environmental, social, and economic aspects,” says Faggioli. “We are actively preparing to achieve Gold certification, which will further demonstrate our commitment to continuous improvement and responsible hospitality.”

This year's World Environment Day falls two months before nearly 175 United Nations member states — including Indonesia — reconvene to advance negotiations on a landmark global treaty to end plastic pollution. As the world prepares for these crucial talks, AYANA Bali stands as a real-world example of sustainable transformation in the hospitality industry — showing that every action, big or small, counts.

### About AYANA Bali

Just 12 km from Bali's international airport, AYANA Bali enjoys a majestic 1.3 km stretch of cliff-front coastline above Jimbaran Bay. The 90-hectare resort is home to four award-winning hotels:

- AYANA Resort Bali, whose 294 rooms and suites blend classic elegance with traditional Balinese aesthetics, with each featuring marble bathrooms, furnished balconies, and interconnecting doors
- AYANA Segara Bali, whose 197 rooms and suites bring a contemporary indoor-outdoor twist to the legendary Balinese-inspired AYANA experience
- AYANA Villas Bali, whose 73 luxurious villas feature private plunge pools and spectacular ocean backdrops
- RIMBA by AYANA Bali, a 403-room family-friendly resort

For immersive and engaging educational experiences, AYANA Bali collaborates with Guidepost Montessori and Green Camp Bali, providing young learners with a unique opportunity to explore and discover through hands-on activities within AYANA's vast natural surroundings. For children aged 7 to 12 seeking full-day outdoor adventures, Green Camp AYANA, in partnership with Green Camp Bali, delivers one of the world's most sustainable and purpose-driven camp experiences.

## OceanX at UNOC 2025: Driving Action Through Science and Education for a Sustainable Ocean

OceanX, a nonprofit organization focused on unlocking the ocean's sustainable potential through science and education, concluded a mission-driven week at the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), held in Nice from June 9 to 13, 2025.

As a central convener of global ocean leaders, OceanX hosted multiple high-level events aboard the OceanXplorer, including announcing a new ocean technology pilot with Katapult Ocean to accelerate breakthrough solutions; co-hosting the launch of OceanQuest, a nonprofit advancing deep-sea exploration and education; and sharing a landmark commitment from the Indonesian government to support multi-year OceanX missions advancing marine science, media, and education across the archipelago. Throughout the week, OceanX drove forward partnerships, scientific collaboration, and public engagement to strengthen the global push for a healthy and resilient ocean.

"We are thrilled to have brought together science, knowledge through education, and action during the United Nations Ocean Conference. The fight for a sustainable ocean is a fight for all. Thanks to the new partnerships created and the action-oriented discussions held this week in Nice, we leave with new missions to conduct, where collected data will directly inform more practical solutions for sustainable ocean governance," explained Vincent Pieribone, co-CEO and chief science officer, OceanX.

### **OceanX Showcases Science-Driven Ocean Exploration**

In the UNOC3 Blue Zone, Pieribone also served as a panelist in the official Ocean Action Panel 2 on "Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity-building, marine technology, and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health." Co-chaired by the Governments of Portugal and Panama, the session brought together global ocean leaders to explore how data, technology, and education can drive more inclusive and impactful ocean policy. Pieribone emphasized the need for practical systems that democratize access to ocean knowledge, highlighting OceanX's mission-driven work in Malaysia, Cape Verde, and the Red Sea. His remarks reflected the panel's broader consensus: sustainable ocean governance demands more than research alone. It requires reliable data, shared tools, inclusive partnerships, and equitable access to marine science.

Later in the week, Pieribone led a public session titled No Limit Ocean at the UNOC Green Zone's Neptune Agora. Through immersive footage and narrative, he challenged audiences to rethink the value of the ocean, showing how deep-sea discoveries are reshaping what we know about life on Earth and beyond. Aligned with UNOC's focus on science and innovation, his message was clear: ocean exploration is not only about conservation but about safeguarding the future of knowledge. OceanX also led a collaborative effort with other ocean research organizations to develop the immersive Deep Blue pavilion, showing visitors the extraordinary creatures and environments that exist in the open ocean.

### **OceanX Advances Innovation and Global Partnerships for Ocean Sustainability**

The OceanXplorer, docked at the Port of Nice, served as a central hub for high-level dialogue and collaboration throughout the week. As the most advanced vessel ever built for ocean exploration, scientific research, and media production, it hosted a series of events convening global leaders, scientists, and partners. These included the launch of the International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS), co-hosted with the French Government, where new funding and urgent calls were made to turn ocean knowledge into policy action. The vessel also welcomed the Bloomberg

Ocean Initiative and Together for the Ocean for the unveiling of their Ocean Protection Gap Report, which revealed that just 2.7 percent of the ocean is effectively protected and called for a tenfold increase in funding to meet global 30x30 targets.

OceanX advanced its commitment to innovation through the announcement of a planned ocean technology pilot with Katapult Ocean, designed to support early-stage ocean sustainability startups by enabling access to real-world testing conditions aboard the OceanXplorer. Through this pilot initiative, select companies will deploy and refine their technologies in the field, helping accelerate development of tools for marine conservation, exploration, and monitoring. The pilot was announced during a breakfast on June 9, where Katapult Ocean and OceanX featured five exciting ocean technology startups whose technology holds great promise to drive ocean sustainability progress.

*“A thriving ocean economy depends on the strength, diversity, and collaboration of its ecosystem. Partnerships, like this one with OceanX, play a key role by bringing together leading research capabilities and early-stage innovation to accelerate meaningful impact, said Jonas Skattum Svegaarden, CEO, Katapult Ocean.*

The week also marked the launch of OceanQuest, a nonprofit initiative dedicated to advancing deep sea discovery, exploration technology, and ocean literacy. The event spotlighted outcomes from the recent Around Africa Expedition, where OceanX and OceanQuest partnered with regional scientists to drive biodiversity research, oceanographic mapping, and hands-on training for early-career professionals across multiple African nations.

### **OceanX Expands Regional Impact Through Southeast Asia Education and Missions**

Focusing on Southeast Asia, OceanX convened regional leaders, scientists, and partners aboard the OceanXplorer to reflect on shared progress in scientific research and education, as well as cemented future commitments to drive long-term ocean stewardship.

In a major development, OceanX announced a multi-year partnership with the Government of Indonesia to support recurring scientific missions that advance marine research, capacity building, and education across the archipelago. The agreement, endorsed by President Prabowo Subianto, builds on a national expedition in 2024 and underscores Indonesia’s growing leadership on global ocean action. Indonesia has ratified the Global Ocean Treaty (BBNJ) and pioneered new ocean finance models including the World Bank Indonesia Coral Reef Bond, the world’s first outcome-based bond for corals.

Speakers at the session included HRH Crown Prince Hassanal of Pahang, Ruth Yeoh, Head of Sustainability at YTL Corporation, Shaun Seow, CEO of the Philanthropy Asia Alliance, Clarissa Arida, Senior Director of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity Programmes Department, and Nathaniel Khng of the Singapore Mission to the United Nations. They emphasized the urgency of accelerating ocean action and highlighted the importance of coupling science with education. They also called for increased attention to regions like Southeast Asia that are vital to global ocean health but often underrepresented.

*“Southeast Asia holds some of the planet’s most vital and vulnerable marine ecosystems. OceanX is committed to being here for the long haul, building partnerships, sharing knowledge and tools, and expanding access to science and education. Because when we protect these waters, we are not just safeguarding biodiversity. We are investing in the future of communities, economies, and our shared planet,” said Mark Dalio, Founder and Co-CEO, OceanX.*

OceanX also announced a new partnership with Ant International, a Singapore-based global fintech company, to advance ocean literacy and capacity building through regional student engagement and digital platforms.

At the event, Carrie Suen, Head of Global Affairs and Strategic Development, Ant International, said that: “We’re proud to partner with OceanX to scale our joint innovation to support ocean conservation, bringing together our open collaboration and tech-driven approach. Together, we’ll leverage tech and digital tools to broaden access to ocean science, support emerging talent and accelerate solutions that can have the greatest impact.”

Looking ahead, OceanX will continue its global work in Cape Verde and Mayotte. After that, OceanX will embark on a deep-sea biodiversity mission with the National University of Singapore, set for October 2025 in the eastern Indian Ocean. It will unite regional scientists and small island state researchers to generate critical baselines for conservation and deepen understanding of one of Southeast Asia’s least explored marine ecosystems.

In 2026, it will return to Pahang, Malaysia for a collaborative expedition in partnership with Enggang, a long-term initiative developing conservation landscapes that deliver tangible benefits for biodiversity and climate.

**About OceanX**

OceanX is a nonprofit working to unlock the ocean’s sustainable potential. Through a dual focus on science and education, we’re building a new paradigm where humanity and the ocean mutually thrive. Our approach is fueled by exploration, leveraging advanced research, multimedia educational programs, cross-sector partnerships, and advanced technology to help transform how people understand and value the ocean. Our work strives to fortify biodiversity and increase the sustainable use of ocean resources to help ensure the ocean remains a foundation for human wellbeing and potential. OceanX is a nonprofit operating program of Dalio Philanthropies.



## Chatrium Hospitality strengthens ESG commitment through “Think First, Think Earth” initiative



*Chatrium Grand, Bangkok*

Chatrium Hospitality, the operator of Chatrium and Maitria hotels, continues to deepen its sustainability efforts through a reinforced Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy. At the heart of this commitment lies its Corporate Social Responsibility programme, “Think First, Think Earth”, which guides the group’s long-term vision for responsible hospitality.

The initiative reflects Chatrium’s integrated approach to protecting the environment, supporting communities and delivering exceptional guest experiences across all its properties including Chatrium Grand Bangkok, Chatrium Sathon Bangkok, Emporium Suites by Chatrium and Maitria Hotel Sukhumvit 18.

### **Technology Led Solutions for Responsible Luxury**

Chatrium Hospitality has begun implementing its advanced Guest Room Management System (GRMS) at key properties such as Chatrium Grand Bangkok, with plans to roll out across all hotels in the group. This smart system features integrated HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) and lighting control technology, connected to in-room sensors that detect guest presence. The system automatically adjusts energy settings to maximise efficiency while maintaining exceptional guest comfort.

Select properties have also introduced intelligent Building Management Systems (BMS) that track and control utilities in real time. These innovations help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support proactive maintenance and optimise energy use on a property wide level.

### **Environmental Design That Makes a Difference**

- Saltwater pools offer a safer and more natural alternative to chlorine

- Smart water systems use leak detection and monitoring tools to conserve water
- Energy automation ensures systems are only active when needed
- Sustainable in-room amenities reduce plastic and support biodegradable options

### From Vision to Action



*Chatrium Hotel Riverside, Bangkok*

Under the “Think First, Think Earth” programme, Chatrium colleagues engage in meaningful activities such as community clean ups, humanitarian aid distribution and environmental care initiatives. These actions are part of a broader effort to embed sustainability into every level of hotel operations.

“Our ESG efforts are guided by innovation but grounded in responsibility. With “Think, First Think Earth” we are creating a hospitality model where luxury and sustainability go hand in hand,” said Rene Balmer, Group General Manager, Chatrium Hospitality.

### Where Every Stay Supports a Greener Future



*Chatrium Sathon, Bangkok*

Guests at Chatrium and Maitria properties enjoy more than exceptional comfort. They become part of a growing movement that values thoughtful design, sustainable living and shared responsibility for the planet.

## Inaugural Sustainability Youth Festival Opens the Door to Young Changemakers, Empowering them to Learn, Lead, and Create a Lasting Impact

The first-of-its-kind The Sustainability Youth Festival (TSYF), a youth-led initiative aimed at deepening understanding on sustainability amongst our youths, nurturing young leaders and accelerating positive sustainable development, will be launched this year. Guided by the theme *“The Sustainability Puzzle – Every Piece Matters,”* the event invites youth to explore the many diverse and interconnected facets of sustainability. Much like a puzzle, every piece – regardless of its shape or size – plays a vital role. When put together, they form the foundation of a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.

In a world marked by extreme weather events caused by climate change, youths in Singapore are growing increasingly concerned with the future of the planet, and their role in shaping a more sustainable society. According to a 2024 survey by the National Climate Change Secretariat, 96% of respondents, most of whom were aged between 20 and 49 years old, expressed interest in climate change issues. They also voiced support for Singapore’s net-zero targets, citing the need to protect future generations and reduce the long-term impacts of climate change. It is against this backdrop that the TSYF emerges as a timely and critical platform, empowering youth to turn concern into action and lead the charge toward a more resilient, sustainable future.

Set to take place on **1 August 2025** at The Capitol Theatre and The Capitol Outdoor Plaza, TSYF will offer an engaging, collaborative platform for youth to dive deep into sustainability topics. The festival will feature interactive workshops, knowledge-sharing sessions, and networking opportunities.

Led by EB Impact, a Singapore-registered charity, in collaboration with the Inter-University Environmental Coalition (IUEC), the festival benefits from deep expertise in youth engagement and education. Supported by the SG Eco Fund, this ground-up initiative receives a crucial boost through vital funding that helps bring TSYF to life. Further strengthening this effort, OCBC and Meta have come onboard as partners, bringing insights, innovation, and real-world experience. This cross-sector collaboration equips youths in Singapore to drive meaningful change and spark the transition to a more sustainable future.

“We believe our youth are not just future leaders—they are the changemakers of today. The Sustainability Youth Festival reflects our commitment to creating a platform that inspires, empowers, and fosters a culture of sustainability. At the same time, it seeks to deepen youths' understanding of sustainability issues, equip them with the knowledge, tools, and networks they need so that they can take action and tackle the most pressing challenges of our time.” said Gerald Wong, Executive Director, EB Impact.

“The Inter-University Environmental Coalition aspires to foster solidarity among university environmental groups, uniting efforts to address the most urgent and complex sustainability issues of our time. Through The Sustainability Youth Festival, we aim to showcase the diverse ways students are driving change within their communities in a way that is accessible, engaging, and grounded in action. More importantly, this is our call to all young people from all walks of life to join us in—come explore, reflect, and discover your place in the sustainability puzzle, one conversation at a time,” said Koe Chua and Andres Neo, The Sustainability Youth Festival Co-Chairs, Inter-University Environmental Coalition.

## TSYF Challenge

Central to the festival is the TSYF Challenge, a competition where youth teams pitch innovative sustainability solutions for a chance to win funding of up to **\$20,000** to implement their ideas in schools and local communities.

Open to all youths below 35 years old, registration will close on 30th June. The challenge will culminate at the festival where finalists will pitch their ideas on the main stage before a panel of judges and their peers, showcasing their solutions and its impact on the environment.

As part of the festival's programming, participants can look forward to hands-on activities at the festival such as upcycling workshops, small-group guided discussions, and meaningful engagements with youth groups, non-profit organisations (NGOs), and sustainability-driven enterprises. This includes a youth conference exploring sustainability through the lens of **people, planet, and profit**. The conference brings together expert speakers from academia, government, and industry to offer diverse perspectives on climate action, sustainable business practices, and the systemic shifts needed for a more resilient future.

The programme also includes a **Youth Spotlight** segment, featuring inspiring TED-style talks by groups of university students showcasing their sustainability initiatives and issues that they are passionate about. To support career exploration, the festival will host a **TSYF Careers Speed Dating** session, an engaging, fast-paced networking opportunity where participants can connect with various professionals passionate about creating positive change across the sectors in a fun and informal setting, allowing them to gain insights into various sustainability roles, and explore pathways to future careers.

## About The Sustainability Youth Festival (TSYF)

The Sustainability Youth Festival (TSYF) is an annual event that amplifies youth voices and inspires meaningful action toward a more sustainable future. By bringing together students, educators, government agencies, and corporate partners, TSYF provides an engaging platform for young people to explore sustainability issues, share innovative ideas, and connect with like-minded peers and organisations.

This year's theme, The Sustainability Puzzle – Every Piece Matters invites youths to explore the diverse and interconnected dimensions of sustainability — a space for young changemakers to explore through hands-on activities, inspiring talks, and creative challenges how environmental, social, and economic issues fit together in the sustainability puzzle. Whether you're just starting to explore sustainability or already leading change in your community, the festival is designed to be accessible to all, encouraging every young person to take part, share their ideas, and find their place in building a more sustainable world. Like a giant puzzle, each piece—no matter its shape and size—plays a vital role in building a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.

A core highlight of the festival is the **TSYF Challenge**—a dynamic competition where student teams present creative sustainability solutions to a panel of distinguished judges from the public and private sectors. The challenge features two distinct categories:

- **Sustainability Youth Changemaker:** For students passionate about driving awareness and behavioural change through community-based action.
- **Sustainability Youth Innovator:** For students developing sustainability-focused products or services, applying entrepreneurial skills such as design thinking and strategic planning.

These categories are designed to cater to different interests and strengths, empowering all participants to contribute meaningfully to sustainability in their own way.

# UNGCNS SME Sustainability Day – Important Announcements

## 1. New Strategic Partnership: UNGCNS x NVPC MoU Signing

### Partners:

- UN Global Compact Network Singapore (UNGCNS)
- National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC)

**Purpose:** The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marks a strategic collaboration to support **SMEs in building sustainability capacity** and enhancing **corporate purpose**.

*Through this partnership, we aim to strengthen Singapore’s SME ecosystem by making sustainability knowledge, tools, and networks more accessible to those at the frontlines of business transformation.*

— **Dr. Bicky Bhangu**, President, UNGCNS

*This partnership marks a significant step forward in building a business ecosystem where purposeful companies of all sizes meaningfully contribute to a more caring, inclusive, and compassionate Singapore. By equipping Companies of Good, especially SMEs, with the knowledge and tools to thrive sustainably and impactfully, we inspire more companies to embark on their Corporate Purpose journey, empowering them to do well by doing good.* — **Mr. Tony Soh**, CEO, NVPC

## 2. Launch of UNGCNS “20 for 20” SME Membership Promotion

**Campaign Name:** Forward Faster: Empowering SMEs for the Future of Sustainability

**Overview:** In celebration of its 20th anniversary and in recognition of MSME Day, UNGCNS is launching a **special membership offer exclusively for 20 SMEs**.

### Offer Details:

- Full-year UNGCNS membership in 2026
- Waiver of 2025 half-year membership fee (worth SGD \$250)
- Complimentary ticket to the 2025 UNGCNS Summit

### Eligibility:

- Open only to **SMEs registered in Singapore**
- Limited to the **first 20 qualifying registrants**
- Available until **31 December 2025**, or until slots are filled

### Why It Matters:

- Signals a commitment to responsible business.
- Provides SMEs with access to **peer learning, practical resources, and tailored sustainability guidance**
- Aligns with Singapore’s national agenda on sustainable enterprise development

*“20 years of impact is only the beginning. This campaign is an invitation for 20 pioneering SMEs to lead the next chapter in sustainable business.”* — **Dr. Bicky Bhangu**, President, UNGCNS

## Setting the Standard: Singapore Interior Design Awards (SIDA) 2025 Opens Global Call for Interior Design's Defining Projects

*Designers and firms are invited to showcase their most impactful and innovative interior creations that set new benchmarks for the industry*

The Singapore Interior Design Awards (SIDA) 2025, proudly organised by the Society of Interior Designers Singapore (SIDS), announced the official opening of its call for entries on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2025. Now in its 9th edition, SIDA 2025 stands as a beacon for recognising exceptional projects and practitioners across the spatial and interior design industry, inviting submissions from around the globe.

SIDA 2025 aims to showcase interior design projects that push boundaries, exemplify excellence, and set new benchmarks for the industry. In a significant evolution, SIDA 2025 has been refined to place a stronger emphasis on local Singaporean designers and their groundbreaking works. This commitment is underscored by reserving six special awards exclusively for local practitioners: **Design Firm of the Year**, **Designer of the Year**, **Lifetime Achievement Award**, **Design Educator of the Year**, **Design of the Year** and **Young Designer of the Year**. These dedicated categories seek to celebrate and propel the unique contributions of local talent, reinforcing Singapore's identity as a global city by design.



*The Chairman of the Organising Committee for SIDA 2025 at the launch of the competition*

*“As we launch SIDA 2025, our mission is clearer than ever: to identify and celebrate interior design projects that truly define excellence, whether on our shores or across continents,” says Mr Nithipong Subaneknan, Chairman of the Organising Committee for SIDA 2025. “By inviting global talent, we not only elevate the competition but also inspire our local designers through diverse perspectives and new*

*benchmarks. This year we are particularly excited to shine a brighter spotlight on the impact of our Singaporean designers with the introduction of the new award categories, further cementing our nation’s role as a leader in design innovation.”*

SIDA remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding design integrity, ensuring that all submissions are selected fairly and professionally. The jury panel for SIDA 2025 comprises a distinguished group of renowned experts, creatives, and industry leaders from diverse international backgrounds in design and architecture. This year’s jury include **Angela Spathonis**, Managing Director at Gensler (Singapore), **Ar. Razvan Ghilic-Micu**, Senior Associate at Hassell Studio, **Ar. Wong Ker How**, Founding Partner at Asolidplan and 2nd Vice President of the Singapore Institute of Architects, **Ben Stevenson**, Partner and Senior Interior Designer at Fosters + Partners (Hong Kong) and **Sabine Seck**, Partner at Hirsch Bedner Associates.

Further demonstrating its forward-looking vision, SIDA 2025 continues to nurture the future of design through its dedicated Youth Award category, created specifically for students. This platform spotlights the potential of tomorrow’s designers, helping the next generation launch their creative journeys and make their mark on the industry.



### Submission Details

Designers and firms are invited to submit their projects across various categories. For detailed submission guidelines, categories, jury profiles, key dates, please visit the official SIDA 2025 website at [sidawards.sg](http://sidawards.sg). The submission period will close on **1 August 2025**.

### About SIDA

Organised by the Society of Interior Designers, Singapore (SIDS), the Singapore Interior Design Awards (SIDA) is the most established interior design awards organised in the country participated by ID professionals from Singapore and internationally. Established in 2017, the awards recognise outstanding projects and practitioners across diverse perspectives. With close to 700 entries received annually across diverse categories, SIDA is one of the most anticipated interior design awards in the region, making every winner an outstanding performer showcasing the highest in design excellence.

# Singapore Archifest 2025 Breaks Architectural Moulds with “Don’t (Just) Think Like An Architect!”

*Open to all across the city, the month-long festival unites Pritzker laureates and diverse visionaries to celebrate architecture and Singapore’s 60-year design journey*

Singapore Archifest (SGAF) 2025, an annual festival celebrating architecture and the built environment, unveiled its highly anticipated programme on June 16, 2025, inviting design enthusiasts and the public to explore a radical new perspective on design. Running from 25 June to 25 July 2025 across the city, the 19th edition challenges audiences to “Don’t (Just) Think Like An Architect,” positioning architecture not merely as building structures, but as a dynamic force shaping lives, communities, and the future of our world.

Organised by the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) since 2007, SGAF has gained recognition as one of the most exciting architectural events in the calendar. This year’s edition is supported by the DesignSingapore Council. Under the leadership of Festival Director Rene Tan and his team at RT+Q Architects, SGAF 2025 is poised to redefine the festival with a greater focus on public engagement on design and architecture, particularly as Singapore celebrates its Diamond Jubilee.

SIA President Ar. Tiah Nan Chyuan says, “As with every iteration of Singapore Archifest, we are deeply committed to cultivating a more design-conscious society and fostering Singapore’s vibrant creative culture, ensuring that the profound impact of architecture is understood and celebrated by all.”



## Celebrating 60 Years Through Heritage and Innovation

Singapore’s remarkable 60-year journey of nation-building has been, at every step of the way, a “Nation by Design.” From its foundational policies and iconic public housing to sophisticated urban infrastructure, Singapore has never left design to chance. The city state has deliberately planned and designed around constraints to improve lives, uplift its people, and make every inch of space count.

In collaboration with Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), SGAF 2025 shines a special spotlight on this legacy at the vibrant Katong-Joo Chiat precinct. With exciting programmes planned in the area

throughout the month, the festival aims to enliven the precinct and tap into community interest for locals to understand their city and their heritage. This iconic neighbourhood is a testament to Singapore’s changing skyline where modern and old architecture seamlessly coexist, providing a rich backdrop for exploring how architecture has profoundly influenced the nation’s identity.

In celebration of the spirit of SG60, SGAF will be gathering more than 60 Singapore architects for a day of dialogues, the Architects Roundtable – a remarkable cross-section of pioneers, trailblazers, educators, and emerging talents who have shaped our city. For the first time, they will open their portfolios to share their unbuilt works, reflect Singapore’s bold journey over six decades, and engage in frank discussions on what it means to think not just as architects, but collectively explore how to design for a better, more imaginative, and more sustainable future for Singapore.

**Architecture for Everyone**

“This year, we want everyone – not just built environment professionals or design enthusiasts – to understand that architecture is for them and to think more deeply about the impact of our work on the environment and communities,” says Ar. Rene Tan, Festival Director of SGAF 2025.

“Our theme, ‘Don’t (Just) Think Like An Architect!’, challenges traditional mindsets and invites new unconventional ways of thinking in architecture. The future of architecture lies in going beyond the expected, and this festival is an invitation to embrace that mindset,” he adds.

SGAF 2025 brings together visionary architects, thought leaders, educators, and built environment professionals, pushing the boundaries of creativity, design, and education. It will explore how architecture can transcend its usual limits by rethinking the way we educate, design, and build, demonstrating that each of us is an integral part of its evolution.

**What to Expect at Singapore Archifest 2025**

The festival offers a diverse array of experiences, designed to engage and build connections with the audiences.

**Singapore AF Conference (25 – 27 June 2025, Sands Expo & Convention Centre)**



*99 architects involved at the Architects Roundtable held on the last of the Singapore AF Conference*

A powerhouse of ideas, the conference featured a stellar, world-renowned line-up of over 40 speakers. Attendees heard from Pritzker laureates and design luminaries, alongside trailblazers from unrelated fields, including a renowned fashion designer, an acclaimed chef, a celebrated DJ and artist. This interdisciplinary approach sparked fresh perspectives and challenged traditional architectural thought.

Highlights among the prominent figures included:

**Riken Yamamoto**, a Pritzker Prize laureate renowned for pioneering architecture that fosters community and transparency in public and private spaces.

**Eduardo Souto de Moura**, a celebrated Portuguese Pritzker Prize winner, known for his poetic use of materials and timeless, site-specific designs.

**Grace La & James Dallman**, award-winning principals of LA DALLMAN, recognised for their innovative integration of architecture, urbanism, and landscape across diverse scales.

**Takaharu Tezuka**, the visionary architect behind Tezuka Architects, celebrated for designing playful, human-centric spaces that redefine interaction, notably in educational environments.

**Samuel Ross**, a multi-hyphenate creative force, blending industrial design, fashion, and art to challenge perceptions of functionality and aesthetic.

**Rishi Naleendra**, a Michelin-starred chef who artfully crafts narratives through food, renowned for his innovative approach to taste and dining experiences.

**SGAF+** (27 June – 25 July 2025, island wide)



*Curated Walking Trails by Hidden Heritage SG*



*ArchiPavilion and Installations*

SGAF 2025 offers an extensive series of public programmes designed for widespread accessibility and participation. Under the festival theme, these diverse events invite everyone to discover how architecture impacts our past, present and future.

Highlights include:

**Tours:** Step into the city’s hidden gems and iconic spaces with **ArchiTours by NUS** and explore the rich narratives of our heritage through **Curated Walking Trails by Hidden Heritage SG**, focusing on Katong-Joo Chiat neighbourhood.

**Assembly: Blueprints of Imagination:** Showcasing the innovative work of emerging design talents from nine spatial design schools, offering a glimpse into the next generation’s vision for our built environment.

**ArchiHouse:** A hub of inspiration featuring a compelling schedule of talks and exhibitions, including the thought-provoking **Long Island Exhibition** – presenting studies by NUS MAUD and Landscape studios – and the insightful **URA Identity Corridor Exhibition**.

**ArchiPavilion & Installations:** Experience the power of design firsthand through interactive and inclusive installations placed to spark conversation and creativity in Katong-Joo Chiat precinct.

For more information on Singapore Archifest 2025 and event ticketing details, visit the official website at [archifest.sg](http://archifest.sg) and Instagram at [instagram.com/archifest](https://www.instagram.com/archifest).

### About Singapore Archifest

Organised by the Singapore Institute of Architects since 2007, Singapore Archifest (SGAF) is an annual festival celebrating architecture and the built environment. The festival is a space for imagination, conversation, and speculation. It intends to be a platform for people from all walks of life to participate in uninhibited dialogue, creative collaboration, and thoughtful, collective deliberation, in relation to contemporary architectural issues.

## Gather, Be Inspired, and Bask in i Light Singapore

*iLSG 2025 was held from 29 May to 21 June 2025, 7.30pm to 11.00pm daily with extended hours to 12 midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.*

Asia's leading light festival, i Light Singapore (iLSG), returned on 29 May 2025, to transform the city into a focal point for art, sustainability, and togetherness. Organised by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), presented by UOB, and supported by various partners and sponsors, the Festival was open to all to come together to enjoy new experiences and forge memories amidst captivating light art installations and exciting programmes, as well as to reflect on our shared journey for a sustainable future from refreshing and unconventional perspectives. Anchored on the theme *To Gather* and in celebration of SG60, the Festival featured a new lineup of 17 light art installations across Marina Bay, South Beach, and for the first time, Singapore River and Raffles Place. Highlights included a 'campfire' that never burns out and giant inflatable humanoids exploring our planet.



*L to R\_ Mrs Ow Foong Pheng, Chairperson, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Mr Chee Hong Tat, Minister for National Development, Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB, Mr Lim Eng Hwee, Chi*

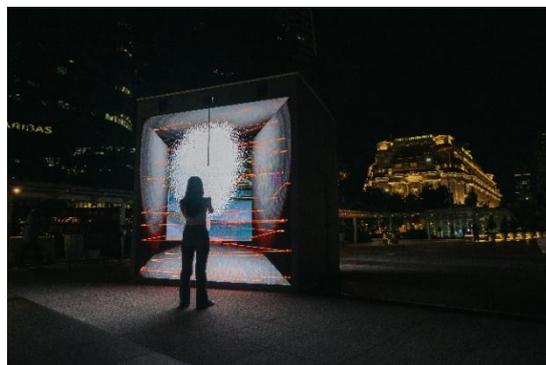
Mr Jason Chen, Festival Director of i Light Singapore 2025 and Director (Place Management) of URA said, "i Light Singapore is a powerful reflection of how partnerships can transform urban spaces into inclusive and meaningful destinations. By bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise from artists and stakeholders, we have created an experience that welcomes people to not only gather, enjoy and connect, but also be inspired in taking collective action to shape a more sustainable future and lead greener lifestyles."

### Larger-than-life humanoids and ‘campfire’ to capture the heart of our city

Commanding attention at Marina Bay were larger-than-life light art installations that reframed one’s perception of scale and space, invoking visitors to think deeper about humanity’s place in the universe and its impact on the planet. **Fantastic Planet** by Amanda Parer (Australia) featured three towering humanoid figures along the waterfront promenade that cast an otherworldly presence over visitors, rendering us small; we are no longer the observers, but the observed instead.



*Piano Walk by Amigo & Amigo (Courtesy of i Light Singapore 2025)*



*Elementary by Tonoptik (Courtesy of i Light Singapore 2025)*

### Immersive installations to become conduits for all to gather

Visitors could also engage and interact with one another through a line-up of immersive light art installations. **In Tandem** by students Lee Si Heidi, Rae Koh and Leela Rao (Singapore) from Nanyang Technological University, tapped on biometric sensors that translate visitors’ heartbeats into synchronised light and sound patterns on a luminous sphere. **Mozart** by StudioGEAR (China), situated on the steps of The Helix Bridge, featured a white sphere representing a deconstructed piano inviting festival-goers to become performers in a vibrant reimagination of classical music. This light art installation lit up with each footstep and produced compositions that mimic its fragmented structure, encouraging audiences to reflect on how disruption can bring about newfound creativity.



*Bridge of 1,000 Dreams by Studio Toer (Courtesy of i Light Singapore 2025)*



*Embrace by Beamhacker (Courtesy of i Light Singapore 2025)*

Other engaging light art installations included **VJYourself!** by Playmodes Studio (Spain) and **Embrace** by Beamhacker (Australia). **VJYourself!** welcomed festivalgoers to dance playfully and move freely together at the same time, as it captured and returned their movements in the form of digital echoes stitched together into a montage. **Embrace**, presented by Defence Collective Singapore in commemoration of the Singapore Armed Forces’ 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, invited visitors to link hands with life-sized silhouettes, activating a symphony of light and sound that symbolised unity and collective strength, creating a vivid image of protectors and the protected standing side by side – a luminous tribute to the spirit of solidarity that upholds our nation’s military and defence.

### Absorbing and engaging programmes to foster connections, conversations, and shared moments

Beyond light art installations, iLSG also worked with various event partners, sponsors, and community stakeholders to offer a suite of activities designed to deepen participation, foster connections and inspire shared experiences amongst visitors.

Bringing another layer of vibrancy to The Promontory, a new Festival feature, **Campfyre @ NOMADS**, brought to life a space for the community to gather. Located adjacent to **Sign**, festivalgoers could take a break at **Campfyre** while savouring light bites across all through the Festival.

iLSG also staged a **Silent Disco Parade** for the first time, on 20 June 2025, 7.30pm - 9.30pm, where participants grooved through the Festival's light art installations as an upbeat dance procession. The parade kicked off at the ArtScience Museum and took visitors around the Bay, before concluding at The Promontory.

Festivalgoers also experienced the phygital showcase, **Cloud City: Built with AI** at the Mist Walk along the waterfront promenade, presented by Alibaba Cloud, a key sustainability partner for iLSG 2025. Powered by Alibaba's generative AI technology, participants could upload a photo of themselves, to generate a scene of themselves living in the future world to envision how innovation transforms urban landscapes to create a greener future.

The well-loved **GastroBeats** returned to the Bayfront Event Space till 22 June 2025, inviting foodies, music enthusiasts, and anyone seeking a fun cultural experience to enjoy a feast for their senses. The Festival Village pulsed with daily live music by homegrown and regional talents and has pet-friendly areas as well as retail zones featuring unique products from local creators and small businesses. A first-ever staging of **Rewind, Replay, Remix: SG Edition** was also launched at **GastroBeats** — participants were taken on a dynamic journey of the soundscape of Singapore's past, present and future through different eras of music.



*Fantastic Planet - What's That by Amanda Parer  
(Courtesy of i Light Singapore 2025)*



*Saulux by SPLACES.STUDIO (Courtesy of i Light Singapore 2025)*

The **i Light River Cruise Shuttle Service** allowed visitors to enjoy a fresh and scenic view of the light art installations from the water on board eco-friendly vessels. Visitors could also paddle through the Bay in LED-lit dragon boats as part of **Glow Paddle 2025**, organised by the People's Association Passion Wave as part of the SG60 celebrations, and enjoy a guided tour of the precinct as they row past the light art installations.

The signature **'Switch Off, Turn Up'** campaign also returned alongside iLSG, as it rallied building owners and businesses across Singapore to reduce energy consumption by powering down non-essential lighting and utilising more optimal temperatures for air-conditioning. This initiative was a key highlight of the Festival's sustainability efforts and invites the public to contribute to change through simple, impactful actions.



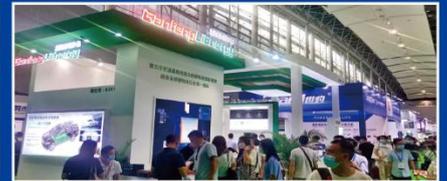
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## Gprnt Announces World’s First Nationwide Utility for Sustainability Reporting Backed by Ant International and MUFG Bank

- **World-First Digital ESG Utility:** Gprnt, launched by MAS and backed by GFTN, unveils the world's first nationwide utility for companies in Singapore, especially SMEs, to automatically generate basic sustainability metrics using government-sourced utilities data
- **Unlocking Green Finance and Procurement:** Pioneering innovation allows users to generate ESG outputs freely and easily to meet reporting requirements, access sustainable finance, qualify for green procurement schemes, and unlock other economic opportunities
- **Backed by Global Players:** Gprnt raises US\$4.62 million in seed funding from Ant International and MUFG Bank to accelerate this mission
- **Alignment with National and Global Goals:** Initiative aligns with Singapore’s vision to be a global leader in green finance and digital ESG infrastructure

Gprnt (‘Greenprint’), a local sustainability reporting and data platform company, unveiled the world’s first nationwide utility enabling companies in Singapore to automatically generate their basic sustainability metrics on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. Launched by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) as a digital platform of the Global Finance and Technology Network (GFTN), Gprnt is supported by US\$4.62 million (S\$6 million) in seed funding from strategic investors Ant International and MUFG Bank. This marks a significant step forward in Singapore’s deployment of digital infrastructure for sustainability disclosure and data.



*The launch event saw the coming together of all the executives from Gprnt, Ant International, GFTN, and MUFG Bank to discuss the vision that Gprnt hopes to foster,*

Using Gprnt, Singapore-based companies will for the first time be able to retrieve utilities data – comprising their water, town gas, and electricity consumption values – from PUB, Singapore’s National

Water Agency and the Energy Market Authority. This is enabled by Gprnt’s integration with the Government Technology Agency of Singapore’s (GovTech) Myinfo business service, which allows companies to use their Corppass accounts to securely retrieve data with consent.

- Companies will be able to automatically convert their utilities data into basic sustainability metrics, such as Scope 1 and 2 emissions values, on the Gprnt platform within minutes and without cost.
- By simplifying sustainability disclosures, Gprnt supports national efforts by Enterprise Singapore and other government agencies to drive the adoption of carbon accounting, especially among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Companies can leverage
- their sustainability disclosures to unlock new opportunities such as sustainability-linked financing and participation in new green procurement tenders.
- Globally, this is the world’s first instance in which a digital platform (i) equips all companies nationwide to seamlessly disclose their baseline sustainability metrics, leveraging government-source data, with minimal intervention and at no cost; and (ii) matches them to government and industry partners willing to incentivise such disclosures.

“Gprnt is a game-changer for Singapore companies’ sustainability reporting,” said Ravi Menon, Chairman of the GFTN Board of Directors and Singapore’s Ambassador for Climate Action. “High-integrity sustainability data is critical for businesses to formulate effective transition plans for decarbonisation. Yet, harnessing such data is often costly and complex for SMEs, especially at a time when they are facing global trade headwinds and economic uncertainties. Gprnt will empower businesses to undertake sustainability reporting at lower cost and with less pain. It will help them better manage the tensions between dealing with heightened cost pressures while building strategic capabilities to thrive in the green economy of the future.”

**Successful Seed Round Powers Further Enhancements and Accelerated Adoption**



In tandem with this milestone, Gprnt announced the successful completion of its seed funding round. The fresh capital will go towards strengthening Gprnt’s digital infrastructure, deepening its AI capabilities, and accelerating the onboarding of partners in Singapore and across the region.

Ant International, a leading global digital payment, digitisation, and financial technology provider headquartered in Singapore; and MUFG Bank, one of the world's largest financial institutions, are supporting Gprnt’s mission to simplify and scale sustainability reporting. Both organisations will integrate Gprnt into their ecosystems to support firms with sustainability disclosures, help clients bridge their Scope 3 supply chain data gaps, and unlock new partnership and financing opportunities.

"Digital innovation and industry collaborations are key to helping micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in their sustainability transformation journeys," said Leiming Chen, Chief Sustainability Officer, Ant International. "Through Programme Sirius, Ant International collaborates with Gprnt and

other industry leaders to explore ways to make the sustainability disclosure process easier and more robust for MSMEs, including aligning on sustainability metrics and leveraging the use of digital ecosystems which MSMEs already operate in. We congratulate Gprnt on this milestone and look forward to working with Gprnt to support more MSMEs with inclusive growth, enabling them to adapt and unlock new opportunities.”

“Gprnt’s ability to re-imagine how companies can integrate sustainability data and reporting into their business operations is outstanding, and this first-of-its kind utilities data feature is just another example of how the digital platform continues to scale new heights through the pioneering of innovative and intelligent solutions in service of Asia’s energy transition,” said Taichi Murakami, Deputy Head, Global Corporate & Investment Banking, Asia Pacific, MUFG Bank. “MUFG’s strategic partnership with Gprnt is driven by a shared purpose of harnessing digital transformation for empowerment and growth, and we look forward to enhancing collaboration in areas ranging from sustainable finance to supply chain business solutions for the betterment of the broader business community.”

“This marks a pivotal moment, not just for Gprnt, but for the future of sustainability reporting,” said Lionel Wong, Executive Director, Gprnt. “With our investors and strategic partners, we’ve built a landmark solution that empowers companies of all sizes to transform ESG reporting and data from a burden to a bridge, at minimal cost and fuss. We’re excited to put Gprnt into the hands of more governments, financial institutions, corporates, and SMEs, to jointly shape a world where sustainable business models and practices become the norm.”

### **From National Utility to Global Catalyst**

In the months ahead, Gprnt will continue to scale its services and network of partners across Asia. With innovations such as a proprietary sustainability marketplace, intelligent recommendation engines, and upcoming support for Scope 3 supply chain reporting, Gprnt aims to empower all stakeholders across the entire value chain, from the smallest SMEs to the largest organisations, towards tangible and practical climate action.

Supported by the Global Finance and Technology Network (GFTN), Gprnt’s roadmap includes the launch of an affordable end-to-end digital assurance service, an AI-powered virtual sustainability officer to assist companies, ESG data application programming interfaces (APIs), and ESG analytics tools to help users act on their reported data.

“We foresee Gprnt becoming a transformative force in sustainability reporting and financing across the globe,” said Sopnendu Mohanty, Group Chief Executive Officer, GFTN. “We are delighted to partner Ant International and MUFG Bank in deploying its industry-leading capabilities to more business communities worldwide.”

### **About Gprnt**

Gprnt is a premier digital platform for sustainability disclosures and granular, verifiable ESG data. Launched in 2023 by the MAS as a digital platform of the GFTN, it equips businesses of all sizes with an automated Disclosure solution and value-added services Marketplace, underpinned by an open and interoperable data platform. By harnessing technology to make sustainability reporting accessible and actionable, Gprnt empowers businesses to measure and act on their sustainability efforts at scale. For more information on Gprnt and its sustainability solutions, please visit [www.gprnt.ai](http://www.gprnt.ai).

## This First-in-Singapore Apparel Vending Machine Helps Singaporeans Wash Less Without Compromising Freshness

Most of us don't give a second thought to how much water we use doing laundry.

Three loads a week feels normal (maybe even conservative) especially in a hot, humid country like Singapore. But each load can use 50 to 150 litres of water. Multiply that by every household, every week, and it adds up fast.

*Singapore is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world, says Ultifresh and most of us don't even realise it.*

With [water demand projected to nearly double by 2065](#), Singapore is pushing for [household use to fall to 130 litres per person per day](#). While the usual advice focuses on showers and taps, laundry remains one of the biggest hidden water guzzlers.

In a climate where "one wear, one wash" is the norm, sustainable apparel brand Ultifresh is challenging that mindset. Their anti-bacterial and anti-odour clothing eliminates up to 99.94% of bacteria, helping clothes stay fresh longer and cutting down unnecessary wash cycles.



*Ultifresh Co-Founders with Ultifresh Vending Machine*

To make this innovation more accessible, Ultifresh has launched the first-in-region anti-bacterial apparel vending machines across Singapore, located at **AMK Hub, launching soon at Eunos Bus Interchange, and Hougang Bus Interchange.**

These vending machines offer grab-and-go basics like anti-bacterial tees for commuters, shift workers, and professionals who need a quick change, but minus the waste. It's a new retail format that's convenient, sustainable, and designed to fit into fast-paced city life.

This rollout also marks a major pivot from B2B to direct-to-consumer, making Ultifresh's laundry-saving technology available beyond the traditional industry sectors such as corporate, retail, education, hospitality, and healthcare. Vending machines allow the brand to scale without a traditional retail footprint, keeping costs low and reach wide.

As part of their consumer-facing expansion, Ultifresh is also launching a new **Anti-Stain** line, designed to repel everyday spills like wine or *teh o*. But while the product line evolves, the spotlight remains on rewearable fashion that reduces water, detergent and textile waste.

To dive into how Ultifresh is transforming the way we think about laundry, sustainability, and water conservation, we would like to invite you to speak to **Frank Yap, co-founder of Ultifresh**, on:

- The growing issue of water stress in Singapore and how laundry is one of the most significant yet overlooked contributors to water consumption
- How businesses and consumers can contribute to water conservation through smarter laundry habits
- How Ultifresh's products challenge the common habit of frequent washing and how changing consumer behavior around laundry can lead to long-term environmental benefits
- The launch of Ultifresh's vending machines and how they make sustainable fashion more accessible to the average consumer, particularly in busy, high-traffic locations

### **About Ultifresh**

Ultifresh is a leading innovator in sustainable clothing, offering high-performance, anti-bacterial and anti-odor apparel that kills 99.94% of bacteria on contact. By reducing the need for frequent washing, Ultifresh promotes water conservation while delivering comfort and convenience. Trusted by leading brands, Ultifresh has sold an average of 3 million shirts a year, empowering individuals and businesses to embrace sustainable living and achieve their environmental goals. For more information, please visit [www.ultifresh.net](http://www.ultifresh.net).



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