



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GARDENS BY THE BAY PARTNERS GIRL GUIDES SINGAPORE FOR “GB AMBASSADORS”,
A NEW SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH PROGRAMME**

**Mrs Mary Tan, Patron of Girl Guides Singapore, Marks Partnership and Launch of
New Programme with Tree Planting Ceremony at the Gardens**

Singapore, 16 February 2012 - Today, more than 9,000 members of the Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) and their families celebrated World Thinking Day and participated in two new Garden Trails that were jointly developed by GGS and Gardens by the Bay as part of the new “GB Ambassadors” programme.

“GB Ambassadors” is a new school engagement and outreach programme of Gardens by the Bay, with GGS as its inaugural partner. To commemorate the launch of the programme as well as the partnership between GGS and the Gardens, a tree was planted by Mrs Mary Tan, Patron of GGS, at the Gardens’ Fragile Forest.

As part of the programme, Girl Guides and Brownies will have the opportunity to be involved in different projects at the Gardens, from guiding, to facilitating programmes, to assisting in the Gardens’ operations. For a start, 50 Girl Guides from Bedok South Secondary School, Cedar Girls’ Secondary School, Changkat Changi Secondary School, Jurong Secondary School and Yishun Town Secondary School have been trained as Garden Guides to facilitate the two new Garden Trails. The trails - “Nature and Me” for primary school students and “Experiencing Nature” for secondary school students - consist of a series of fun and educational activities that encourage children and youth to explore the Gardens and discover its diversity of flora and fauna.

Moving forward, GGS and Gardens by the Bay will continue to collaborate on various projects, including expanding the series of Garden Trails for use by schools and the public, and looking into the content development for a new “GB Proficiency Badge” for Girl Guides and Brownies.

The partnership is part of GGS’ and the Gardens’ efforts to engage the young and to encourage them to play a active role in Singapore’s natural heritage. It is also in line with the Ministry of Education’s 21st Century Competencies, which seek to develop students to become independent learners, concerned citizens, active contributors and confident individuals.

Mrs Chua Yen Ching, Chief Commissioner of Girl Guides Singapore: “The theme for World Thinking Day 2013 is “Forging Family Ties” and this celebration is unique in that the girls are celebrating it with their family members in this beautiful Gardens. The Garden Trails help strengthen the bond between the parents and girls. Quality relationship is essential in building strong foundation of the family unit and I am sure this will be a memorable event for everyone.”

Mrs Joy Balakrishnan, President of Girl Guides Singapore: “This is an important and strategic partnership with Gardens by the Bay - for the girls to have access to the Gardens for learning beyond school and for GGS to share our expertise in developing the materials for learning. In GGS, we remain committed to the mission to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.”

Dr Kiat W. Tan, Chief Executive Officer of Gardens by the Bay, said, “Children have a way of seeing things differently and the new Garden Trails will give young people a whole new perspective of looking at the Gardens. Our GB Ambassadors programme is an opportunity for the Gardens to engage the young and to nurture among them a love for nature and biodiversity, while developing leadership skills and a sense of responsibility towards the community. We are delighted to have GGS as our inaugural partner in this programme.”

ENDS

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PROGRAMME

- Date : Saturday, 16 February 2013
Time : 0730hrs - 1130hrs
Venue : The Meadows, Gardens by the Bay
18 Marina Gardens Drive, Singapore 018953
- 0730hrs : Arrival of GGS members and families
- 0800hrs : Flag off for Garden Trail for Brownies and families
- 0815hrs : Flag off for Garden Trail for Girl Guides and families
- 0915hrs : Brownies and Girl Guides to be seated
Arrival of Guests
- 0930hrs : Arrival of Guest of Honour, Mrs Mary Tan, Patron, GGS

Tree planting ceremony by Guest of Honour
- 0945hrs : Colours
World Song
Opening remarks by Mrs Chua Yen Ching, Chief Commissioner, GGS
World Thinking Day song and prayer
Presentation of World Thinking Day Pennies
World Thinking Day Message by Mrs Joy Balakrishnan, President, GGS
Renewal of promise
Viewing of winning entries of World Thinking Day competitions
Interaction with PNA Awardees
Presentation of token of appreciation to Guest Of Honour
Colours, Brownie Bells and Taps
- 1030hrs : Reception for guests
Ends

About World Thinking Day

World Thinking Day was first created in 1926 at the fourth Girl Guide / Girl Scout International Conference held at Girl Scouts of the USA's Camp Edith Macy. Conference attendees decided that there should be a special day when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world think of each other and give thanks and appreciation for their "sister" Girl Guides/Scouts. The delegates chose February 22 as it was the mutual birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement and his wife, Olave, who served as the World Chief Guide.

At the 7th World Conference held in Poland in 1942, a Belgian delegate suggested that since birthdays usually involve presents, girls could show their appreciation and friendship on Thinking Day by extending not only warm wishes but by offering a voluntary contribution to the World Association. This is how the World's Association Thinking Day Fund began. The fund helps offer Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting to more girls and young women worldwide.

To emphasize the global aspects of Thinking Day, members of the 30th World Conference, held in Ireland in 1999, changed the name *Thinking Day* to *World Thinking Day*. World Thinking Day provides an opportunity for Girl Guides/Girl Scouts around the world to put their thoughts into action by participating in activities that promote international understanding.

The theme for World Thinking Day 2013 for Girl Guides Singapore is "Forging Family Ties".

About Girl Guides Singapore

Started in 1917, Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) is a non-profit Uniformed Group that is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Guide Scouts (WAGGGS). It has over 9,000 members in Singapore and is the largest and choice Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) group for girls. There are more than 10 million Girl Guides and Guide Scouts in 145 countries today.

GGS teaches leadership, promotes resourcefulness and supports cultural diversity in today's world, for today's girls. We offer opportunities and challenges that shape each girl into a leader of courage, confidence and character. As she takes her place and makes her mark in the world, the Girl Guides experience is something a girl will carry with her for life.

About Gardens by the Bay

An integral part of Singapore's "City in a Garden" vision, Gardens by the Bay spans a total of 101 hectares of prime land at the heart of Singapore's new downtown - Marina Bay. Comprising three waterfront gardens - Bay South, Bay East and Bay Central - Gardens by the Bay will be a showcase of horticulture and garden artistry that will bring the world of plants to Singapore and present Singapore to the World. Bay South, the largest at 54 hectares, officially opened on 29 June 2012.

Gardens by the Bay was started as a project by the National Parks Board. It has since grown to become an independent organisation responsible for developing and managing what will be Asia's foremost garden destination.

To date, the Gardens has received several awards and accolades. In recognition of its efforts in environmental sustainability, it was conferred "World Building of the Year" at the World Architecture Festival 2012, "Green Mark Platinum Award" by the Building and Construction Authority, and "ABC Water Certification" by Singapore's national water agency PUB. It also received commendation from the MIPIM Architectural Review Future Project Awards in 2009 in the Regeneration and Masterplanning category.