



Media Release

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To: News Editors

18 March 2022

EQUIPPING YOUTH IN THE SOUTH EAST DISTRICT WITH SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

South East CDC's Future Ready Committee launches experiential programme targeted at more than 200 youth to expose them to the evolving traditional trade industries.

Singapore, 18 March 2022 – Hilot Marghallet Jomeniel, a 15-year-old Secondary Three student in Ping Yi Secondary School, grew up building tables and chairs for her family's outdoor kitchen alongside her grandfather. Greatly inspired by her grandfather who customises household items for their home, Hilot jumped at the chance to participate in the Trades Skill Introductory Series upon hearing about the programme. Other than wanting to pursue her keen interest and curiosity in furniture making, she sees an essential supplement to gain such uncommon industry insights within the normal school curriculum. Apart from the learnt practical skills, she wishes to apply them in ways that can help improve the lives of those in the community.

Hilot is one of 30 youth and students who have gone through this **Trade Skills Introductory Series**. Noting the issues faced by the tradesman and craftsman and the manpower shortage in the industries, **South East Community Development Council (South East CDC)'s Future Ready Committee** (more details at Annex A) partnered NTUC's e2i (Employment and Employability Institute) to initiate this Trade Skills Introductory Series, to raise awareness, spark interest and create better understanding of tradesman and craftsman jobs. South East CDC aims to have eight runs throughout the year by reaching out to schools and Social Service Agencies targeted at youth within the South East district to seek their interest to participate in the programme. This run was a two-day programme, supported by Singapore Furniture Industries Council Institute, immersing the youth and students with sharing from industry speakers and hands-on experience to design and build their own furniture with a 3D design software. In subsequent versions, South East CDC will consider different formats and look to expand to job skills from other industries.

Mr Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East district highlighted, "As a social broker, South East CDC strives to cater for our residents' wants and needs via the close partner networks. Through the Trade Skills Introductory Series, students will have the chance to understand a good range of career opportunities and widen their career prospects. Youth is a very important group that we strive to nurture as they will play an integral role in Singapore's future. We must definitely equip our youth with the necessary skillsets for the future. I'm glad to have Ping Yi Secondary School on board with us for this run, lovely to be infected with the students' enthusiasm."

Mr Ang Chee Seng, Principal of Ping Yi Secondary School, shared that “It is important to expose our students to a wide array of career opportunities to prepare them for the future of work. As they will soon be selecting their course of study, we decided to participate in the Trade Skills Introductory Series with hopes to give them some insights to more career options. I believe this programme with South East CDC will empower them with more skill sets to be ready for what the future holds for them.”

For more information, you may reach **Ms Beatrice Yap** at 9233 0765/
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About South East Community Development Council

South East CDC was set up on 24 November 2001. It oversees the Marine Parade Group Representative Constituency (GRC), East Coast GRC, Mountbatten Single Member Constituency (SMC) and MacPherson SMC, and serves a population of about half a million residents. At the helm of South East CDC is Mayor Fahmi Aliman, who leads the team in fulfilling the CDC’s function – an Aggregator of Needs and Resources, Builder of Capability and Capacity in Partners and Networks and Connector of Communities. South East CDC initiates and manages programmes in collaboration with both community and corporate partners, so as to nurture a vibrant and self-reliant community.

More information on South East CDC at www.cdc.gov.sg/southeast, be our Facebook fan at www.facebook.com/secdc or be our Instagram follower at www.instagram.com/southeastcdc.

Annex A: About South East Community Development Council's Committees

South East Community Development Council (South East CDC) aggregates the local needs and resources, build capabilities in partners, and connect communities together. We work closely with our District Councillors, community and corporate partners to keep our eyes and ears in the community, to identify emerging gaps and needs. As such, we had set up three committees to sharpen our engagements and programmes and make them more effective and targeted towards our focal areas.

Care Committee

The Care Committee aims to harness the strength and resources from our community stakeholders and to create a more accessible platform for 'giving back'.

Resilience Committee

The Resilience Committee aims to build resilient communities and individuals by promoting greater awareness of mental health literacy in the community and to promote racial and religious harmony through building bridges and deepening understanding as to build a united and resilient community.

Future Ready Committee

The Future Ready Committee aims to connect partners, stakeholders and residents through raising awareness and building partnerships to be future-ready. This will be done by activating networks, bridging resources, encouraging skills upgrading, lifelong learning and facilitating employment.