

# Signal

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The Singapore  
Association  
For The Deaf  
新加坡聋人协会



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Jan-Oct 2017



President Halimah Yacob's Visit to SADeaf  
on 16 Sep 2017



Public Awareness Campaign on SMRT Train during IWD



Care to Colour

## 3

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## 4

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newly elected Executive Council Members for the term 2017 - 2019  
Membership Renewal Reminder

## 5

## SPECIAL FEATURE

Focus Group Discussion on Public Transport  
Hong Kong Study Trip  
Dr Azariah Tan NUS Grant

## 8

## EVENTS

Charity Car Wash

Seafood Feast

Lo Hei Celebration

Deafinitely Durian

International Week of the  
Deaf, Investiture cum Awards  
Ceremony (centre page)

SADeaf Igniters  
- Care to Colour  
- Kayaking

Deaf Friendship Day

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> birthday Grand Hyatt  
Singapore!

Just Sign It - Kindness Week

Family Day

Durian Trip

Marina Bay Sands -  
Mother's Day Event

HDB Talk

Deaf Unique Moves II Dance  
Concert

Staff Retreat

Picture credit:  
Grateful thanks  
to **Mr Raymond Lee**,  
one of our dedicated  
volunteers for providing  
photography support  
at all our events.





**Sylvia Teng**  
Executive Director

In this issue of Signal, I would like to share some of the key events from past months:

### **New Executive Council for the term 2017 - 2019**

On 23 September 2017, a new Executive Council (EXCO) for the term 2017 - 2019 was elected during our Annual General Meeting. SADeaf would

like to thank our former EXCO members for their valuable contributions over their two-year term. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome on board the new EXCO members and look forward to working with them.

### **International Week of the Deaf, Investiture cum Awards Ceremony & SADeaf's role in Deaf Education**

We had the honour to have President Halimah Yacob graced the International Week of the Deaf, Investiture cum Awards Ceremony on 16 September 2017 as our Guest-of-honour. At the same event, Dr Janil Puthuchery, Senior Minister of State for Education made the announcement that SADeaf will partner the Ministry of Education & Mayflower Primary School in the new educational model; whereby sign language will be used to support instruction for pupils with hearing loss.

Two specialised teachers from SADeaf will co-teach with the mainstream teacher for core subjects - English, mathematics and science.

An educational sign interpreter will support non-core subjects such as physical education, art and music.

Awards were presented to outstanding Deaf individuals (including Special Achievement Awards presented to Deaflympians Ms Adelia Naomi Yokoyama and Ms Kimberly Quek), long-serving staff and new Ambassadors were officially welcome on board during the event.

### **Public Awareness Campaign**

Deaf Unique Moves II Dance Concert was held on 13 August 2017 to raise awareness of the importance of visual cues and sign language through drama and dance.

And, for the very first time; International Week of the Deaf campaign materials with this year's theme "Full Inclusion with Sign Language" were installed on a SMRT train which plied the main/red line between 14 September - 11 October 2017.

### **Deaf Friendship Day**

Fostering a closer relationship with various deaf groups/ organisations as we celebrated Deaf Friendship Day on 19 August 2017. Special thanks to TOUCH Silent Club (TSC), Ministry of Hearing Impaired (MHI) and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Federation Singapore for the great partnership and for making the event a successful! SADeaf looks forward to playing host come 2018.

Lastly, on behalf of our Executive Council, Management and Staff; I would like to extend an early Season's Greetings to all!



## Newly Elected Executive Council Members

SADeaf would like to welcome on board our newly elected Executive Council Members for the term 2017 - 2019.

### **President**

Mr Marini Martin Vincent\*

### **Vice President(s)**

Dr Zahabar Ali\*

*Chairman, Community Services Committee*

Ms Tay Lay Hong

*Chairman, Deaf Access Committee*

Mr Gregory Wee Chong Yeow\*

*Chairman, MVS School Management Committee*

### **Honorary Secretary**

Ms Wong Ee Kean\*

### **Honorary Treasurer**

Mr Chan Sek Wai\*

### **Council Members**

Mr Chew Mun Kai

Ms Chua Siew Cheng Evangeline\*

Mr Steven Lee Chee Phat, PBM\*

Mr Lim Jiun Yih\*

Mr Neo Hock Ping

Ms Valerie Tan Kian Wah\*

Mr Teo Bee Chuan

Mr Eric Hao Chun Tseng

\* Denotes hearing

## Membership Renewal Reminder

### **It's time to renew your SADeaf membership!**

Find out more about membership privileges and benefits at [www.sadeaf.org.sg/join-us/become-member](http://www.sadeaf.org.sg/join-us/become-member)

To continue enjoying these privileges and benefits, we strongly urge you to renew your membership.

Please complete and mail the Membership Renewal Form (downloadable from the webpage) with a crossed cheque payable to "The Singapore Association for the Deaf".

Cash payments can also be made in person at the Association during office hours (8.30am to 5.30pm) from Monday to Friday. On Wednesdays, our front office is open till 9pm.

If you have any queries on your membership, please contact [info@sadeaf.org.sg](mailto:info@sadeaf.org.sg) or SMS 9226 7637.

Thank you very much and we look forward to welcoming you as our member again!





## DAP for Public Transport Committee



We are heartened by the increasing number of government agencies, schools & companies which have sent their staff to attend our Deaf Awareness Programme. We welcome the Public Transport Council which has just recently participated in this programme.

Team from the Public Transport Council with Mr James Ong (Executive, Deaf Access Services) & staff interpreter Ms Amirah.

## Focus Group Discussion on Public Transport

(2<sup>nd</sup> Group)

On 27 May 2017, the Public Transport Council (PTC) engaged the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community in a 2<sup>nd</sup> session of exploration to improve their daily commuting experience. The participants shared their personal experiences and gave ideas and suggestions to further enhance the public transport services for the community.



# Study Trip to Hong Kong

by James Ong

SADeaf remains committed to dedicate resources to develop & research on Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) and to provide support & resources for the upcoming designated Primary School in 2018. It was based on this commitment, that a team from the SADeaf went on an information gathering trip to Hong Kong from 12 to 14 April 2017, with the main objective of learning about sign language development and research at the Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The team, led by Ms Sylvia Teng, SADeaf Executive Director, also took the opportunity to visit the Hong Kong Association for the Deaf, the Deaf-Blind

Resource Centre under the Hong Kong Society for the Blind, and the Hong Kong Society for the Deaf. It was a very fruitful study trip as the team came back with not only a better understand of the process of sign language development but also many ideas that they could use for the programmes at SADeaf.

Members:

Mr Ernest Toh (Administrator)

Ms Wong Ai Ling (Principal Case Manager)

Mr Dennis Tan (Chairman, Sign Language Instruction and Linguistics Committees)

Mr James Ong (Executive)



Chinese  
University of  
Hong Kong





## Dr Azariah Tan - NUS Grant

We would like to congratulate Mr Azariah Tan, a hard-of-hearing pianist, who was chosen as a recipient of the Paul Abisheganaden Grant for 2017.

The prize, in memory of Singapore music pioneer and Cultural Medallion recipient Paul Abisheganaden, is awarded to NUS students and alumni who have contributed significantly to the performing arts.

Azariah, a graduate with a degree in music from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in NUS, has

bilateral sensorineural hearing loss but this did not hinder him from pursuing his passion in music.

The grant of \$10,000 grant will be used by Azariah to hone his skills further.

Although he admitted that having hearing loss could be frustrating at times as his hearing aids cannot differentiate sounds and voices well, he is determined in his pursuit of his passion and he hopes to make music fun and accessible to all.

## Charity Car Wash 2017

A Fundraising Charity Car Wash by volunteers from NTU Riders Club and this year together NUS Motorcycle Club vroomed into the compound of SAd deaf on the morning of Saturday 22 January 2017 for a good cause to raise funds for the association. They spent the day from 9 am - 6 pm to offer car/ bike wash services and raised \$3,330 for SAd deaf.

This is the third consecutive year that the NTU Riders Club has organised the Charity Wash to raise funds for SAd deaf.

A big thank you to the members of the NTU Riders Club and NUS Motorcycle Club, the drivers and bikers who came to support the event, as well as to all the sponsors.



Our Executive Director Ms Sylvia Teng was on site to welcome the first group of riders yesterday morning, together with volunteers from NTU Riders Club & NUS Motorcycle Club.



To kick-start the charity car wash, Ms Teng personally hand washed Mr Kenny's cool looking bike, together with Ren You, volunteer from NTU Riders Club



Photo taken with Mr Kenny Lim, the owner of first vehicle which arrived.



A token of our appreciation was presented to Mr Basil, President of NTU Riders Club.

## Seafood Feast For A Good Cause

To celebrate this festive season, and, as part of our donation drive, SAd deaf organised a "Seafood Feast" on 18 February 2017, Saturday at the SAd deaf hall. The event was kicked off with introduction of SAd deaf services and basic sign language.

The staff of Mountbatten Vocational School (MVS) chipped in by planning the menu and preparing the food at the school's kitchen. The donors who participated in our first seafood fundraising event, enjoyed the event and food, especially the delicious sauce specially concocted by our MVS' Chef Instructor, Mr Larry Loh.





## Lo Hei Celebration

The tradition of "Lo Hei" in Singapore has its beginning with the immigrants from China during the colonial days of Singapore. "Lo Hei" symbolises well-wishes and yearnings for good blessings and good fortune, and today it has become a part and parcel of celebrating Chinese New Year in Singapore and around the region.

To celebrate the festive season, over 40 members and clients spent their Saturday afternoon with us celebrating the 8th day of the Lunar New Year with "Lo Hei". Participants were given goodie bags sponsored by Fun Toast.



## Deafinitely Durian

Our annual event, the "Deafinitely Durian" party was held on Saturday, 19th August 2017 to raise funds for the Deaf and Hard-of-hearing community in Singapore. A talk on Deaf Awareness Programme was followed by fingerspelling. We feasted on a variety of durians including Mao Shan Wang and as well as other seasonal fresh fruits, all for a good cause.





## International Week of the Deaf , Investiture cum

The Singapore Association for the Deaf celebrated the International Week of the Deaf, Investiture cum Awards Ceremony on 16 September 2017, Saturday at the association's multi-purpose hall. The Guest-of-Honour at the launch was President Halimah Yacob and she was accompanied by the Senior Minister of State for Education, Dr Janil Puthucheary.

Awards were presented to Outstanding Deaf Individuals and supporting organisations. SAdDeaf also officially welcomed three new Ambassadors for the Deaf at the celebration, Mega Adventure Park,

Sonova Group – Phonak and Uber Singapore. The objective of the Ambassador for the Deaf project is to promote Deaf awareness through the help of corporations who are ready to serve and provide community service.

In his speech, Dr Janil shared about the first designated mainstream primary school – Mayflower Primary School that will support students with moderate to profound Hearing Loss (HL) who sign and are able to access the national school curriculum.



Launch of International Week of the Deaf with SAdDeaf Vice President Mr Martin Marini, SAdDeaf President Ms Irene Yee, Senior Minister of State for Education, Dr Janil Puthucheary, Guest-of-Honour President Halimah Yacob, SAdDeaf Vice President Ms Tan Keng Ying and SAdDeaf Executive Director Ms Sylvia Teng



Dr Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State for Education presenting awards to Five-Year Volunteer Long Service Awards Ms Ting Ai Wah, Staff Five-year Long Service awards to Mr Mas Elfie Jaar Bin Arshad, Mr Ernest Toh, Ms Wong Kar Leng and as well as Staff 35-year Long Service Award, Mr Lim Lee Seng Michael



A group photo of representatives of our new Ambassadors with Dr Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State for Education



SAdDeaf President Ms Irene Yee presenting the "I Love You" awards to supporters



## Constitution cum Awards Ceremony 2017



President Halimah Yacob presented the Outstanding Deaf Students awards to Ms Kee Peng Ping Sandy (first from left), Ms Tan Lay Koon Jaslyn and Mr Yeo Jian Sheng, for Vocational, Tertiary and Secondary levels respectively



"Sway" dancing with Signifiqué



Ms Adelia Naomi Yokoyama and Ms Kimberly Quek received their Special Achievement Awards from President Halimah Yacob



With our Deaf Education Pioneer Mr Peng Tsu Ying

## International Week of the Deaf

by James Ong

International Week of the Deaf, it is an initiative of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) which was first launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy. Since then, it is celebrated annually by the global deaf community. The International Week of the Deaf is held on the last week of September. Singapore is a keen participant in this meaningful event especially with this year's theme of "Full Inclusion with sign language!"

This year, SADeaf held three events promoting Singapore Sign Language in conjunction with the International Week of the Deaf.

In collaboration SMRT, we put up decals and handle advertisements with info on SgSL in MRT trains on the North-South line from 14 September to 11 October. With the support from IKEA, we set up a SgSL and



Deaf awareness booth at IKEA, Alexandra from 18 to 24 September to provide more information on Deaf needs and SgSL to the public. At the booth, the public were given information on SgSL and were taught alphabets in Sign Language. Children were shown videos of famous fairy tales with sign language and English subtitles, such as Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and Little Red Riding Hood.

Story-telling sessions in SgSL were also held at four public libraries at Serangoon, Clementi, Marine Parade and Central.

# Igniters - Care to Colour: Sharing Canvasses of Joy

by Isabelle Koh, SADeaf Igniters

Igniters collaborated with Youth Corps Singapore to organize a tote bag painting event for members of the local Deaf community as part of Youth Corps Service week

On 11 March 2017, a group of Deaf and youths of Singapore worked together brush-in-hand to paint on tote bags as heartfelt gifts to elderly beneficiaries of Lions Befrienders.

Held in celebration of the inaugural Youth Corps Service Week, the event, Care to Colour, was the first collaboration between Youth Corps Singapore and SADeaf, led by SADeaf Igniters. Our Deaf participants and youth volunteers came together to bring colours and joy to the beneficiaries with their creative artworks on tote bags.

Following an opening address by Youth Corps representative Mr Nicholas Chan and Igniters chairperson Mr Toh You Xin, a Deaf Awareness talk was presented by an SADeaf staff, Ms Wong Ai Ling, which provided insights into the local Deaf community to the 60 odd participants.



SADeaf Igniters volunteers posing for a picture with Guest-of-Honour Ms Grace Fu and SADeaf President Ms Irene Yee.

The youths volunteers had an opportunity to interact with their Deaf counterparts through activities and games before the tote bag designing began.

The Minister for Community, Culture and Youth (MCCY), Ms Grace Fu, graced the event as the guest-of-honour. With an interpreter at her side, Ms Fu engaged with the Deaf participants and volunteers, as they worked with their partners on painting inspiring and colourful pictures and messages for the elderly beneficiaries. The top three best-designed tote bags were chosen for their creative artworks which reflected the positivities and splendours of life.

The event ended with a group photo with all the participants signing the word "Care" as a reflection of our community which is inclusive and compassionate.



Presenting...the winning three designs!



Youth participants fully attentive at the Deaf Awareness talk



A Deaf participant working on an awe-inspiring design with a youth volunteer.



# Igniters - Kayaking environmental outreach

by Toh You Xin, SDeaf Igniters

On the morning of 10 June 2017, Igniters joined members of the Deaf community and volunteer guides from Waterways Watch Society on a Saturday morning to help keep our local waterways clean while adopting an active lifestyle through kayaking.

The day started at 9.30 a.m with a water safety briefing conducted by an instructor from Waterways Watch Society. Participants were taught safety rules and proper ways of handling the kayaks. On the cleaning effort of the waterways, participants were instructed only to remove non-biodegradable rubbish.

For safety reasons, each deaf participant was paired up with a partner knowledge of sign language. To help participants to familiarise themselves with kayak paddling and emergency drill, they spent some time



Participants being briefed prior to the event



A Deaf participant trying her hands at paddling while an instructor looks on



Deaf participants posing with their haul of litter collected

practising at the waterways before proceeding to a nearby riverbank for the clean-up.

Floating and non-biodegradable litter such as bottles, styrofoam, rubber and plastics were among the items collected for disposal. The clean-up continues for about an hour before it was time to head back to shore. A total of about 50 kilogrammes of litter were retrieved by the participants, setting a new cleaning record in the process! A sense of achievement filled the air as everyone commended one another for the good efforts put in.

Through this event, members of the Deaf community got the opportunity to give back to the community at large by doing their part for the local environment in keeping the waterways clean with their hearing counterparts while having fun.



Group photo and smiles for the camera!



## Deaf Friendship Day

19 August 2017 – Different deaf groups and organisations coming together to celebrate Deaf Friendship Day.



## Just Sign It - Kindness Week 2017

by Neo Hock Sik

A big thank you to Eastsiders - Siglap South YEC for partnering us in reaching out to the public for the "Just Sign It - Kindness Week 2017" on 21 May 2017!

150 youth participants from all over Singapore participated in this Kindness Week event.

Held at the Siglap South Community Centre, the participants first went through an intensive training on basic sign language and then it was followed by craftwork activities such as making windmills and flower bouquets from paper.

Later in the event, participants broke up into six groups were stationed at several places in the vicinity. Passers-by are taught some basic greeting signs like "thank you", "nice to see you" and "how are you?". Those who were able to sign the greetings in order were rewarded with the handicrafts made earlier.





## Happy 60<sup>th</sup> birthday Grand Hyatt Singapore!



Grand Hyatt Singapore celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and as part of their corporate social responsibility, planned a birthday bash and invited the SADeaf and its clients to be part of this significant milestone! Our Deaf & Hard-of-hearing clients enjoyed themselves tremendously!





# SADeaf Family Day 2017

by Elizabeth Khoo

SADeaf Family Day is a celebration of family and a fun day out for families of our community. It first started in 1998 and has since then become an annual event for the association. The 2017 SADeaf Family Day was held on Saturday, 24 June 2017 with 84 participants in total. Many families turned up eagerly with their kids to experience KidZania Singapore.

Our Executive Director, Ms Sylvia Teng, started off the event with a brief introduction about SADeaf and this was followed by Ms Wong Ai Ling, Principal Case Manager of Community Services and Mr James Ong (Executive, Deaf Access Services), who shared with the group regarding the Community Services and Deaf Access Services respectively.

KidZania Singapore located on Sentosa Island is an indoor theme park which combines role-play with real life experience to provide a wide range of fun and interactive activities kids aged from 4 to 17. They can learn about work in real life through role-playing in a kid-size city! They can pretend to be pilots, bankers, surgeons, firefighters and many more professions. The aim of KidZania is to inspire children to have big dreams.

Before the families entered KidZania to enjoy its activities, lunch were served and goody bags and prizes sponsored by NTUC, Shangri-La Hotel and Wild Wild Wet, were given away by our Executive Director, Ms Teng.





## Durian Trip

by Neo Hock Sik

Thanks to the Social Group of the Deaf (SGD) for organising this trip that we truly enjoyed, especially the feasting on durians and sighting of fireflies.

Two coach buses waited along Lavender Road, picking up 80 excited participants with two interpreters in the early morning of 22 July 2017.

The trip started with breakfast at Gelang Patah and followed by a one-hour journey to Yong Peng where we shopped for native food products. Two hours into a journey, we reached Tangkak, a small town that is fairly famous destination for durian tours. There, we were welcomed by several baskets loaded with different variety of durians.

After relishing the different flavours of durians, we hopped onto the buses and continued our journey to a fruit farm in Desaru which grows fruits such guava, papaya, water apple and other tropical fruits.

Darkness started to creep in when we had our dinner at the fruit farm. We departed for Kota Tinggi Firefly Park after dinner. At the park, we hopped onto a large boat which led us through forestry areas where we had awesome sightings of fireflies. This was followed by a seafood supper at a restaurant in the vicinity.

After supper, we started our journey back to Singapore at around 10:20 pm. Though tired, we were all very excited about the trip and chatted about it all the way on the bus home. It was certainly a memorable trip for all of us.

Photo credits: Naomi Ng and Shirley Tang



## Book tells the story of living with deaf parents

"Mommy, Can You Hear Me?", a book written by Grace Phua, was officially launched at the Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf) on 13 May 2017, Saturday. The book tells a story about the author's experience growing up with her deaf mother, Amy Phua. It aims to educate children about courage in the midst of challenges. Sponsored by Marina Bay Sands (MBS) corporate social responsibility programme, "Sands for Singapore", copies of the books would be distributed to libraries, kindergartens and SPED schools.

The volunteers from Marina Bay Sands took the opportunity to celebrate Mother's Day with trainees of Mountbatten Vocational School and clients of SADeaf. Together they designed tote bags for their own mothers and donating the rest to underprivileged mothers.



## HDB Talk

by Elizabeth Khoo

On 17 February 2017, Community Services hosted around 61 Deaf participants to a first-time HDB Talk. Mr Chua Teck Heng, Principal Engineer and Ms Suzanne Heng, Senior Estate Manager of HDB provided insights and information pertaining to sale and purchase of HDB properties.

At the end of the talk, Ms Sylvia Teng, Executive Director presented tokens of appreciation to the 2 speakers.



## Deaf Unique Moves II Dance Concert

The concert was held at the School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA), Concert Hall from 3.00pm - 4.00pm. The guest-of-honour for the event was Ms Ho Ching, Patron of SADeaf.

The objective of the concert was to raise deaf awareness through drama and dance and to advocate for information accessibility for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing by emphasizing the importance of visual cues and sign language for this community.



All performers got together to song-sign "Home" with the audiences



Token of appreciation to all performers for their support and contribution towards the concert.



## Staff Retreat - Batam Trip

by Ernest Toh

An overseas trip was planned for the annual SDeaf staff retreat this year. Though it was just a day-trip to Batam, the 31 staff who participated had a fun-filled excursion on a Saturday, 29 August 2017, which started early in the morning.

It was a time to relax and enjoy ourselves with our fellow colleagues outside of work. Places we visited in Batam including the Maha Vihara Dula Maitreya Temple, Polo Outlet, Gold Layer Cake shop, First Factory Outlet, Chocolate House and the Golden Tourist shop.

To end the day, many of us had a relaxing massage and the rest went to the Batam Shopping mall to spend their remaining Indonesian Rupiah.



# SgSL FINGERSPELLING ALPHABET

