



23 September 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF MAYORS 2020

The five Mayors have just been sworn in this afternoon at the People's Association Headquarters (PAHQ) after a simple ceremony presided by Chairman of the People's Association, PM Lee Hsien Loong. About 400 guests were invited to the ceremony virtually. This is the first time, the ceremony is conducted in physical and online way. Ms Low Yen Ling, Ms Denise Phua and Mr Desmond Choo are re-appointed as Mayors. Mayor Low is also the Chairman of the Mayors' Committee. Mr Alex Yam and Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman are newly appointed and succeed Dr Teo Ho Pin and Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman respectively as Mayors of North West and South East Districts respectively. The term of Office of the Mayors starts from 27 July 2020 to 26 July 2023.

2 Please refer to Annex A for PM's speech.

3 The Mayors lead their respective Community Development Councils (CDCs) to **bridge communities** through **Aggregating** resources to meet the needs in the community; **Building** capabilities and capacities and networks; and **Connecting** communities. They come together to implement common flagship programmes across the five Districts. Please refer to Annex B for CDC Factsheet.

Quotes from Mayors

4 **Ms Low Yen Ling, Chairman of Mayors' Committee and Mayor of South West District**

"With COVID, the role of the CDCs is more relevant than ever, as we help Singaporeans stay resilient, connected and cohesive. Over the past few months, our

outreach to residents and partners formed an important scaffold of support to strengthen Singapore's social safety net. When many lives and systems were disrupted, the five CDCs tapped our diverse network of partners to rally a whole-of-community response to help those in need.

By connecting people, organisations and communities of different interests, sectors and constituencies, the CDCs are able to leverage and aggregate the best of resources, talents and solutions to uplift lives.

There will be no let-up in our efforts to enhance residents' employability and job prospects. We continue to work hard to open doors of opportunities for their work and skills upgrading. As we fan out our arteries of assistance in the heartlands, we seek to sustain livelihoods, keep our community strong and leave no one behind."

5 Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District

"The CDCs occupy the unique position of complementing the work of Government Ministries and help agencies in a geographical district. We identify and aggregate the evolving needs of our district's residents, as well as connect the right resources and networks to meet those needs. In such a time as this, Central Singapore CDC strives to become more relevant than ever, whilst retaining its intent to be a 'Do-Good District'. We will tap on our resources and networks, especially with corporations and other non-grassroots partners, to cover three priority areas, such as, improving the lives of residents affected by the pandemic; uplifting vulnerable groups at risk of being left behind due to their age, skills or abilities; and supporting efforts in emerging national priorities in lifelong learning, building skills of the future, mental wellness and sustainability."

6 Mr Desmond Choo, Mayor of North East District

"It is an honour to be re-appointed as Mayor of North East District. Over the last three years, we have seen the community needs evolving in complexity and exacerbated by COVID-19. In my capacity as Mayor, it is crucial that North East CDC continues to innovate and reinvent ourselves. The current pandemic has made us re-look and re-think our modus operandi. We have streamlined processes and developed our digital capabilities to effectively support residents facing challenges. It is essential that we continue to deepen our conversations with our residents and community partners to bring forth initiatives for a stronger tapestry of social resilience. North East CDC will keep working with our community and corporate partners to ensure that these continuing partnerships create an ecosystem of support which serve to better the lives of those in need".

7 Mr Alex Yam, Mayor of North West District

“In this challenging time, North West CDC’s utmost priority is to help vulnerable residents and enterprises tide over the loss of jobs and financial stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We will work with the various help agencies, grassroots organisations and partners to curate local schemes to help them capitalise on opportunities now, by focusing on upskilling and working with industry partners to create job opportunities. North West District will overcome challenges ahead through building: Resilience, Capability and Sustainability”.

8 Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East District

"South East CDC has built a close-knit community among our residents and partners over the years, and I am excited to come on board to South East District. This is a unique time and as the community lives our lives in the new norm, I look forward to work together on issues such as job safety and security. We should also always find safe spaces to discuss issues such as mental wellness among youth, culture and traditions and inter faith as we explore the rich cultural and religious mix in the South East District."

FACTSHEET ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

Formation of CDCs

On 18 August 1996, then Prime Minister (PM) Goh Chok Tong at the National Day Rally announced the formation of the Community Development Councils (CDCs).

2 The CDCs were first established in 1997. That year, a total of nine CDCs were set up, namely, Marine Parade CDC, Tanjong Pagar CDC, Ang Mo Kio-Cheng San CDC, Central Singapore CDC, North East CDC, Bukit Timah CDC, Sembawang-Hong Kah CDC, Hougang CDC and Potong Pasir CDC.

3 On 24 November 2001, the nine CDCs were consolidated to form the current five CDCs namely, Central Singapore CDC, North East CDC, South East CDC, North West CDC and South West CDC. Five Mayors were sworn-in on 5 January 2002.

4 Mayors of the Districts are Chairmen of the respective CDCs.

Functions of CDCs

5 The CDCs bridge communities through the following ways:

- (a) **Aggregator of Needs and Resources**
To aggregate needs and resources from the CDCs' network. They then bridge them to meet the needs in the community.
- (b) **Builder of Capability / Capacity in Partners and Networks**
To build capabilities and capacities in partners, and also build networks.
- (c) **Connector of Communities**
To engage different partners across 3P sectors as outreach multipliers to expand the CDC networks and to identify, develop and drive programmes for the benefit of the community.

Mayors

6 The People's Association Board of Management may designate the Chairman of the Council for a District to be the Mayor of that District. For details, please go to www.cdc.gov.sg.

7 At the Swearing-in Ceremony of Mayors on 23 September 2020, the Prime Minister will preside the Ceremony for the new Term of the Office of Mayor from 27 July 2020 to 26 July 2023.

- (a) Ms Low Yen Ling, Chairman of Mayors' Committee and Mayor of South West District;
- (b) Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District;
- (c) Mr Desmond Choo, Mayor of North East District;
- (d) Mr Alex Yam, Mayor of North West District; and
- (e) Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East District

Common Programmes & Milestones

8 Examples of common flagship programmes across the five CDCs are at [Appendix I](#).

9 Key milestones of the CDCs are at [Appendix II](#).

List of CDC Common Flagship Programmes (Past and Present)

S/N	Name of Programme	Brief Description	Target Groups
1)	CDC Vouchers Scheme	A \$20 million CDC Vouchers Scheme designed to help Singaporean lower income households defray the cost of living and at the same time, support participating local merchants and hawkers at HDB estates / heartlands.	Lower income and vulnerable households
2)	CDC Student Meals Scheme	A \$660,000 fully electronic social assistance scheme, from outreach to application and disbursement, co-funded by a philanthropist, a corporate, and the CDCs. The Scheme supports up to 12,000 students staying in rental blocks to help defray cost of buying meals during circuit breaker period.	Vulnerable Students
3)	Maybank Family Fund & eProtect Families@CDC	Maybank Family Fund - To uplift and improve social mobility of low income and vulnerable families in three broad areas of financial empowerment, livelihood and employability. eProtect Families @ CDC - An insurance programme to provide a safety net for disadvantaged families in times of need.	Vulnerable Families
4)	Emergency Relief Fund	To provide immediate emergency cash relief to residents facing critical situations.	All residents
5)	Community Legal Clinics (CLCs) & Law Awareness	CLCs - To increase the accessibility of residents to legal advice to benefit more residents.	Vulnerable Families

S/N	Name of Programme	Brief Description	Target Groups
	Weeks (LAW)@CDC +	LAW@CDC - To increase public understanding of the law in the daily lives of the citizens through talks by volunteer lawyers. The CDCs work closely with the divisions to identify suitable law talk topics for their residents.	
6)	Collaboration with 3 IHLS (SMU, NUS, SUSS) on Law Awareness	To engage student groups in IHLs, the CDCs signed a MOU with three IHLs – NUS, SMU and SUSS and the Law Society to pave the way for subsequent collaborations and encourage more students to do pro bono work to benefit residents.	Residents
7)	WeCare Arts Fund@CDC	To reach out to the community; focusing on the underprivileged, by using arts as a platform to promote intergenerational bonding, life-long learning and build a caring community.	Seniors, Children and Youth and Special Needs group
8)	Clean and Green Singapore (CGS)	To raise awareness and impart environmental knowledge to residents so that they may do their part for the environment.	All residents
9)	National Integration Council (NIC) – CDC Corporate Social Integration (CSI) Fund	To promote quality and sustainable workplace integration through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and volunteerism efforts in the community.	Corporates
10)	SkillsFuture Advice@CDC & SkillsFuture@CDC	SkillsFuture Advice - 1.5-hour workshop comprising of educational, interactive and reflective activities to guide participants to understand the importance of planning for career and	All residents

S/N	Name of Programme	Brief Description	Target Groups
		<p>skills upgrading and embracing lifelong learning.</p> <p>SkillsFuture@CDC (previously known as SkillsFuture Festival@CDC) - comprises learning activities covering employability skills and lifelong learning topics to help residents to navigate the SkillsFuture landscape and be aware of the resources available so that they can stay relevant or find new jobs especially during difficult times.</p> <p>Google Skillsfuture@CDC 2020 or check out futureofyoucdc.sg website</p>	
11)	SME Centres@CDC	To educate SMEs about government schemes, provided training to build up their capacities, and provide heartland businesses with one to one business advisory.	SMEs

CDC Milestones

- 1996 The concept of CDCs raised by then Prime Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong, at his 1996 National Day Rally Speech.
- 1997 Nine CDCs (Marine Parade, Tanjong Pagar, Ang Mo Kio-Cheng San, Central Singapore, North East, Bukit Timah, Sembawang-Hong Kah, Hougang and Potong Pasir) were set up.
- 2000 Social service delivery was piloted at Marine Parade and Tanjong Pagar CDCs, with Primary Care Partnership Scheme (PCPS) coming under CDCs' purview.
- 2001 The nine CDCs were restructured to form five CDCs (Central Singapore, North East, North West, South East, and South West). National social assistance schemes, and employment assistance functions were administered by CDCs.
- 2002 Five full-time Mayors were sworn in to head the five CDC districts.
- 2003 The CDCs supported the Clean and Green Week (subsequently rebranded to Clean and Green Singapore) since 2003 and continue to do their part to inspire Singaporeans to care for and protect our common spaces and environment.
- 2005 The \$1 Billion ComCare Endowment Fund by Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong was established and administered by the CDCs.
- 2006 Launch of the ComCare Local Networks in partnership with Grassroots Organisations (GROs) and Social Service Organisations.
- 2007 The CDCs reorganised and launched OnePeople.sg, to become a leading organisation specialising in promoting racial harmony in Singapore.
- 2009 The "CDCs' Recession and Resilience Roadmap" was launched to provide Singaporeans with advice on coping with recession challenges.

The CDCs launched the National Brisk Walking Club Programme supported by then-Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), People's Association (PA), Health Promotion Board (HPB), and Singapore Sports Council (SSC) to promote healthy lifestyles.

2010 The CDCs, together with then-MCYS, PA, HPB, SSC, National Parks Board, Housing & Development Board and Qigong Shi Ba Shi Association (Singapore), launched the National Health Qigong Programme to encourage seniors to lead an active lifestyle.

2012 The Singapore Brisk Walk was organised to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the National Brisk Walking Programme, with a turnout of over 10,000 residents.

The CDCs launched the Caring for the Silver Community initiative to reach out to more seniors by focusing on three strategic thrusts: promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. Strengthening assistance for vulnerable seniors; and developing senior volunteerism.

2013 The CDCs returned the administration of National Social Assistance and Employment Assistance functions to the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), and focused on promoting volunteerism, and encouraging community ownership.

Together with then-SPRING Singapore, and the Trade Associations and Chambers, the CDCs established SME Centres@CDC to provide local businesses with integrated services such as productivity diagnosis, guidance on government assistance schemes, and capability workshops.

2014 In partnership with the National Arts Council (NAC), the CDCs launched the WeCare Arts Fund, to increase access to arts for the social service sector.

The CDCs and the Law Society of Singapore launched the Community Legal Pro Bono Services Network, providing bono legal advice to needy residents.

2015 The CDCs and the Law Society of Singapore launched the first district-level Law Awareness Week@CDC to organise legal talks for residents. The initiative was renamed Law Awareness Weeks@CDC, extending from one to six weeks, to reach more beneficiaries.

In conjunction with SG50, CDCs Celebrating Communities, the Mayors and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong brought together more than 5,000 participants for the community parade and brisk walk.

2016 The CDCs partnered with the Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) to organise consumer awareness talks across the districts, over three years.

2017 The five CDCs supported NTUC FairPrice Foundation in the launch of a \$1.5 million milk fund on 11 February 2017 to provide milk vouchers for up to 7,500 children from low-income families to help them defray the cost of milk powder purchase.

In conjunction with the 2017 Swearing-In Ceremony of Mayors, CDCs celebrated their 20th anniversary in community development.

The CDCs partnered with SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) to launch the SkillsFuture Advice (SFA)@CDC to bring SFA workshops closer to the heartlands, empowering and equipping Singaporeans with opportunities to learn, adapt and reskill.

The CDCs partnered with the National Integration Council (NIC) to set up the Corporate Social Integration Fund (CSI)@CDC, to promote workplace integration through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and volunteerism efforts in the community.

2018 The Office of Mayors hosted the 6th Meeting of Governance/Mayors of ASEAN Cities

The CDCs partnered with the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circle (IRCC) to launch Common Senses for Common Spaces (CSCS)@CDC, which was part of nationwide interfaith dialogue series.

2019 Together with NAC, the CDCs launched an 11-day WeCare Arts Exhibition showcasing the efforts of beneficiaries through activities like photography, batik painting, and dance.

Under the Law Awareness Weeks (LAW)@CDC, legal advice was made more accessible to the residents through a new webinar component covering taboo topics such as divorce and gambling.

2020 The CDCs partnered Dr Tahir and Grab Singapore to launch CDC Student Meals Scheme amidst COVID-19. The scheme provides primary and secondary school students living in units under Public Rental Scheme, with GrabFood vouchers to defray the cost of buying meals with self pick-up option.

At Budget 2020, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Finance, Mr Heng Swee Keat announced that CDCs will be given \$20 million to

better meet the needs of the residents through local initiatives.
Subsequently, another \$55 million grant was given to the CDCs this year.

The CDCs launched the CDC Vouchers Scheme to help Singaporean households to defray the cost of living and at the same time, support participating merchants and local hawkers at HDB estates / heartlands during COVID-19 situation.

The CDCs launched SkillsFuture@CDC “The Future of You” to complement Government’s efforts to support the local community and Singapore businesses in lifelong learning, reskilling and upskilling.
