
YOUNG GREEN ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR



MS. JOANNE KOH

Course Manager
Temasek Polytechnic

As a certified BCA Green Mark Facility Manager since 2010, Ms Koh joined Temasek Polytechnic (TP) and was tasked to infuse sustainability issues into the diploma curriculum. She has guided TP students on the path of applied learning, incorporating their creativeness and learnt knowledge to become quasi Green Mark Consultants for their alma mater. Further, Ms Koh has honed TP students through real consulting experience; while concurrently allowing schools to benefit from them, and help MOE achieve their Green Mark commitments for the Public Sector Taking the Lead for Environmental Sustainability (PSTLES).

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Ms Koh's passion for sustainability goes beyond the classroom. As compared to being a consultant in a project team, the impact made in the classroom is far more visible and impactful. The students come in with limited knowledge on what they can contribute to and are ignorant on the concept of sustainability. Subsequently, as the students were attached out to the industry, Ms Koh had banked on the students to persuade and convince building owners to consider doing more in the area of sustainability. Since 2011, Ms Koh has managed to get at least one group of students to do a paper exercise for a commercial building.

The Back to School Programme is one of the most successful programmes implemented.

As the schools placed their trust in the alumni, the students who were involved in the greening process had to learn enough so that they are able to teach and advise. This makes them good potential green advocates and because they learn, their curiosity in the know-how piqued: indirectly training the next generation of advocators. This knowledge and know-how is also proliferated within the school's faculty and student body, with the potential to spread to their friends, families and loved ones. Under this programme, Ms Koh has mentored 19 students and greened a total of 21 schools (3 GoldPLUS, 7 Gold, 11 to be greened in 2017).

Ms Koh also initiated the Green Our Little Red Dot workshop, a programme implemented with her students. This workshop aims to raise awareness in the younger students about the importance of the environment and the green practices they can adopt in their schools and at home. The participants were taught the meaning of environmental sustainability in a fun and innovative way by playing games and creating recycling posters for their own school. The responses from the students and teachers at the various secondary schools the workshop was conducted at were very positive based on the feedback received. Therefore, the students not only assisted their alma maters but they had also managed to spread more awareness on sustainability. 🍃

