

JOINT PHOTO RELEASE

SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL COLLABORATES WITH BUILT ENVIRONMENT SECTOR TO BUILD LARGEST CARDBOARD STRUCTURE IN SINGAPORE



101 triangular cardboard panels were pieced together by APSN Delta Senior School (DSS) students and staff, as well as volunteers from the built environment sector to form a dome-shaped cardboard structure that would become a mobile art gallery for APSN DSS.

Singapore, 28 July 2017 – It was a celebratory moment for the staff and students at APSN Delta Senior School (DSS) on 28 July, as officials from the Singapore Book of Records (SBOR) took the final measurements and announced that a new record for the “Largest Single Cardboard Structure” in Singapore has been set. The event was part of a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative jointly organised by the

Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and APSN DSS, a post-secondary school operating under Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN).

2. The idea of setting a new national record came about when the school was brainstorming for a commemorative Youth Day activity that could instil the value of resilience in their students. The 5m by 5m by 3m cardboard structure is also meant to be a green gallery which can accommodate up to 15 visitors to enter and view the showcase of APSN DSS students' art pieces and handicrafts displayed in it. The design of this structure has been cleverly engineered such that it can be dismantled and reassembled for future exhibitions at other locations.



17 year-old Priyadarshani D/O Jeyabalan (centre) were among the 40 APSN DSS students who participated in this CSR activity. The architectural and civil engineering teams were led by Architect Ong Jian Liang (left) and BCA officer Vanessa Koh (right) respectively.

3. Close to 70 participants comprising built environment young leaders, industry professionals, students from institutes of higher learning and APSN DSS, as well as staff from APSN DSS and BCA were involved in this record-breaking feat. They were

divided into two teams – architectural and civil engineering – and worked closely over two months to conceptualise and construct the structure.

4. Currently working as an architecture associate at a consultant firm, 27-year-old Ong Jian Liang explained that the design incorporated traditional Southeast Asian triaxial weaving techniques as “a subtle appeal to protect our heritage even as we embrace technology in the building and construction industry”. Vanessa Koh, an executive manager at BCA’s manpower planning department, attributed the success to the great team effort by the volunteers and students.



An official from the Singapore Book of Records (right) presented the certificates to BCA CEO, Mr Hugh Lim (left), and APSN DSS principal, Mdm Aslinah Bte Ahmad (centre), for the record-breaking achievement.

5. In a note to congratulate the participants, BCA CEO Mr Hugh Lim said “It’s really very encouraging to see built environment professionals and students taking time out from their busy schedules to lend their expertise and guide the students from DSS in this meaningful activity. I take my hat off to the participants for their creativity and dedication in producing this beautiful and functional dome-shaped structure, using

only cardboard as the basic building material. This goes to show that anything is possible if we put our heads, our hearts and our hands to it, and I hope this brings us a step closer towards building an inclusive society.”

6. “We were extremely thrilled by this collaboration as it provided opportunities for our special needs students to interact and work with industry professionals. Despite knowing the challenges in executing this task, we felt that this project is an authentic platform to inculcate our school values- “Resilience” in our students. The students are very happy to complete the structure and are grateful to have learned from the volunteers during the activity,” said Mdm Aslinah, Principal of APSN DSS.

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About Building and Construction Authority

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore champions the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore. BCA's mission is to shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment, as these are four key elements where BCA has a significant influence. In doing so, it aims to differentiate Singapore's built environment from those of other cities and contribute to a better quality of life for everyone in Singapore. Hence, its vision is to have "a future-ready built environment for Singapore". Together with its education arm, the BCA Academy, BCA works closely with its industry partners to develop skills and expertise that help shape a future-ready built environment for Singapore. For more information, visit www.bca.gov.sg.

About APSN Delta Senior School

Established in 1997, APSN Delta Senior School (DSS) operates under the Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN). APSN DSS caters to students with mild intellectual disabilities (MID), aged 17 to 21 years old. The school facilitates the transition of the student's final phase of schooling at APSN into the community. It offers a competency-based vocational programme, providing broad industry skills, and practical knowledge leading to Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) certifications. Individuals are equipped with industrial knowledge to perform jobs in areas such as Food & Beverage, Hotel & Accommodation Services, Horticulture & Landscaping and Retail Operations. Students are also nurtured in their competencies for living and life-long learning through various character development platforms, such as CCA (Co-Curricular Activities), leadership, and CCE (Character & Citizenship Education) programmes.

For more information, please visit <http://www.apsn.org.sg>.