



Joint News Release

SINGAPORE TO PARTNER THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA TO DEVELOP CAPABILITY IN URBAN PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 6 April 2015 (Monday)

The Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE), Temasek Foundation (TF), Singapore and the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC), together with Sri Lanka's Ministry of Urban Development, Water Supply and Drainage (MoUDWSD) today announced their first partnership on an Urban Planning and Governance capacity building programme in Sri Lanka. The two-year programme is supported by Temasek Foundation with a grant of S\$430,068.

At a ceremony held in Colombo, Sri Lanka today, a Collaboration Document was signed between Mr. Karunasena Hettiarachchi, Secretary, MoUDWSD, Government of Sri Lanka and Mr. Kong Wy Mun, Chief Executive Officer of Singapore Cooperation Enterprise. The event was graced by the Honourable Minister of MoUDWSD, Mr. Rauf Hakeem. It was also witnessed by Mr. Rohan Seneviratne, Project Director (Metro Colombo Urban Development Project), MoUDWSD; Mr. Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Foundation; and Mr. Julian Goh, Director for Capability Development, at the Centre for Liveable Cities.

The development and management of infrastructure is a vital step towards sustainable living, and the Sri Lanka Government has placed high priority on the redevelopment of its urban infrastructure in the capital city of Colombo as well as surrounding Galle and Kandy cities. It is in this context that MoUDWSD approached SCE to share Singapore's lessons, experiences and best practices in urban development from a whole-of-government perspective.

Honourable Rauff Hakeem, Minister of MoUDWSD said: ***“The need for disciplined, long-term master planning has become critical for Sri Lanka’s urban sector. It is the sharing of ideas, solutions and innovations that help cities level up on each other’s experiences. We are very thankful to Singapore Cooperation Enterprise, Temasek Foundation and Centre for Liveable Cities for offering the Sri Lankan Government valuable insights from Singapore’s development model through this capacity building program. Sri Lankan urban sector officials have much to learn from the best practices of Singapore’s development experience”.***

SCE has partnered the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC), as the knowledge partner for Singapore’s sustainable and liveable urban development, for this capacity building programme. CLC will bring the knowledge and principles of the Singapore’s urban development experience through urban practitioners by conducting a series of capacity building workshops to train up to 125 officials from MoUDWSD, relevant ministries and municipal councils in Sri Lanka. This partnership will enhance the Sri Lanka government officials’ capabilities to support the government’s effort in developing an integrated master plan and promoting sustainable urban governance principles in the following domains: -

- a) Housing Design and Community Building;
- b) Master Plan Review & Government Land Sales; and
- c) Water Infrastructure & Greening.

Mr. Julian Goh, Director for Capability Development, at the Centre for Liveable Cities said: ***“At its 50th year of independence, Singapore has built a reputation for being a sustainable and liveable city. But it has not been an easy journey. Through our research at the Centre for Liveable Cities, we have captured the knowledge and principles of Singapore’s urban development story and are happy to share our lessons learnt, with our counterparts and friends from Sri Lanka. Through the workshops and interactions with Singapore’s urban experts and practitioners, we hope to support our counterparts in Sri Lanka in their urban challenges, and, at the same time, hear and learn from them as well. ”***

Following the ceremony, the first workshop commenced in Colombo on 6 – 8 April 2015.

Mr. Kong Wy Mun, Chief Executive Officer of SCE said: ***“SCE is happy to share Singapore’s expertise and experience in urban planning and governance through this programme. We believe that this cooperation will offer the Sri Lankan government valuable insights from Singapore’s development model, and work towards enhancing their competencies in these areas. This collaboration represents yet another example of the growing bilateral ties shared between Singapore and Sri Lanka. We look forward to more co-operation opportunities between the two countries in time to come.”***

Mr. Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Foundation added, ***“Urban management is a challenge that many countries in Asia face today, with cities growing at a very fast pace. We hope this training will be useful in encouraging knowledge sharing between public officials from Singapore and Sri Lanka, and foster networks of cooperation between both countries.”***

Jointly Issued by Temasek Foundation, Singapore and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise and Centre for Liveable Cities

Note to Editor:

About Temasek Foundation, Singapore

Temasek Foundation is a non-profit philanthropic organisation anchored in Singapore that seeks to contribute to sustainable growth and a bright future of hope and opportunities for people in Asia. The foundation works with partners to support programmes that build people through health care and education, programmes that build bridges between peoples, programmes that build institutions of excellence through governance and ethics, and programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters.

For more information, visit www.temasekfoundation.org.sg

About Singapore Cooperation Enterprise

Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE), now an integrated arm of International Enterprise Singapore, had been originally set up by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore to respond effectively to the multitude of foreign requests to tap on Singapore's development experience. SCE works closely with Singapore's 15 ministries and over 60 statutory boards to tailor possible solutions to match the foreign parties' needs. SCE also serves as the focal point of access to expertise across these public agencies.

SCE's main objective is to share Singapore's public sector expertise to interested foreign parties which can be government agencies or non-government entities. In doing so, we aim to build long-term partnerships with foreign parties and to generate business opportunities for Singapore's private sector.

For more information, visit www.sce.gov.sg

About Centre for Liveable Cities

The Centre for Liveable Cities is a knowledge centre for liveable and sustainable cities jointly established by the Ministry of National Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. The Centre seeks to bring together Singapore's expertise on sustainable urban development in the areas of good governance, urban planning, effective resource management, quality living environment, affordable housing and sustainable transport solutions. The Centre facilitates the sharing of knowledge and best practices among cities in the region and globally.

For more information, visit www.clc.org.sg

About Ministry of Urban Development, Water Supply and Drainage

The Ministry of Urban Development, Water Supply and Drainage is the Sri Lankan Government Ministry responsible for promoting integrated planning and development in urban areas, providing safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities, and ensuring protection of water resources across the Country. The Ministry comes under the purview of Honourable Minister, Mr. Rauff Hakeem.

For more information, visit www.mwsd.gov.lk

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