

EARLY YEARS

In Singapore's developing years, its environment left much to be desired. The air, land, and waters were polluted. Furthermore, water scarcity was a major concern. Examples are shown in the photos that follow.



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1. Unhealthy air then (1964): Smoky vehicles and industries such as the plywood factory shown here polluted Singapore's air during its developing years.

Source: MICA.

2. My bin runneth over (1963): Irregular and unsanitary waste disposal often led to overflowing garbage by the roadside.

Source: MICA.



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3. The way they were (1970):
Hawkers along Singapore River
raised public health concerns
because they operated in
unsanitary conditions.

Source: Hawker, A.J.

4. Soiled waterways (1950):
Polluting activities and dumping of
waste into rivers led to unsightly
scenes such as this on the
Singapore River.

Source: MICA.

5. Not a drop at home (1959):
Rural homes obtained their
drinking water from the Rural
Board's water wagons in the early
years.

Source: NAS.

6. By the bucket (1961): Sanitation
systems were rudimentary, with
the use of the night soil system.

Source: SPH — *Straits Times*.

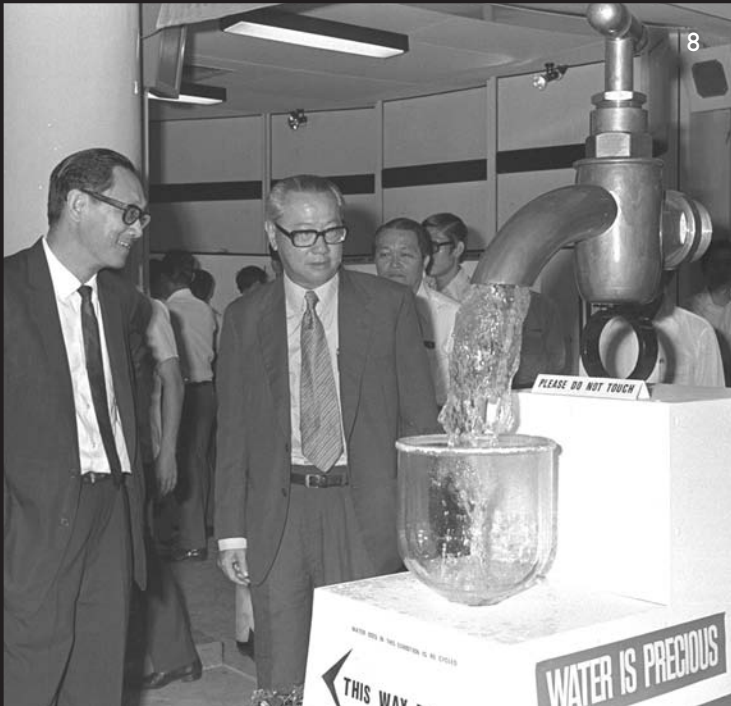


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THE TRANSFORMATION

Recognizing the importance of a good environment, the Singapore Government launched large-scale, national-level efforts to clean up Singapore's land and rivers towards the greening of Singapore. These campaigns also aimed to educate Singaporeans on the importance of water and the environment and instill in them the right mindsets and behaviour. Examples are shown in the photos that follow.



7. Hosing down: PM Lee Kuan Yew led thousands of volunteers during a one-week mass drive to spring clean Singapore in 1969.

Source: SPH — *Straits Times*.

8. Cherished flow:

Environment Minister Lim Kim San at the opening of the “Water is Precious” Exhibition at the Victoria Memorial Hall in 1972.

Source: SPH — *Straits Times*.

9. Sowing green habits:

PM Lee Kuan Yew planting a Tembusu sapling for the third annual Tree Planting Day in 1973.

Source: SPH — *Straits Times*.

10. Job well done!: PM Lee Kuan Yew presents a gold medal to Lee Ek Tieng in 1987 for completing the ten-year Singapore River clean-up.

Source: SPH — *Straits Times*.



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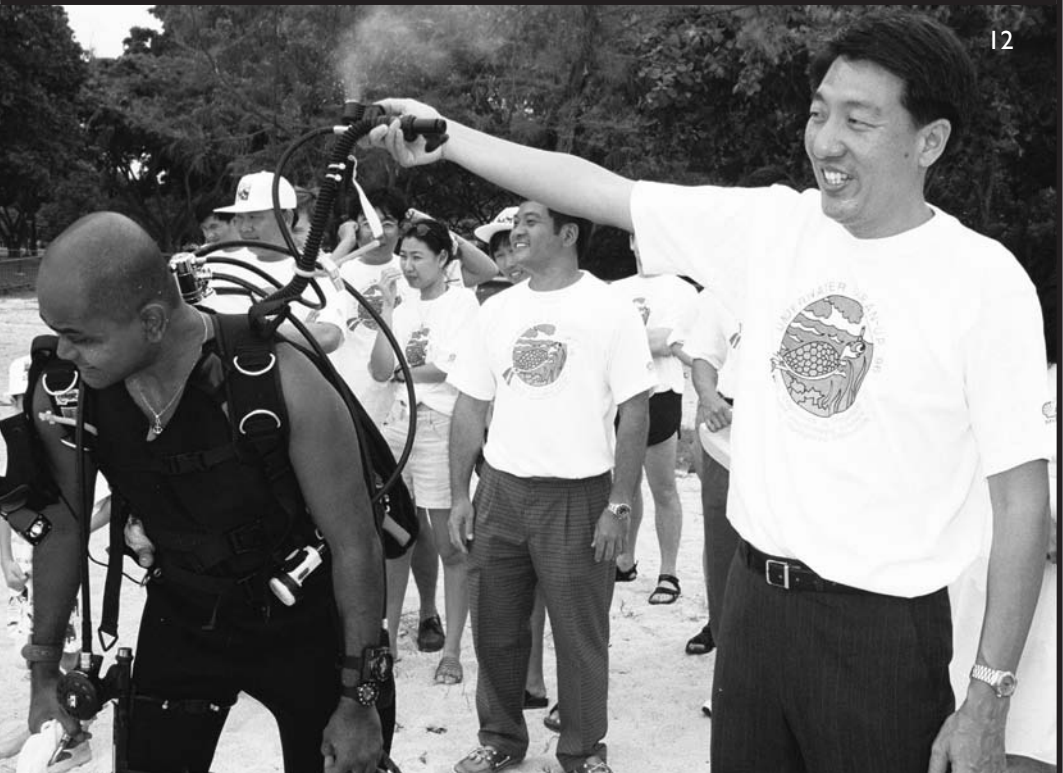


11. Helping hand: Former Environment Minister Mah Bow Tan receives a little assistance watering a sapling at the Tampines Festival Park during the "Towards a Gracious Living Environment" event on 2 June 1996.

Source: SPH — *Straits Times*.

12. Marking World Environment Day: Environment Minister Teo Chee Hean launches an underwater clean-up at East Coast Park on 2 June 1996.

Source: SPH — *Straits Times*.



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A CLEAN, GREEN AND BLUE SINGAPORE

Through its concerted efforts to clean up its land and waterways, Singapore has transformed its environment into a clean, green and healthy one. Singapore has also built up a sustainable water supply, and its waterways are being opened for all to enjoy. Examples are shown in the photos that follow.

13. Clear and crisp air now: Pollution from transport vehicles and industries such as those located on Jurong Island shown here is well under control.

Source: JTC.



14. Waste to energy: Singapore now has an integrated waste management system with waste disposed of in waste-to-energy incineration plants such as Tuas South IP shown here.

Source: NEA.





15. Haven for biodiversity: Non-incinerables and incineration ash are disposed of at offshore Semakau Landfill (aerial view illustrated here), the ecosystem of which is home to rich marine life.
Source: NEA.





16. Tunnelling a way out: The DTSS system comprises two large, deep tunnels criss-crossing the island, with two centralized water reclamation plants, deep sea outfalls, and a link-sewer network. The deep tunnels are designed with diameters of up to 6 metres and are at depths ranging from 20 to 50 metres below ground. Source: PUB.



Guest of Honour
Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong

17. Turn on the tap: PM Goh Chok Tong (middle) officially launches NEWater at Bedok NEWater Factory on 21 February 2003. Also present were Environment Minister Lim Swee Say (left) and PUB Chairman Tan Gee Paw.
Source: SPH — Berita Harian.



Official Opening Ceremony of SingSpring Desalination Plant

13 September 2005

18. Tapping the sea: PM Lee Hsien Loong (second from left) at the opening of the SingSpring Desalination Plant on 13 September 2005. Also present were Environment Minister Dr Yaacob Ibrahim (left) and PUB Chairman Tan Gee Paw (second from right).

Source: SPH — Straits Times.





19. Brave new project: Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew (fourth from left) and Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Dr Yaacob Ibrahim (third from left) at the ceremony marking the start of construction of the Marina Barrage/Reservoir in March 2005. Also present (from left) were Permanent Secretary for the Environment and Water Resources Tan Yong Soon, Chairman of PUB Tan Gee Paw, and CE of PUB Khoo Teng Chye (behind MM Lee).
Source: PUB.



20. Active, beautiful, and clean: The ABC Waters project at Kolam Ayer entices canoeists to put paddle to water.
Source: PUB.

21. The way we are: Modern, upgraded hawkker centres such as the Adam Road Food centre shown here offer a comfortable and hygienic dining option.
Source: NEA.



22. Water rapport: Singaporeans are now encouraged to get "close to water" through water sports as the waterskiing performance at Marina Reservoir during Singapore International Water Week 2008 attests.

Source: PUB.

