

# PESTCRAFT



Newsletter of the Singapore Pest Management Association

## “Keep Clean, SINGAPORE!”

SPMA is proud to have once again supported the annual ‘Keep Clean, Singapore’ initiative led by the Public Hygiene Council.

On 6 May 2018, enthusiastic participation from the staff and family members of 10 pest management companies resulted in the collection of 23 kg of recyclable trash within 2 hours at Jurong Central Park.

We would like to thank the following companies for their contribution to the success of this event:

- 1 **Absolve Pest Control Pte Ltd**
- 2 **Anticimex Pest Management Pte Ltd**
- 3 **Express Pest Solutions Pte Ltd**
- 4 **Hou Kit Services Pte Ltd**
- 5 **Ikari Services Pte Ltd**
- 6 **Killem Pest Pte Ltd**
- 7 **Macsham Pest Management Pte Ltd**
- 8 **Premier Eco-Care Pte Ltd**
- 9 **Q-Vector Pest Management Pte Ltd**
- 10 **Rentokil Initial Singapore PL**



### Closed-door discussion with MP Louis Ng on the review of ‘The Wild Animals and Birds Act’

Singapore is home to a large variety of animal and plant species, which can be found in their natural habitats. Wildlife is increasingly coming into contact with people as urbanization with new towns and developments continue to sprawl into undeveloped areas.

Managing and protecting wildlife has emerged as a new challenge in recent years. In response to this, a 'Wild Animal Legislation Review Committee' (the “Committee”) was set up to address the protection of wild animals and birds outside Singapore's nature reserves. The Committee is

chaired by MP Louis Ng, who will be introducing to Parliament a Private Members Bill proposing a list of amendments to The Wild Animals and Birds Act (“WABA”). WABA is administrated by AVA. SPMA together with affected parties and industries were invited to join the Committee and to provide inputs concerning the new Bill with NPark and AVA serving as resource agencies.

As the proposed Bill is expected to affect the pest management industry, SPMA invited its members to meet MP Louis Ng for a closed-door discussion on the proposed changes of WABA. Around 23 SPMA members attended this closed-door discussion.



The following points of the proposed Bill which would affect the industry were discussed:

- Definition of Wildlife;
- Training, licensing and accreditation on wildlife management;
- The administrating Agency of the New Bill;
- Use of trapping devices;
- Application for wildlife management at public places; and
- Capture and release of wildlife.

MP Louis Ng understood and shared the concerns of the members and thoroughly explained to them the proposed changes in the new Bill.

To-date, the Committee has held two meetings and one public consultation which was held on 4 May 2018. More consultation meetings have been planned to gather feedback on the proposed changes of the Bill before it is introduced.

A ground-up initiative to collate the responses from the public through an online consultation survey was also set up on 22 Jun 2018 as follows:

<https://www.reach.gov.sg/participate/e-poll/ava/wild-animals-and-birds-act-waba>

SPMA members are encouraged to share the link with your friends, families and colleagues to submit feedback to the Committee.

### Upcoming Events

#### FAOPMA-Pest Summit 2018

Date: 26th to 29th September | Venue: Shenzhen, China

#### 32nd AGM

Date: 22nd September 2018 | Venue: TBC

#### SPMA BOWLING Social

Date: 25th August 2018

Time: 1pm to 4pm | Venue: Orchid Country Club

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- Tap on e2i's **Inclusive Growth Programme (IGP)** with project funding to increase productivity through process automation, software and training.



## Professional Development

- Upskill your workers and bridge skills gaps to meet the changing business landscape.
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<https://e2i.com.sg/contact-an-industry-specialist/>



# Visit to Sumitomo Research and Development Facility in Seremban



In June, 52 participants from 25 pest control companies attended a very exciting trip to Malaysia to visit Sumitomo Chemical Enviro-Agro Asia Pacific SDN BHD. The trip was sponsored by Sumitomo and Bent Jaz Singapore and allowed participants to get a feel of the processes and testing that is involved in creating new products and active ingredients.

On 25th June, two buses departed from Singapore to take everyone to Seremban. After a relaxing evening and dinner at the hotel, it was time for bed (although some of the party people and football fans continued socialising until the early hours of the morning!)

On the second day, the groups divided with Group 1 visiting the research facility first while Group 2 attended a seminar introducing HACCP and several unique Sumitomo and Bentz Jaz products. Group 1 were treated to a tour of the whole facility, and witnessed tests involving the knockdown of mosquitoes using Sumitomo and competitor products, the take up of termites to X-term baits and the freezing and killing combination of Pesgaurd and Pro-vecta on American cockroaches. In the afternoon, during the HACCP seminar, David Tan of HACCP International shared about the standards required in pest control for food industry and manufacturers.

Sadly, on the morning of the 27th June it was time to check out. Luckily the trip was not quite over as Bentz Jaz had also organised a shopping stopover in Malacca. Participants ended up purchasing everything from designer shoes, to bags of titbits and toys for their children!



## Inter-TAC Collaboration Meeting at SCCC

**Held on 11th May 2018 at SCCC**

SPMA was represented at the Inter-TAC Collaboration Meeting at SCCC. The aim of this event, organised by the Waste Management & Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS), was to foster relations between different trade associations to see how they could work together for the benefits of the members.

## Launch of “Keep Clean, Singapore!”

**Held on 29th April 2018 at One North**

We would like to express our appreciation to Mascham Pte Ltd for sending 5 participants to represent SPMA at this initiative which was also organised by the PHC.





# Wildlife Handling Seminar

On 28th June 2018, SPMA organised a Wildlife Handling Seminar at e2i West at the Devan Nair Institute. This event was sponsored by e2i and saw over 140 participants listen to fantastic speakers from WRS, AVA and ACRES.

Dr Abraham Mathew from WRS (Wildlife Reserves Singapore) started by highlighting that animals are always willing to share their space with each other, for example, predators and preys can be seen drinking from the same water source during a drought. However, it becomes a conflict when humans enter the picture as they are not as willing to share that same space. In the rest of Asia, wildlife include elephants and tigers while in Singapore we are fortunate that we do not encounter such dangerous wildlife. Instead, it is common to see pigeons, rodents, mosquitoes and to lesser extent, monkeys, snakes and monitor lizards.

Humans encounter wildlife as these animals have to venture out of their homes to get food. Many organisations have dedicated their causes for these animals including WRS, Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) and Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES). Pest control operators also play an important role as they interact with the public more often than the organisations and are able to educate the public about these animals.

In Singapore, though pythons are not seen that often, people do get frightened with the knowledge that they exist. Animals are as afraid of humans as we are of them and only want to protect themselves from harm. **To eliminate risk from getting bitten by an animal, it is best to put as much space between the animal and oneself, and not to make any sudden movements in their presence.**

When encountered with a snake, though difficult, one should remain calm even if the snake bites. If a snake bites and releases itself, it is more likely that it is one that does not have venom. Though a snake's venom is for digesting of food, if one is bitten and the snake starts to chew, it is still best to get help immediately. Just the shock from a snake bite can kill someone as well. Venomous and non-venomous snakes can be differentiated by their fangs where a snake with a venomous bite has 2 fang punctures while a non-venomous snake leaves a row of bites.

If a snake holds a threat, it is best to restrain it, but appropriately. **There is strength in gentleness.** When handling with gentleness, the snake can even mistake the handler for a branch. Restraining an animal should not be taken lightly as confinement to complete muscular restriction or immobilization will have effect on behaviour, bite or activities of the animal. If inexperienced, snake thongs are not advisable. Towels, bags such as gunny sacks, pillow cases or even dustbins with holes for ventilation can be used to temporarily contain the snakes.

When a venomous snake is identified, the head of the snake should not be restrained. These snakes move their head first before moving their bodies. The tips of their tails are also very sensitive and should not be held from this area. Venomous snakes such as spitting cobras can spit venom as far as 2m away and can also bite through the bags they are contained in. Once they are restrained safely in bags secured with cable tie or containers with ventilation, they should be labelled as venomous snakes.



# Wildlife Handling Seminar

The wildlife seminar included a segment by Mr Kalai Vanan Balakrishnan of ACRES. He explained how Singapore has an extensive drainage and waterway system that serve as channels for snakes and monitor lizards to move around. He also emphasized on the Wildlife Act that makes it illegal to feed animals so as to keep them from becoming aggressive towards humans. It is inevitable that people living in near natural vegetation come across wildlife. The best way to keep these animals from entering homes would be to take precaution and seal any openings or gaps near houses.

Other animals that may pose a problem would be the long tail macaques. Humans should refrain from showing their teeth, either by laughing or smiling at them as they take this as a sign of challenge. When met with wild pigs, they should not be fed.

Wildlife will be a part of Singapore. Removal of these animals will not be a solution as Singapore's habitat will still remain suitable for them, attracting more wildlife in fact. Poisons or unwashed containers should not be used where it concerns an animal. More humane ways should be cultivated to trap and remove wildlife and release them back to the wild and away from human life.



## World Pest Day and Global Pest Summit

SPMA was represented at the Global Pest Summit of Pest Management Services in Cascais, Portugal by one of our member companies, INAVAB Fumigation & Pest Ctrl Mgt Pte Ltd. We are grateful to Inavab's representative, Ms Bavani Palanivellu for sharing her thoughts on the conference:

*"With over 300 attendees from 34 countries, there was an abundance of knowledge sharing of the development of modern pest management practices across the globe and our industry's impact on public health and food safety.*

*It is evident that maintaining public health is reliant on properly functioning system of controlling pests that transmit pathogens to humans directly and through the food supply. Multinational food producing companies like Nestle shared their views on PCOs and our role in managing a successful and comprehensive customised IPM strategy for clients like themselves. They encouraged PCOs to be assertive and to have regular dialogue sessions to keep clients informed of latest available technology, environmentally friendly*

*solutions or ways to reduce the use of chemicals in the control of pests.*

*The summit was a clear indication that when the industry comes together to share knowledge, experience, latest innovations and technology, it is a significant benefit for all to learn and contribute to the growth of the whole industry.*

*The Summit coincided with the annual World Pest Day (6th June), which is to raise awareness amongst public, governments and media about the importance of the pest control industry and the role we play in protecting health, food, property and the environment from pests and possible health threats. The media coverage given to World Pest Day is aimed at changing the public view of our industry. With more such events, I believe the industry as a whole will be able to have a louder voice and elevate our standing with environment-related matters."*



**WORLD PEST DAY**



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# News from Around the World

In this addition of News of the World, we bring you information from the US, Angola and India!



## Military Equipment Used to Fight Mosquitos

China's military equipment and technology are paving ways to fight a war against one of mankind's biggest killer, the mosquitoes. The Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT) is in the midst of developing a hyper-sensitive radar that is able to distinguish the wing-flapping of a mosquito from a distance of up to 2 kilometres. This radar uses China's advanced missile defence system and is also being used in its military vessels, thus making this a very sensitive project.

The Chinese have approved the funding of US\$12.9 million to be dedicated to developing a fully functioning mosquito detection radar for field testing. The radar transmits electromagnetic waves in swift pulses that moves at many frequencies. When a mosquito is hit by the wave, detailed information such as the mosquito's gender, breed, travelling speed and direction and if it has eaten will be transmitted.

These radars can be fixed upon rooftops in residential areas to detect mosquito colonies, warning people living in the areas and people in its way when the colonies are on the move.

With this attempt and with years of technological advancements, the warfare with mosquitos using military equipment may save more human lives.

## US\$ 4 Billion from GSK, Novartis and Gates to Fight Malaria

A research fund of up to US\$4 billion has been raised by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Novartis and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as a world-wide effort to fight against Malaria. About 725,000 people are killed yearly due to mosquito-borne diseases<sup>1</sup>, a number that will grow as mosquitoes grow more resistant to drugs and insecticides.

The fatal parasite, Plasmodium falciparum and its variants are immune to Artemisinin, an anti-malaria pill. There is an urgency to develop an alternative to artemisinin, especially in regions such as Africa where malaria related cases increased to an alarming number in 2016.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-36320744>

Where Novartis and the Medicines for Malaria Venture are developing a better version of the artemisinin, GSK and PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative will start making available in African countries an experimental vaccine that has been tested for the past four decades.

With the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledging US\$ 1 billion alone, and a promise by Microsoft Corporation's Co-founder, Bill Gates, that DNA-editing technology will be used for research into altering the mosquitoes, the vaccine and anti-malaria pill are just the beginning of what will be the battle against eliminating Malaria.



## Giant Rats Save Lives from Explosives

Explosive landmines still exist and can be triggered when someone steps or drives over them. These landmines have caused people to lose their lives and prevent them from cultivating what could have been productive land. While rodents are considered as pests in certain parts of the world, in Tanzania, they are being trained for this very cause of detecting landmines to save lives.

In recent years, the African giant pouched rat or generally known as the Gambian pouched rat (*Cricetomys Gambianus*), have emerged from their nocturnal living patterns and are being trained to sniff out landmines. These creatures, though with poor eyesight, depend on their sense of smell and hearing, better and quicker than standard minesweeping technology, to detect harmful substances contained in landmines. It takes a person with a metal detector 4 days to scan an area the size of a tennis court for landmines. The same area takes a rat named Samia, that works with a non-profit organisation, called Apopo, 30 minutes to sniff and detect the same landmines.

Apopo, founded in Belgium, is responsible for breeding and training the Gambian pouched rats to detect landmines and tuberculosis. The rats are trained to be deployed to other countries with similar problems. The training takes place for months with the rats trained to respond to clickers that produce clicking noise. The typical 2 to 3 pounds in weight of the rat is too light to activate landmines, making them successful landmine detectors with no casualty amongst them in 20 years, according to Apopo.



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