

MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore hosts first Zero Project Asia Pacific Symposium, bringing Global Innovators together to Drive Disability Inclusion across the Region

Release of the new Zero Project Report: “Champions of Inclusive Spaces” and Launch of SG Enable-SLA-REDAS Tripartite Partnership for Barrier-Free Accessibility in Singapore

Singapore, 28 November 2024 – SG Enable, Singapore’s agency for disability and inclusion, with the Zero Project, a global and research-driven initiative to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), co-hosted the inaugural **Zero Project Asia Pacific Symposium 2024: Powering Inclusive Businesses**.

The symposium brought together global thought leaders, social entrepreneurs, government representatives, NGOs, and businesses to advance disability inclusion through sharing good practices from around the world, developing partnerships, and the latest innovations in accessible technology.

Senior Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Eric Chua, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Social and Family Development, attended as Guest of Honour, giving his support to this inclusive vision.

The two-day symposium began with the **Inclusive Business Forum**, a biennial event organised by SG Enable. Over the last eight years, the forum has expanded its focus on disability-inclusive employment practices to include innovations in employment pathways and good practices in businesses to cater to persons with disabilities as customers or service users.

In support of the CRPD which Singapore ratified in 2013 and the Enabling Masterplan 2030, the forum featured perspectives on building an inclusive workplace culture from Enabling Mark organisations (Singapore’s accredited disability-inclusive employers), their Asia counterparts, and employees with disabilities. The plenary discussions also featured innovations such as intersections of inclusive arts and employment, and ICT that enable greater independence. Furthermore, the forum presented a panel discussion on building inclusive spaces.

Release of the new Zero Project Report: “Champions of Inclusive Spaces” at Inclusive Business Forum

The Zero Project research publication “Champions of Inclusive Spaces” was unveiled at the symposium. The report selected eight exceptional accessibility projects and two urban planning initiatives which have undergone a rigorous selection process and feature insights from leaders in the field of accessible built environments as well as a curated collection of features and projects.



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Two landmark projects in Singapore – Enabling Village by SG Enable and the Punggol Library by the National Library Board, both models of universal design and inclusive spaces – are featured in the report.

As part of the Zero Project Asia Pacific Symposium 2024, participants also will have the opportunity to tour Singapore’s accessible attractions like Gardens by the Bay, Sentosa, and the Science Centre on 29 November.

Launch of Tripartite Partnership for Barrier-Free Accessibility

In one of the key moments at the symposium, SG Enable, the Singapore Land Authority (SLA), and the Real Estate Developers’ Association of Singapore (REDAS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to advance barrier-free access (BFA) routes and scale inclusive infrastructure across Singapore. This milestone collaboration reinforces Singapore’s commitment to accessible spaces and urban innovation for persons with disabilities.

This tripartite MOU leverages the strengths of public-private partnerships to drive accessibility forward, using SLA’s geospatial data capabilities to map barrier-free access routes across Singapore. To date, SLA and SG Enable have mapped around 1,100 km of accessible routes in nine key areas such as Ang Mo Kio, Bukit Merah and Orchard, now accessible through SLA’s OneMap app.

Under the MOU, SLA will lead the OneMap BFA project, integrating new data from REDAS-member properties into its routing algorithm. SG Enable will guide disability inclusion efforts by advising on accessible design and innovations, while REDAS will engage its members in identifying properties for indoor and outdoor mapping, ultimately helping to improve wayfinding for persons with disabilities. Regular user testing will ensure the project remains responsive to the community’s needs, aiming for a truly inclusive built environment.

Mr Colin Low, Chief Executive of SLA, said, “SLA is delighted to partner with SG Enable and REDAS to leverage geospatial expertise to advance barrier-free access (BFA) routes and support more inclusive mobility across Singapore, following the success of the launch of pilot BFA routes on OneMap, Singapore’s authoritative map. This collaboration will augment the current BFA routes on OneMap with wider coverage of indoor routes and new locations, including private commercial properties contributed by REDAS’ members that will make wayfinding in Singapore more inclusive and accessible for mobility-challenged communities.”

Mr Chia Ngiang Hong, Immediate Past President of REDAS, said, “REDAS members are committed to creating spaces that enrich lives, contribute to society and build a better future for all. We are honoured to work with SG Enable and SLA on this meaningful initiative to advance accessibility and inclusivity in Singapore. With the support of potential partners like CapitaLand Group, City Developments Limited and Frasers Property, we aim to enhance barrier-free accessibility, improve wayfinding and foster a more inclusive and user-friendly environment. At REDAS, we believe in shaping not just Singapore’s skylines, but improving communities and the overall built environment for generations to come.”

Ms. Ku Geok Boon, Founding Chief Executive Officer of SG Enable, said, “Our partnership with the Zero Project, now in its second year, continues to expand our network of collaborators dedicated to creating inclusive, sustainable solutions that empower



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persons with disabilities to lead independent lives. As Singapore's focal agency for disability and inclusion, we hope to advance, together with our partners, the critical discussions and actions shaping the future of inclusion across the region."

Prof. Dr. Michael Fembek, CEO and Member of the Board, Essl Foundation - Zero Project, said, "The Zero Project works with carefully selected partners in important world regions outside Europe, with the goal of building bridges between the global disability inclusion community and regional innovation ecosystems. Our partnership with SG Enable is a testament to this vision, uniting diverse stakeholders to advance sustainable and innovative solutions for disability inclusion in Singapore and across the Asia Pacific. We are thrilled to have welcomed over 20 international delegates from more than 10 countries, whose participation underscores the power of global cooperation in driving meaningful change."

Senior Parliamentary Secretary Eric Chua, said, "This event reflects Singapore's commitment to a more inclusive society and opens doors for the Asia Pacific community to learn from one another's successes and challenges. Through such collaborative efforts, accessible infrastructure, inclusive employment, and supportive communities can be further developed. We want to empower persons with disabilities to thrive in every aspect of life."

Access the Champions of Inclusive Spaces report here:

https://zeroproject.org/fileadmin/root_zeroproject/Downloads/Publications/2024_Inclusive-Spaces-Report_ZeroProject_SGENable.pdf

More information on the Zero Project Asia Pacific Symposium 2024 is available at <https://www.sgenable.sg/zero-project-apac/2024>

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About SG Enable

SG Enable, the focal agency for disability and inclusion in Singapore, enables persons with disabilities to live, learn, work and play in an inclusive society. We create equitable opportunities for persons with disabilities through thought leadership, sustainable social innovation and impactful partnership. Guided by our core values of professionalism, innovation and empathy, we envision a more inclusive Singapore and enabled lives. Set up by the Ministry of Social and Family Development in 2013, we are a registered charity and an Institution of a Public Character. For more information, visit www.sgenable.sg.

About Zero Project

The Zero Project's mission is working for a world with zero barriers. Worldwide, the Zero Project finds and shares solutions that improve the daily lives and legal rights of all persons with disabilities. The Zero Project's approach is research-driven and aims to identify, curate,



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and share inclusive solutions, as intended and encouraged by Article 32 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In order to achieve this objective, the Zero Project engages with a worldwide cross-sectoral network of innovators, decision-makers, and opinion leaders.

About REDAS

Established in 1959, the Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore (REDAS) is Singapore's premier business association in the real estate and development industry, representing over 200 members comprising developers, landlords, builders, consultancies and professionals, financiers, REITs sponsors and investors. REDAS actively engages regulators, policy makers and stakeholders to promote best practices and to support the growth of a vibrant, inclusive and progressive real estate industry in Singapore.

For more information, visit www.redas.com.

About SLA

Singapore Land Authority (SLA) is a statutory board with the Ministry of Law. Its mission is to optimise land resources for the social and economic development of Singapore. SLA manages some 11,000 hectares of State land and about 2,600 State properties, which have largely been tenanted out for a variety of uses. It also manages land sales, leases, acquisitions and allocation, developing and marketing land-related information, and maintaining the national land information database through digitised land information services. Being the national land registration authority for property transactions, SLA issues and guarantees land titles in Singapore. It also manages and maintains the national land survey system, where boundaries or legal limits of properties are defined, based on a coordinated cadastre survey system. The use of geospatial information is also spearheaded by SLA through a national collaborative environment where geospatial data, policies and technologies are established and defined, thereby fostering innovation, knowledge and value creation for the Government, enterprises and community.

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