



22 September 2022

Outdoor Adventure Education (OAE) Council to Uplift the OAE Sector

The 18-member council will advise and guide the quality of OAE activities and programmes locally that are trusted to be safe and reliable

As part of the National Outdoor Adventure Education (OAE) Masterplan¹ to support the growing demand for outdoor activities, an OAE Council has been formed to lead the development and enhancement of the outdoor adventure education sector. The Council will oversee the development of national OAE standards, structured professional development roadmaps for OAE practitioners, and strengthen risk management systems and practices for OAE activities and programmes.

2 Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law, Mr Edwin Tong, announced the formation of the OAE Council at the inaugural Outdoor Education (OE) Conference held at Republic Polytechnic today. The Council, reporting to the Ministry for Culture, Community and Youth, will comprise representatives from the Ministry of Education (MOE), Outward Bound Singapore (OBS), Outdoor Learning and Adventure Education Association (OLAE), Republic Polytechnic (RP), Sport Singapore (SportSG), and other technical experts. *Refer to **ANNEX** for details of Council members.*

Building trust and confidence in the OAE sector

3 The strengthening of the OAE sector will take time, and the OAE Council will lead the development by:

- a. *Establishing national standards for operations and safety*: The Council will oversee the development of national standards and technical references for Singapore's OAE sector. These will guide specifications for the design and conduct of OAE activities, including the installation, operation, and maintenance of OAE facilities, infrastructure, and equipment. Over time, the Council will recommend core competencies and professional certifications required for local OAE instructors. Through the adoption of the national standards, the public can be assured of transparent, consistent, and safe OAE practices across the sector.

¹ The National OAE Masterplan aims to promote holistic development for all youths through a OAE pathway from primary to post-secondary school level. Refer to: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/20170223-building-resilience-together-through-enhanced-outdoor-education-curriculum>

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- b. Developing professional development roadmap: The Council will engage with OAE stakeholders to understand the sector's challenges and develop strategies on professionalising and recognising OAE practitioners. The Council will also consult relevant government agencies and stakeholders, and recommend support measures and initiatives to help the sustainable growth of the sector.

4 Co-chair of the OAE Council and Chief Executive of the National Youth Council David Chua said, "A thriving OAE sector will be crucial to nurturing social resilience amongst our youth. I thank the OAE community for their commitment to transform the sector and commend them in achieving this milestone. I look forward to strengthening our partnership as we collectively grow the OAE sector."

5 Co-chair of the OAE Council and Adjunct Associate Professor, College of Alice & Peter Tan, National University of Singapore (NUS) Dr. Tan Lai Yong said, "Experiencing the outdoors spurs our youth to grow well, equipping them with skills to meet challenges, enjoy teamwork and to embark on life with confidence. The OAE Council seeks to make outdoor learning relevant, to engage stakeholders as we think safety alongside robust activities, and to craft purposeful careers for instructors and 'outdoor' entrepreneurs."

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About the National Youth Council

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people between 15 to 35 years of age are respected and heard and have the ability to influence and make a difference to the world. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience and an enterprising spirit.

Biographies of OAE Council's Co-Chairs

Mr. David Chua Chief Executive, National Youth Council (NYC) David served in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) for 22 years before being appointed as the first CEO of NYC in 2015. David is the Chairman of the board of directors at *SCAPE Co. Ltd, Director of Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) Board and Vice Chairman of Cyber Youth Singapore Board.

He also co-chairs the Pedagogy & Programming Workstream (PPWS) and Human Resource & Finance Workstream (HRFWS) under the MOE-MCCY Steering Committee for the National Outdoor Adventure Education (OAE) Masterplan.

Dr. Tan Lai Yong Adjunct Associate Professor, College of Alice & Peter Tan, National University of Singapore (NUS) Dr. Tan is a medical doctor by training and a strong advocate of serving the community. He chaired MOE's Advisory Panel for Outdoor Adventure Learning (OAL) (1 Feb 2016 to Feb 2019) comprising of local and international experts to enhance the quality and safety of outdoor adventure learning programmes that are conducted locally and overseas. The Panel's recommendations were folded into MOE PSOEB (OE)'s work and implemented progressively between 2017 and 2019.

Government Lead Agencies on OAE

- 1. Mr. Nicholas Conceicao**
Executive Director, Outward Bound Singapore (OBS)
- 2. Mr. Ng Thian Choon**
Director of Operations, Outward Bound Singapore (OBS)
- 3. Mr. Krishnan Aravinthan**
Director, Physical, Sports & Outdoor Education, Student Development Curriculum Division 2, Ministry of Education (MOE)
- 4. Mr. Lim How Chuen Clement**
Deputy Director, Physical, Sports & Outdoor Education (Outdoor Education), Student Development Curriculum Division 2, Ministry of Education (MOE)

Private Sector Associations, Companies and Employees

- 1. Mr. Tony Tan Tuan Tiong**
Honorary President, Outdoor Learning and Adventure Education (OLAE) Association

2. **Mr. Delane Lim Zi Xuan**
Honorary Secretary-General, Outdoor Learning and Adventure Education (OLAE) Association
3. **Mr. Lye Yen Kai**
Managing Director, Pivotal Learning Pte Ltd
4. **Mr. Wee Ren Chai Ronald**
Independent Outdoor Educator
5. **Ms. Jean See Jinli**
Executive Secretary, National Instructors & Coaches Association, National Trades Union Congress

Government Bodies

1. **Ms. Delphine Fong**
Director, Sports Safety, Sport Singapore (SportSG)
2. **Mr. Tan Chin Jiat**
Deputy Director of Investigation and Enforcement Department, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Group, Building and Construction Authority (BCA)

Safety Systems Expertise

1. **Dr. Goh Yang Miang**
Associate Professor and Director at the Centre for Project and Facilities Management, Department of the Built Environment, College of Design and Engineering, National University of Singapore (NUS)
2. **Mr. Zishan Amir**
Managing Director, ZRG Adventures and Consulting Pte Ltd.
3. **Mr. Mohammad Ridzuwan Ya'akop**
Senior Assistant Director, Outward Bound Singapore

Academic and Professional Development

1. **Associate Professor Chew Wai Cheong Eugene**
Head, Sports and Physical Education Programme, S R Nathan School of Human Development, Singapore University of Social Sciences
2. **Ms. Lim Leng Er**
Deputy Director, School of Sports Health & Leisure, Republic Polytechnic (RP)

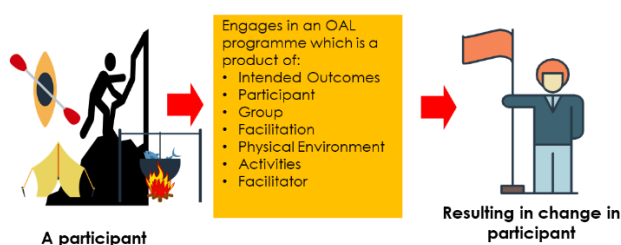
Outdoor Adventure Education (OAE) Factsheet

OAE nurtures socially resilient youths

OAE offers a holistic education process and allows participants to develop intra- (self) and inter-personal (social) skills, knowledge, and attitudes. It supports the learning of interdisciplinary academic subjects and exposes youths to topics such as environment and sustainability.

For example, after completing a climbing activity, participants are guided by the facilitator to reflect on what they have discovered about themselves or their teammates.

Through reflection and sharing within the group, participants acquire *knowledge*, *skills* and *attitudes* relating to resilience and trust during the activity.



Mackenzie, 2000; Berry & Hodgson, 2014

Why OAE is unique in Singapore's context

The number of students participating in OAE programmes and adventure pursuits is estimated at 218,000 annually under the National OAE Masterplan.

The MOE Outdoor Adventure Learning Centres (OALCs) and Outward Bound Singapore supports 90,000 students annually through MOE's Upper Primary and Lower Secondary Cohort Camps and the MOE-OBS Challenge Programme.

Over 40 commercial OAE providers support the other 128,000 students annually with OAE programmes.

They also support other thousands of youths and adults who engage in recreational adventure activities like hiking, rock climbing, kayaking and ropes courses.

About 20 commercial OAE providers in Singapore are members of the Outdoor Learning & Adventure Education Association (OLAE).

The OAE Ecosystem is multifaceted



Factors to Grow the OAE Sector Sustainably

For Providers:

Develop professional development framework for the OAE sector to drive the continuous development and professionalisation of the OAE workforce.

Enhance the recognition of the OAE sector as a profession to retain experienced practitioners and raise clients' awareness of the value of qualified instructors and providers.

Support for providers to upgrade their facilities and equipment, safety practices and invest in employee training.

For Employees:

Support for continual professional development matched to competency training roadmaps.

Recognition of experience, skills and knowledge for career development and progression.

Provide sustainable and fair employment commensurate to competency level and job role.

For Consumers:

Consistency in safety practices for all OAE activities.

Transparency in staff competencies, training and qualifications.

For Government:

Nurture socially resilient youths through quality outdoor education activities safely.

Immediate Focus Areas of the Council

Immediate focus areas for the OAE Council

Reporting to the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), the 18-member OAE Council is an **advisory body** comprising government agencies, private sector providers, outdoor practitioners and relevant experts from academia, industrial safety and professional development. In its first 3-year term, the Council will:

1. Establish and develop **national standards*** for installation, operations, training and certification of all OAE activities; *Together with EnterpriseSg and the Singapore Standards Council
2. Develop **Sector Skills Framework** for the professional development of OAE practitioners;
3. **Promote adoption of and compliance** to the national standards and the certification scheme among sector stakeholders; and
4. Continue to **engage with the OAE community** and propose schemes, resources, pathways and other enabling structures to support growth and transformation of the sector.

Long term Development of the OAE Sector

In addition to promoting the adoption of new national standards and a certification scheme, the OAE Council will monitor incident rates and adoption rate of national standards, active participation numbers, currency of standards, number of certified OAE providers and non-compliance*

Recommend further measures (regulatory or statutory) if necessary, in updates to MCCY

*E.g., incident reporting, periodic safety reviews, regular certification assessments, etc



Composition of OAE Council – Co-Chairs and Members

3 Year Term: 1 Nov 2022 – 31 Oct 2025						
Co-Chair (Government)	Co-Chair (Private)	Government Lead Agencies on OAE				
 David Chua CEO of National Youth Council, MGCY Ex-officio	 Dr. Tan Lai Yong Adjunct Associate Professor, College of Alice & Peter Tan, NUS	 Nicholas Conceicao Executive Director OBS, NYC Ex-officio	 Ng Thian Choon Director of Operations, OBS, NYC, Ex-officio	 Krishnan Aravinthan Director PSOE, Student Development and Curriculum Division 2, MOE, Ex-officio	 Lim How Chuen Clement Deputy Director PSOE (OE), Student Development and Curriculum Division 2, MOE, Ex-officio	
Private Sector Associations, Companies and Employees				Government Bodies		
 Tony Tan Tuan Tiong OLAE Honorary President, Ex-officio	 Delane Lim Zi Xuan OLAE Honorary Secretary- General, Ex-officio	 Lye Yen Kai Managing Director, Pivotal Learning Pte Ltd	 Wee Ren Chai Ronald Independent Outdoor Educator	 Jean See Jinli Executive Secretary, National Instructors & Coaches Association	 Delphine Fong Director Sport Safety, SportSG	 Tan Chin Jiat Deputy Director of Investigation and Enforcement Department (Electrical and Mechanical Group), BCA
Safety Systems Expertise			Academic and Professional Development		Resource Panels (on needs basis) comprising medical, legal and technical experts may be called upon to support the Council's work.	
 Dr. Goh Yang Miang A/P and Director at Centre for Project & Facilities Management (Department of Built Environment, College of Design & Engineering), NUS	 Zishan Amir Managing Director of ZRG Adventures & Consulting Pte Ltd	 Mohammad Ridzuwan Ya'akop Senior Assistant Director, Capability Development, OBS	 A/P Eugene Chew Head, Sports & Physical Education Programme, S R Nathan School of Human Development, SUSS	 Lim Leng Er Deputy Director, School of Sports Health & Leisure, RP		

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