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### Transforming Spaces – a Citizen Farm story

SLA is constantly looking at innovative ways to adapt State land and properties for interim use to benefit the community. We work closely with relevant agencies and the public who share our vision in transforming spaces and creating communities.

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### Two private land lots acquired for extension of Woodlands Checkpoint

SLA gazetted the acquisition of two private land lots – 268 and 270 Woodlands Centre Road on 30 March 2017 to facilitate ICA's extension of the Woodlands Checkpoint (WCP).

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### European Forum for Geography and Statistics

SLA Director of Geospatial and Data addresses the 9th European Forum for Geography and Statistics.

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## Launch of new community space under Bukit Merah Viaduct

by Cheryl Lim



SLA transformed the State land under Bukit Merah Viaduct into a new community space for residents' recreational use with the construction of a hard court and installation of key infrastructure for electricity, water, and lighting.

The development of the new multi-functional community space under Bukit Merah Viaduct was done in consultation with Tanjong Pagar-Tiong Bahru Citizens' Consultative Committee (CCC) to cater to the needs of residents.



Before



After

The space, coined Viaduct@JBM, was launched on 29 April 2017 by Adviser Ms Indranee Rajah who shared with us her thoughts, "By adapting Viaduct land into a multi-functional community space, we bring life to the barren space under the Bukit Merah Viaduct. This community space is one where residents may gather, play and bond together and represents an innovative approach by the SLA to maximise land resources within our land-scarce nation".



Viaduct@JBM was launched with a carnival and getai show for 300 Tiong Bahru residents



SLA staff with Adviser Indranee Rajah and Tanjong Pagar-Tiong Bahru CCC Chairman Ho Nai Chuen

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## Transforming Spaces – a Citizen Farm story

by Adrian Tan

SLA is constantly looking at innovative ways to adapt State land and properties for interim use to benefit the community. We work closely with relevant agencies and the public who share our vision in transforming spaces and creating communities.

Meet 28-year-old Darren Ho from Citizen Farm who has set up a farm at the most unlikely of places - under the West Coast Viaduct.



*Darren with a tray of micro-greens or seedlings of edible vegetables which are less than 14 days old*

Sandwiched between two busy roads plied by heavy vehicles, the lush greenery peeping out from his urban farm provides an interesting juxtaposition to the otherwise desert landscape of gravel and concrete under the West Coast Viaduct.

Born from ideas generated through public engagement, the space under West Coast Viaduct was fitted out with electricity and modular structures and launched in January 2017 to facilitate the piloting of new concepts by social groups and entrepreneurs.

In March 2017, SLA supported Darren's proposal to take up the space to test-bed urban farming. We asked him about his interesting choice of location for the farm, he replied "We are here to show that by using technology, we can even grow food at under-utilized spaces such as under a Viaduct".



*The vegetables were grown in see-through modular structures*

**How do you farm under an expressway with no direct sunlight? Are the vegetables safe for consumption with the pollution coming from the traffic surrounding the farm?**

The vegetables under West Coast Viaduct are grown in a controlled environment. The modular structures provided by SLA were transformed into greenhouses retrofitted with air-conditioning kept at a constant 22 degrees. An additional fan helps improve air circulation in the structure. "The vegetables can grow faster and better this way" explained Darren as he enthusiastically shared his wealth of knowledge in urban farming. The setup at his farm also uses affordable everyday materials; the vegetables were grown in trays placed on simple four-level racks to maximize space. Florescent lights installed on the racks provided lighting for the plants. "We don't have to worry about pest or contaminants as it is a controlled and very clean environment" explained Darren as he brought us on a tour of the farm. Currently, the farm is able to produce mushrooms and a variety of micro-greens vegetables which are supplied to restaurants. Darren has plans in the future for the produce from urban farms such as this to be made available to households.



*Vegetables were grown in trays and placed on vertical racks to maximise space*

As we wrapped up the interview and Darren went about his task of loading trays of vegetables into his van for delivery to the restaurants, we asked Darren what drives his passion for farming. Darren replied, "Just seeing the seeds sprout and watching them grow daily...Each of them is like a tiny miracle to me", it is with the mindset to share this joy of farming that Darren frequently conducts workshops to aspiring urban farmers at the West Coast Viaduct. Participants are taught urban farming methods and given hands-on opportunities to test out their green fingers. Find out more on Facebook @EdibleGardenCity.

Recognising the growing demand for urban farming, SLA has facilitated community farming by allocating State land at 60 Jalan Penjara, and use of the land under West Coast Viaduct for test-bedding of urban farming.

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## Two private land lots acquired for extension of Woodlands Checkpoint

by Cho Chui Wai

SLA gazetted the acquisition of two private land lots – 268 and 270 Woodlands Centre Road on 30 March 2017 to facilitate ICA's extension of the Woodlands Checkpoint (WCP). Spanning a total land area of 3,264 sqm, the acquisition affected three lessees and 14 tenants, who had to handover the properties to the State by 1 October 2018. Compensation would be pegged to the market value at the date of gazette and SLA is working closely with the affected lessees and tenants, and assist them throughout the acquisition process.

The acquisition was necessary for ICA to build an extension of the WCP at the Old Woodlands Town Centre (OWTC) as part of its efforts to upgrade the WCP. The OWTC site would enable upgrading works to be progressively carried out at the existing WCP without compromising checkpoint operations. It would eventually become an extension of WCP to increase overall clearance capacity and to enhance security.

Since the opening of WCP in 1999, traveller and vehicle volumes through WCP had been increasing over the years and the security threat had heightened significantly. The WCP had to be upgraded to meet growing traffic needs and ensure that immigration clearance remained secure.

ICA is now conducting a feasibility study to determine the optimal design of the WCP extension and the full extent of upgrading and redevelopment works required.

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## European Forum for Geography and Statistic

by Angelinie Winarto

The 9th European Forum for Geography and Statistics was held in Paris from 15 to 17 November 2017. With the motto “Suitable, Reliable, Sustainable”, the Forum served as a platform for experts to share knowledge and best practices in areas such as the current development of UN-GGIM (United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management), management of census geography, confidentiality issues, big data and geospatial analysis.



More than 150 experts and guests from over 30 countries such as Canada, USA, Australia, Germany, Norway, South Korea and Finland attended the Forum to discuss policy and issues concerning the integration of spatial and statistical data for more decisive evidence-based decision-making.

SLA Director of Geospatial and Data, Mr Ng Siau Yong, chaired the Geospatial Analysis Best Practice Session. He shared the importance of integrating geospatial and statistical information for a holistic view of the economy, society and environment. SLA also gave a presentation on “Capturing the synergy of Geospatial and Statistics: A Singapore’s Perspective” which emphasized coordination, harmonisation and collaboration between statistical and geospatial establishments, so as to find clarity in complexity and deal with some of the most pressing global challenges today, such as transportation, housing, healthcare and security.

Overall, the 9th European Forum drove greater recognition on the importance of integrating geospatial and statistical data and stressed the continued effort needed to strengthen collaborations and joint initiatives by the spatial and textual community at all levels of public administration, both locally and globally. By working together, the geospatial and statistical community could drive greater development and use of textual and geospatial data and tools, to better address local and global challenges and the growing demand for spatial statistics.

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## Meeting of spatial and survey experts at National Conference of Spatial and Surveying Industries of Australia and New Zealand

by Leong Chee Cheong & Soon Kean Huat

The National Conference of the Spatial and Surveying Industries of Australia and New Zealand - Locate17 Conference, was held in Sydney in April 2017, in conjunction with the 10th International Symposium on Digital Earth (ISDE). ISDE principally promotes academic exchange, science and technology innovation, education, and international collaboration towards Digital Earth.

During the plenary session on Thursday 6 April 2017, Dr Victor Khoo and AAM's Brian Nicholls jointly delivered a keynote address on 'Singapore Smart Nation: Measuring from the ground up'. The presentation generated much interest amongst over 600 delegates.



Plenary session keynote address – standing from left to right: Brian Nicholls (AAM) and Dr Victor Khoo (SLA)

Prior to the Locate17 Conference, the SLA delegation led by Chief Executive Mr Tan Boon Khai visited AAM's Sydney office and met their management team (AAM's Chairman, CEO, Executive Director, Account and Technical Managers).

Discussions focused on the economic values and applications of 3D map data and possible data maintenance strategies; AAM also shared on their business development approach and showcased their technical strengths and capabilities through live demos of projects that were implemented using technologies such as sharing/processing of data via web services or on cloud platform, applications of 3D, satellite and aerial imageries, subscription-based charging model for applications/software licences, etc.



SLA CE presenting a token of appreciation to AAM Chairman Scott Ramag

AAM was also awarded the highly esteemed Export Award for industry leading works at the Asia Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards (APSEA) & Recognition event for generating a nationwide 3D mapping data to support Singapore's Smart Nation programme.

The delegation also met up with the Australia and New Zealand Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRCSI) executive management to network and learn about their activities and roles, and latest developments to drive the spatial and surveying arena in Australia and New Zealand. CRCSI is a collaborative research centre that pushes the frontiers of spatial science in partnership with university researchers, government agencies, the private sector and international organisations.

Dr Woodgate (CEO of CRCSI) shared that the Australian spatial industry has come together to develop a ten-year spatial industry transformation and growth agenda named 2026 Agenda, a road map with about 30 transformative initiatives covering numerous topics from research and development, innovation and others. This would help the industry benefit from forecasted growth opportunities locally and abroad.

Dr Woodgate also shared that government funding for a new initiative for enabling high-accuracy spatial data promises to improve the accuracy of Global Positioning System from several metres down to one metre, and maybe even to decimetre.

In the area of capacity building, CRCSI has an education program which focuses on funding PhD and Master students and helping them integrate into the spatial and surveying industries. CRCSI is tasked to invest in a targeted number of such students by 2018.



From left: Dr Graeme Kernich (CRCSI), Dr Zaffar (CRCSI), Dr Peter Woodgate (CRCSI), Tan Boon Khai (SLA), Dr Victor Khoo (SLA)

Due to their tight schedules and commitments, impromptu meetings within the premise of the conference venue were arranged with the following key industry leaders to benefit from their insightful sharing from their recent endeavours

- Mr. Bruce Thomson (Executive Director of NSW Spatial Services) shared on the restructuring of Land Property Information (LPI) and the creation of Spatial Services, its focus and key initiatives.
- Prof Abbas (University of Melbourne) shared on his works in the area of Smart Cities.
- Prof Chris Rizos shared on the background of the university and the research works that he is involved in.

In the two-day Locate17 conference, there were eight different sharing tracks covering various themes, including an exhibition hall filled by about 20 local and global exhibitors showcasing their niche areas, professional services and/or products. More notably,

- Using existing and emerging air and ground imaging technologies to provide full aerial mapping services and products; extracting features from high-resolution satellite imagery; full toolset for 3D virtual reality of urban spaces, roads, traffic, and rail.
- Democratising geospatial data – anywhere, anytime and to anyone via the rapid growth in acquisition technologies; automating data QC; streaming from clouds; and supporting evidence-based decision making.

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## Visits by delegations from Finland and Korea

by Cho Chui Wai

SLA hosted delegates from the National Land Survey of Finland and Korea Land and Geospatial Informatrix Corporation on 26 and 27 April 2017. The delegations were led by the Director General, National Land Survey of Finland, Mr Arvo Kokkonen and Korea Land and Geospatial Informatrix Corporation's Ms Oh Aeelee, respectively.

SLA DCE hosted the Finnish delegates who were keen to learn about the role of spatial data in digitalisation of public services, as well as Singapore's spatial data infrastructure. In a similar vein, the Korean delegates recognised that the field of cadastral survey was facing radical changes with the advent of smart devices, big data and the Internet of Things, as well as the shifting trends towards focusing on end-users, instead of governments or public organisations, they made the visit to SLA to benchmark their successful operating system for customers to learn more about upcoming developments in Singapore.



SLA DCE hosted Director General, National Land Survey of Finland, Mr Arvo Kokkonen and the Finnish delegates on 26 April 2017

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