



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

Embargoed till 20 July 2018, 8.00pm

### **SOTA CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF NURTURING CREATIVITY**

1 The School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) celebrated its 10th anniversary on 20 July 2018. Since admitting its first cohort in 2008, the school is proud to share its successes in nurturing the talents and creativity of students, who excel in both the arts and the academics.

2 On this significant milestone, Ms Lim Geok Cheng, Principal, SOTA, planted a new sapling with the SOTA community of students, alumni, parents, and staff, to signify the next phase of the school's growth. "The new sapling continues the legacy of the 'Tree Of Knowledge' and represents our aspirations for SOTA students. We hope for students to grow with our SOTA experience to become successful artists and creative professionals with a passion for the arts while remaining deeply rooted in our values to enrich society," Ms Lim Geok Cheng, Principal, SOTA. Please refer to Annex A for information on the new sapling.

3 As part of the 10th Anniversary, Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, was invited to a special preview of the Arts Trail. Featuring multidisciplinary performances and installations, the Arts Trail is a display of the infusion of traditional and contemporary forms and ideas, and a reflection of the growth and learning journey of a SOTA student.

4 Alumna Nur Sabrina Binte Dzul kifli (IBCP<sup>1</sup> Theatre, 2015), who scripted the Arts Trail and performed as one of the hosts, shared, "Being able to come back and be involved in the Arts Trail has been a wonderful experience that reminds me of how vibrant our community is. Getting to see works from the next generation of SOTA students and catch up with the alumni almost makes me nostalgic for the days when I was a student. It's exciting that we have come so far, and I wish SOTA continued success in the future."

5 President Halimah Yacob also congratulated SOTA on its achievements by gracing the celebrations as the Guest-of-Honour at the 10th Anniversary dinner with partners, donors, and the SOTA community in the evening.

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<sup>1</sup> SOTA is the first school in Singapore to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Career-related Certificate (now known IB Career-related Programme, IBCP). The programme was launched in 2014 and SOTA's first cohort of IBCP students graduated in 2015.

6 Public members have been invited to be part of SOTA's 10th Anniversary by joining the school on the Arts Trail on 21 July 2018. Tickets can be purchased at the door (subject to availability). More information on <https://www.sota.edu.sg/>.

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## **About School of the Arts, Singapore**

The School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) is Singapore's first national pre-tertiary specialised arts school with a six-year integrated arts and academic curriculum, leading to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma or Career-related Programme, for youths aged 13-18 years old.

Under the ambit of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), SOTA offers a dedicated development path for those who have interest and show early talent in the arts, providing a learning environment where both the artistic and academic potential can best be realised.

With a vision to shape and impact society through an education in the arts, SOTA aims to identify and groom future generations of artists, creative professionals to be leaders in all fields, and to be patrons and supporters of the arts.

A school of the future, SOTA embraces a holistic educational philosophy that celebrates experimentation, expression and discovery.

This year, SOTA commemorates its 10th anniversary and the school proudly celebrates its success in nurturing the talents and creativity of its students.

## **ANNEX A**

### **Cratoxylum cochinchinense Fact Sheet**

The *Cratoxylum cochinchinense* (botanical name), commonly known as Kayu Arang, Tree-Avens, Kemutong, or Yellow Cow Wood (黄牛木), is a native plant found in Singapore, Thailand, China, and other Southeast Asian countries. In Singapore, it can be found at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Fort Canning Park, and Sentosa.

This species' attractive bark, ornamental foliage, and fragrant flowers makes it suitable for planting in parks, gardens, and at roadsides. It is a shade-providing tree with a drooping crown, a smooth, flaky bark, and the tree can grow up to 30m, though it is usually 10m or shorter in Singapore.

The tree is a preferred plant food for caterpillars of the Archduke (*Lexias pardalis dirteana*) and Common Grass Yellow (*Eurema hecabe contubernalis*) butterflies. Its deep crimson to pinkish-yellow flowers are also insect-pollinated. As the tree bears brown, oval fruits, which each contain narrowly drop-shaped to oval or oblong seeds, this species can be propagated by seed when the ripe fruit splits.

Its ethnobotanical uses include using various parts of the plant (such as bark, leaves and roots) as medicine, and the wood as timber for construction, furniture, and other products.

Information extracted from <https://florafaunaweb.nparks.gov.sg/special-pages/plant-detail.aspx?id=2829>