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SINGAPORE LAUNCHES FIRST NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE TO ADVANCE RESIDUE AND TOXIC INDUSTRIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

17 June 2026 - Singapore has launched its first national research centre dedicated to advancing science and innovation in residue and toxic industrial waste management. The **Towards Resource Efficiency And Sustainability for URban EnvironmentS (TREASURES)** centre was announced today by Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Janil Puthuchearu at Catalyst 2026.

TREASURES Launched as National Research Platform, with NTU as Host Institute, to Advance Waste Innovation

2. TREASURES is a national research and innovation platform jointly established by the National Environment Agency (NEA) and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore). It brings together the broader Singapore research ecosystem, with the National University of Singapore (NUS) and other Institutes of Higher Learning as key partners. TREASURES is supported with S\$35 million under the Closing The Resource Loop Funding Initiative (RIE 2025), with NTU as the host institute for TREASURES from 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2030. NTU has also committed dedicated facilities to support the centre's operations. Beyond being a national research platform, TREASURES connects academia, industry, and government to accelerate the translation of research into practical, scalable solutions.

3. TREASURES was established to strengthen Singapore's capabilities in managing residue and toxic industrial waste, as part of our broader efforts to build a more resource-efficient and resilient waste management system. As waste streams become more complex and land constraints persist, TREASURES will focus on advancing science and innovation to enable more sustainable, circular approaches to waste management beyond disposal.

TREASURES to Drive Innovation in Waste Solutions and Support Transformation of Semakau Landfill

4. The centre's research efforts are organised across four dedicated nodes:

- i. waste flow analytics, which maps and models waste streams across Singapore to identify opportunities for resource recovery;
- ii. landfill transformation, which develops technologies to recover and repurpose materials currently sent to Semakau Landfill;
- iii. toxic industrial waste solutions, which focuses on advanced treatment and recovery methods for complex industrial waste streams; and
- iv. risk assessment and standards, which ensures that repurposed materials meet stringent safety and environmental requirements for broader adoption.

5. To drive research and innovation in these areas, TREASURES will launch its first grant call from 17 June to 16 August 2026. The grant call is open to all Institutes of Higher Learning, research institutes, and companies, and will support projects that advance practical, scalable solutions for residue and toxic industrial waste management, while strengthening collaboration across academia, industry, and government agencies.

6. Beyond its core research, TREASURES will build a collaborative innovation ecosystem to support the translation of research to full-scale adoption. This will be achieved through close industry engagement, access

to test-bedding and regulatory platforms, capability building, and encouraging knowledge sharing and exchange through local and international partnerships.

7. These efforts will support longer-term goals, including the transformation of Semakau Landfill to enable more sustainable and circular approaches to waste and residue management, while reducing reliance on landfilling over time.

8. **Mr Ng Keng Wei, Group Director (Joint Operations and Technology Group), NEA**, said, “TREASURES strengthens Singapore’s capabilities in managing complex waste and residue streams by bringing together our Institutes of Higher Learning, industry partners and government agencies to co-develop innovative, scalable solutions. Over time, this will support our transition towards a more circular and resource-efficient waste management system, including our long-term ambition to transform Semakau Landfill.”

9. **Professor Chu Jian, Co-Director of TREASURES and Chair of NTU’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering**, said, “Waste management is a long-term challenge for Singapore given our limited land size and research has an important role to play in developing more sustainable and practical solutions. NTU is honoured to host TREASURES and work with NEA, Institutes of Higher Learning, industry partners and government agencies to develop and advance innovative technologies that can help Singapore reduce waste, recover resources and strengthen the resilience of its waste management system.”

10. **Professor Karina Gin, Acting Head, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Design and Engineering, NUS**, said, “As a key partner in the TREASURES initiative, the National University of Singapore looks forward to contributing our multidisciplinary expertise to address Singapore’s pressing landfill capacity challenges by translating scientific advances into practical environmental solutions. We aim to accelerate the transformation of Semakau Landfill from a conventional waste disposal site into a hub for circularity, extending its operational lifespan and ensuring a more resilient, resource-efficient future for Singapore.”

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About TREASURES

The Research Centre for Residue and Toxic Industrial Waste Management - known as TREASURES (**T**owards **R**esource **E**fficiency **A**nd **S**ustainability for **U**Rban **E**nvironment**S**) is a joint initiative established by the National Environment Agency (NEA) and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore), and hosted at NTU Singapore.

TREASURES serves as Singapore's national hub for innovation in residue and toxic industrial waste management. The centre drives research and accelerates the adoption of new solutions and fosters collaboration across academia, industry, and international partners.

With Semakau Landfill projected to reach capacity by 2035, TREASURES focuses on developing sustainable, circular, and resilient approaches to residue and toxic industrial waste, supporting the transformation of Semakau Landfill and ensuring Singapore's long-term resilience.

About the National Environment Agency

The National Environment Agency (NEA) is the leading public organisation responsible for ensuring a clean and sustainable environment for Singapore. Its key roles are to improve and sustain a clean environment, promote sustainability and resource efficiency, maintain high public health standards, provide timely and reliable meteorological information, and encourage a vibrant hawker culture. NEA works closely with its partners and the community to develop and spearhead environmental and public health initiatives and programmes. It is committed to motivating every individual to care for the environment as a way of life, in order to build a liveable and sustainable Singapore for present and future generations.

www.nea.gov.sg

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About the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) is a premier technological university that develops leaders and creates societal impact through education, research, and service.

Ranked amongst the world's top universities, NTU has 40,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Business, Computing & Data Science, Engineering, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, Medicine, Science, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes - the National Institute of Education and S Rajaratnam School of International Studies - and various leading research centres such as the Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute, Energy Research Institute at NTU, and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering.

The University aspires to shape an AI-enabled future. By bringing together global talent across disciplines and combining technology with human creativity, NTU nurtures AI-ready graduates, drives breakthrough discoveries, and forges partnerships that tackle the challenges of our time.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg

About the National University of Singapore

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education, research and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. We have 15 colleges, faculties and schools across three campuses in Singapore, with more than 40,000 students from 100 countries enriching our vibrant and diverse campus community. We have also established more than 20 NUS Overseas Colleges entrepreneurial hubs around the world.

Our multidisciplinary and real-world approach to education, research and entrepreneurship enables us to work closely with industry, governments and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in our faculties, research centres of excellence, corporate labs and more than 30 university-level research institutes focus on themes that include energy; environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems; Asian studies; and Smart Nation capabilities such as artificial intelligence, data science, operations research and cybersecurity.

For more information on NUS, please visit nus.edu.sg.