



**News Release
For Immediate Publication**

**Pilot Total Defence Community Table-Top Exercise Held to
Increase Readiness for Disruptions**

Singapore, 15 February 2023 - The annual Total Defence Day Commemoration Event (TDDCE) was held at the Chua Chu Kang Community Club. Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Gan Kim Yong, attended the event as the Guest-of-Honour. He was joined by Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr Zaqy Mohamad. This year's TDDCE reinforces the continued relevance of Total Defence in response to evolving threats faced by Singapore. It also highlighted that everyone has a part to play to keep Singapore strong by putting Total Defence into action.

In his opening address, Mr Gan said, "We mark this Total Defence Day every year on the 15th of February... as a constant reminder to ourselves that we cannot take for granted Singapore's security, peace and stability... To be prepared, we have to continue to practise and remind ourselves that we must be ready when a crisis happens... Each one of us has a role to play to continue to ensure Singapore's peace and stability, and to preserve our independence and sovereignty."

The Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) from the Republic of Singapore Navy, PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency, and the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) also set up exhibits at the TDDCE for the public to learn the importance of protecting our sea lines of communication¹ to ensure essential goods reaches Singapore, our water conservation efforts, and also put into practice lifesaving skills. There were operational equipment such as the Water Wagon and the Automated Water Bagging Filling Machine on display. Culinary students from ITE College West prepared lunch for participants using food with long shelf life, highlighting that there are alternative food options available in times of global supply chain disruption. The event highlighted how individuals, community, businesses and the government can come together to increase our readiness for crises and disruptions.

As part of the TDDCE, the first-ever Total Defence Community Table-Top Exercise (TTX) was held among members of the community.

The TTX aims to bring individuals across different ages and walks of life together to discuss potential impacts of pertinent issues affecting Singapore, and develop community drawer plans that can be implemented during times of crises such as disruptions to our essential supplies and services. Facilitated by student volunteers, the TTX brought together 47 participants including students, grassroots, local businesses and community leaders of Chua Chu Kang.

¹ Singapore sits at the convergence of key global shipping routes and seaborne trade is the lifeblood of the economy. Today, about 70% of the world's maritime trade transits through the Singapore Strait and carries about 80% of our food supplies.

Held on 13 and 15 February, the TTX focused on disruptions to our essential supplies, challenging participants to propose possible solutions by leveraging community resources. During the discussion and development of drawer plans on 13 February, participants heard from Mr James Yin, CEO of V-Plus Agritech, a local agrotechnology company, Mr Sahari Ani, Dean of Singapore Red Cross Academy and Senior Director of Red Cross Youth, and Mr Ix Shen, former Singaporean actor who was in Ukraine and Poland over the course of the Russia-Ukraine war. Through the sharing, participants were better able to understand the nature of evolving threats affecting Singapore, and recognise the need to be prepared for emergencies and disruptions even during peacetime.

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