

28.29

“The Government recognises the importance of green spaces. With new park developments and greening initiatives, we will see a **growing need for horticultural and landscaping expertise.**”

Peter Cheok
*Sales & Marketing Director of
Far East Flora, which was awarded
Best of Show (Fantasy Garden) at
Singapore Garden Festival 2006*



play *makers*

CHAPTER 2

Cultivating world-class talents and industry at home

A professional and thriving landscape industry is vital in growing our City in a Garden.

NParks aims to create an environment that nurtures local skills and talents, and exposes the public and industry players to the best there is in the market worldwide. Much progress was made during the year with the inaugural Singapore Garden Festival and the launch of the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE).

Working closely with key industry partners and associations such as the Singapore Landscape Industry Council, National Trades Union Congress and Singapore Workforce Development Agency, NParks continues to spearhead the design and implementation of programmes aimed at professionalising the industry.

30.31

“Your Garden Festival has exceeded all expectations, and Singapore should be very proud.”

Dr Henry Oakeley
Royal Horticultural Society, UK
Chairman, Orchid Society of Great Britain

Singapore Garden Festival

The inaugural showing of Singapore’s largest international garden and flower festival was executed with great success from 16 to 25 December 2006. The Festival united top award-winning landscape designers from around the world and Singapore’s brightest talents.



Mr Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development, presenting local singer Stefanie Sun with an orchid named after her at the launch of Singapore Orchid Show 2006.



The Philosopher's Seat by local designer Henry Steed was awarded Gold and Best of Show in the Landscape Garden category at Singapore Garden Festival 2006.

First in the world to bring together a constellation of top international award-winning designers under one roof.

19 show gardens and 14 floral displays by 34 designers.

Orchid displays from 16 countries.

200,000 visitors from around the world.

150,000 tropical and temperate plants used in displays.

4,000 copies of NParks' 2nd Edition *1001 Garden Plants in Singapore* sold at the event.

“The Orchid Show and Garden Festival were fantastic and it was a privilege to be a part of it all. We were thrilled to be able to confirm the 20th WOC in Singapore 2011.”

Mrs Joyce Stewart
*Trustee,
World Orchid Conference (WOC) Trust*

32.33

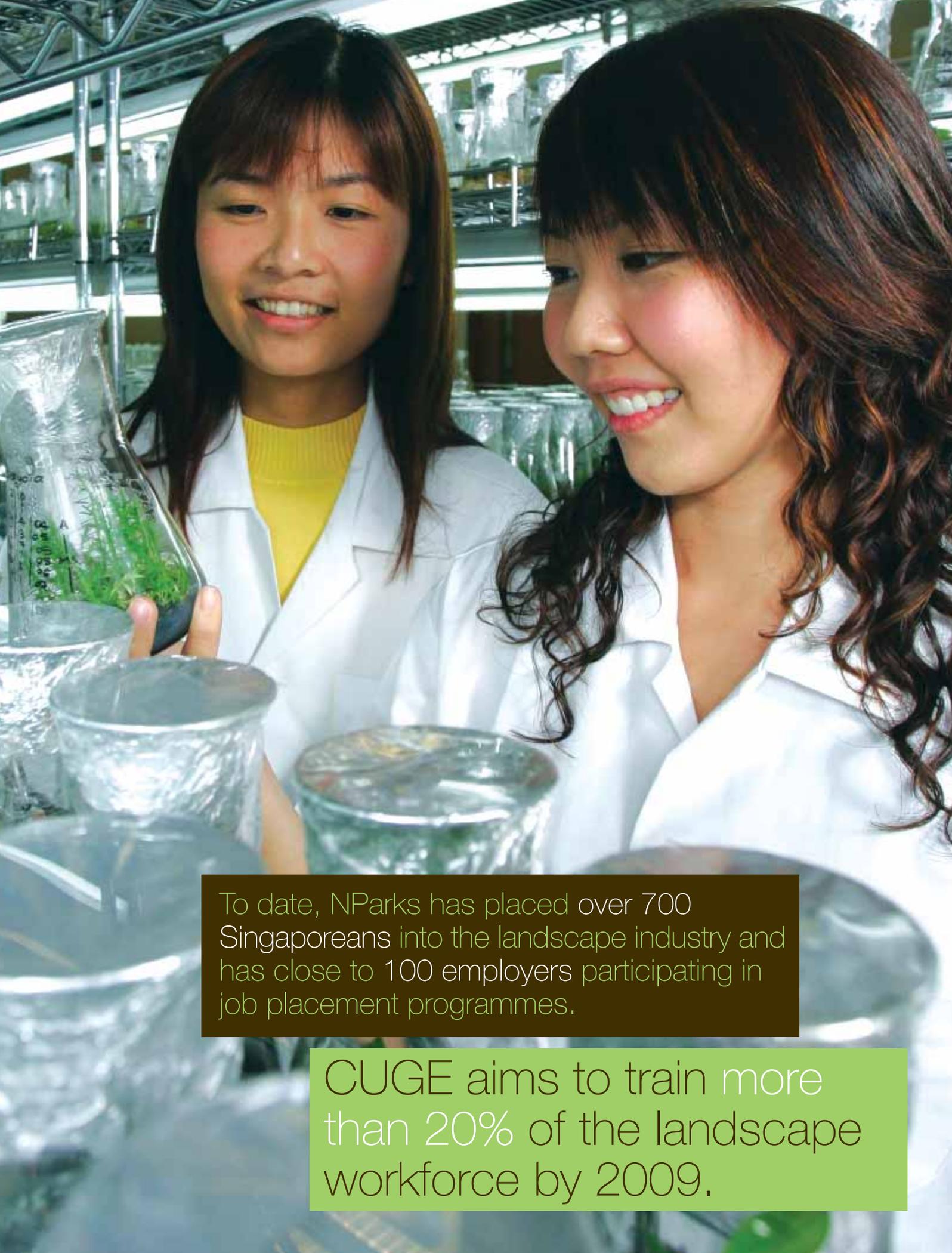
9%
per year

– projected growth of landscape industry over next 5 years

CUGE

NParks works actively to upgrade skills and to create and recreate jobs for locals in the landscape industry. A major advancement has been the launch of the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE). Officially opened in April 2007, CUGE aims to be a regional platform for the advancement and sharing of knowledge and expertise in urban greenery and ecology by offering a wide range of skills training and certification programmes and a professional seminar and workshop series.





To date, NParks has placed over 700 Singaporeans into the landscape industry and has close to 100 employers participating in job placement programmes.

CUGE aims to train more than 20% of the landscape workforce by 2009.

34.35

> 85

– workers who achieved WSQ
Certificate in Landscape Operations

Industry Development

The landscape industry is one of the few industries to implement the Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) system, a comprehensive and robust skills training and certification system that provides national and industry skills recognition to the workforce.

A key development has been the establishment of contractual specifications and standards based on a best sourcing and performance-based contractual framework. NParks takes the lead as a service buyer to establish these contractual standards, with the view to raise the professionalism and work quality of the industry.



Held in November for the first time, Green Thumbs is an annual landscape skills contest to showcase the capabilities of the workforce and enhance the branding of the landscape industry.



“In developing **Singapore’s first spa in a park**, much thought was put into design, turning Aramsa – The Garden Spa into a sanctuary blending with the natural surroundings of Bishan Park. Over 22,000 plants from 200 species are featured throughout the spa, from the outdoor courtyards to the private treatment rooms.”

Jazreel Low
*Chief Executive Officer,
Asmara Tropical Spas*

Michael Teh
*Managing Director,
Nature Landscapes*



“The world can be a perfect place for humans to live in harmony with **nature**, and the landscape architect is a prime protagonist for this task. My hope is for the profession to move forward with this positive vision, raise the standards and spread the good work.”

Henry Steed
*Regional Director,
ICN Design International,
and winner of Gold and Best of Show (Landscape Garden)
awards at Singapore Garden
Festival 2006*



“I started Green Culture Singapore as a website and forum for gardening enthusiasts like myself to learn, share, inspire and grow. To promote gardening, I write about my gardening experiences and hold gardening talks in libraries. **One day, I hope to set up a one-stop gardening portal for Singaporeans.**”

Wilson Wong
*Founder & Administrator,
Green Culture Singapore*