

NEWRICOMM WINS THE 2018 NTU HUMANITARIAN WORK AWARD

The 2018 NTU Humanitarian Work Award is presented to the NEWRI Community Development (NEWRIComm) team, for their dedication and compassion in advancing the welfare of under-served communities in the developing regions of Asia through better access of safe water and sanitation. Founded in 2010, the NEWRI Community Development (NEWRIComm) team have improved the lives of over 1.2 million people with outstanding work in community development projects in the domains of access to safe water and sanitation through the Lien Environmental Fellowship Programme (LEF).



The team promotes holistic solutions coupled with an education program to address environmental issues, while serving the needs of affected communities through a collaborative and participatory approach. Typically, a wide spectrum of stakeholders, ranging from academics in partnering institutions, local social influencers such as community leaders, children and the beneficiaries (the users) are engaged. Their inclusion from project inception to handover inculcates a strong sense of ownership.



NEWRIComm has received numerous instances of media coverage, both local and overseas regarding our projects, which is unique for a philanthropic unit hosted by a research institute. The NEWRIComm team members have been recognised with two prestigious Engineering awards in 2017 for solutions in 'Mitigation of Pollution in Kandy Lake & Mid-Canal in Sri Lanka', and a third in 2018 for the Don Bosco water project in Hlaing Thar Yar, Yangon, Myanmar. The LEF programme is funded by the Lien Foundation and administered by Nanyang Technological University Singapore's Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI).

The success and contributions of NEWRIComm community projects also became a catalyst for further developments in these regions. Through LEF programme, communities from the projects showed that positive behavioral change is possible with their dedication and commitment to improve their own environment. As a result, other local stakeholders and international organisation were inspired to contribute their resources to extend their projects to other communities and other infrastructural development.