

# PRESS RELEASE



Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE



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**EMBARGOED TILL WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2023, 5.00PM**

## **Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Science Centre** *A Destination for All Ages to Reimagine STEM Experiences*

The Science Centre Board held a groundbreaking ceremony today for the new Science Centre, at the site located next to Chinese Garden MRT station. The new Centre will offer unique facilities and a wide range of programmes to drive STEM education in Singapore. Set to be a key landmark attraction of the Jurong Lake District, the approximately 55,000 sqm building, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects in collaboration with Architects 61 Pte Ltd, will be developed over a site of about 7.4 hectares, and will be about 25% larger than the current Centre. Construction works are slated to commence in the first half of 2024, and the new Science Centre is targeted to open around end-2027, the year of its 50th anniversary.

2 Mr Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security, and Patron of Science Centre Board, Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education, Ms Tan Yen Yen, Chairman, Science Centre Board, and Associate Professor Lim Tit Meng, Chief Executive, Science Centre Board, officiated the ceremony.

3. Commenting on this important milestone towards realising the new Science Centre's vision, Associate Professor Lim Tit Meng, Chief Executive of Science Centre Board said, "The Science Centre is now 46 years old and during this journey of more than four decades, the locale has been a landmark for generations, inspiring countless individuals who are today some of Singapore's best STEM talents. Through strategic community partnerships and innovative programme development, we aim to make the new Science Centre a place where guests of all backgrounds not only want to visit but leave with a heightened curiosity about the world of science and technology."

### **Rich programming and unique STEM experiences for all ages**

4. The new Science Centre will be equipped with the latest technologies to provide immersive learning experiences for visitors of all ages. The new KidsSTOP™, which will be more than twice its current size, will feature hands-on, interactive exhibits that encourage exploration for young children. The Centre will also work with partners to prototype exhibitions and programmes that will enable parents to play a bigger role in facilitating their child's exploration of various educational activities.



*Artist's impression: KidsSTOP™, a children's gallery at the new Science Centre<sup>1</sup>*

5. To cater to the interests of youths and adults, the Science Centre plans to foster more dialogues on real-world issues such as sustainability and climate change, as well as emerging technologies like generative Artificial Intelligence through workshops, exhibitions, and seminars.

6. The Science Centre will also test-bed new concepts and ideas to provide a more novel experience for visitors. For example, the Centre has experimented with concepts beyond science, such as the Comic Art and Sci Fi Expo in September 2023. Visitors will be able to look forward to more of such offerings with a unique scientific perspective at the Centre.



*Artist's impression: Technology fashion runway show at the Activity Plaza of the new Science Centre*

7. The Science Centre's fire tornado show will be more spectacular at its new home at the Outdoor Amphitheatre, and will be open to the public.

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<sup>1</sup> All images are artist's impressions and are subject to change.



*Artist's impression: Fire Tornado show at the Outdoor Amphitheatre of the new Science Centre*

8. From 2024, visitors will be invited to engage in an immersive virtual reality (VR) experience of the new Science Centre and view a physical 3D model of the new Centre, which will be hosted at the current Science Centre. Exhibitions allowing Singaporeans to experience potential offerings at the new Science Centre have been displayed at some schools this year, and will be roving across selected public libraries during the upcoming school holidays.

### **Designed to serve as the heart of the community**

9. The new Science Centre will serve as the heart of the community, integrated with the surrounding landscape, with lush gardens and spaces for all to enjoy. Members of the public will have the opportunity to interact with science exhibits along curated nature trails, and also enjoy and explore the secondary forest through the lens of science. There will be exciting opportunities for the Science Centre to co-develop learning trails and programmes with the National Parks Board (NParks), national water agency PUB, and nature groups.



*Artist's impression: Eco-Lab within the Eco-Garden*

10. Visitors will get to enjoy the idyllic views of Jurong Lake and the surrounding gardens, through the large windows of the building, from the rooftop gardens, or as they stroll along the 30-m wide outdoor activity plaza linking Chinese Garden MRT station to the Jurong Lake promenade. The rooftop garden above the easternmost block will be an event space available for public booking. Visitors can also enjoy stargazing at the Observatory at night.



*Artist's Impression: Night view from the one of the rooftop gardens*



*Artist's impression: Stargazing at the Observatory*

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Jyotika Thukral (Ms)  
Manager, Corporate Communications  
Science Centre Board  
Tel: 6425 2541 (O)  
Email: [Jyotika\\_THUKRAL@science.edu.sg](mailto:Jyotika_THUKRAL@science.edu.sg)

Choo Jun Jie (MR)  
Senior Manager, Media Relations  
Communications and Engagement Group, Ministry of Education  
HP: 9821 2849  
Email: [CHOO\\_Jun\\_Jie@moe.gov.sg](mailto:CHOO_Jun_Jie@moe.gov.sg)