# Zero Project Asia Pacific Symposium 2024 programme

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| **Title** | **Description** | **Start** | **End** | **Attendance type** | **Location** | **Speakers** |
| Housekeeping | N/A | 28.11.202408:50 | 09:00 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | N/A |
| Opening Speeches | N/A | 28.11.202409:00 | 09:10 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Speakers:**Dr Michael FEMBEK, Essl FoundationMr Eric CHUA, Ministry of Culture, Community, and Youth; Ministry of Social and Family Development |
| Launch of Tripartite Partnership for Barrier-Free Accessibility | Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Real Estate Developers’ Association of Singapore (REDAS), SG Enable, and Singapore Land Authority (SLA). This tripartite collaboration aims to enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities by leveraging geospatial data and technologies, as well as inclusive practices, to create barrier-free accessibility for the environment in support of Singapore’s Enabling Masterplan 2030. | 28.11.202409:10 | 09:25 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | N/A |
| The Enabling Mark: Five Core Principles to Build an Inclusive Workplace | The Enabling Mark is a Singapore accreditation framework by SG Enable that benchmarks and recognises organizations for their achievements in disability-inclusive employment. Beyond recognition, the framework is built on five core principles that guide organisations in starting or progressing toward a more inclusive workplace. | 28.11.202409:25 | 09:40 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Presenter:**Mr Edward CHEW, SG Enable |
| Building an Inclusive Workplace Culture: Perspectives by Employers in Singapore | This plenary session presents proven strategies, challenges, and impactful lessons that have helped these employers use the Enabling Mark to foster a truly inclusive workplace culture. We will also hear first-hand from one of the employees at Standard Chartered Singapore and how his employment journey has been thus far. | 28.11.202409:40 | 10:25 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Moderator:**Mr Edward CHEW, SG Enable**Panellists:**Ms Pratima AMONKAR, MicrosoftMr Teong Wah KUNG, Pan Pacific Hotel GroupMs Pauline TEE, Standard Charted SingaporeMr Steve WALTER, AmazonMr Adrian YAP, Standard Charted SingaporeMs Sharon YAP, VITAL |
| AM Tea Break | N/A | 28.11.202410:25 | 10:45 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | N/A |
| Building an Inclusive Workplace Culture: Perspectives from Asia | Join us for an engaging panel discussion on effective inclusive workplace practices in Bangladesh, India and Indonesia. Uncover valuable approaches, key obstacles and powerful takeaways from each country and examine how organisations from these countries are nurturing cultures that shape inclusive workplaces across South and Southeast Asia! | 28.11.202410:45 | 11:20 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Moderator:**Mr Thomas BUTCHER, Essl Foundation**Panellists:**Ms Aziza AHMED, Bangladesh Business and Disability Network (Bangladesh)Ms Ida PUTRI, Forum Komunikasi Difabel Boyolali (Indonesia)Ms Meera SHENOY, Youth4Jobs (India) |
| For a World with Zero Barriers: Introducing the Zero Project and its International Delegation to Singapore | Founded by Austrian non-profit Essl Foundation in 2008, the Zero Project is a global and research-driven initiative to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This session will delve into the Zero Project's foundational work of finding and sharing innovative solutions for a world with zero barriers and showcase its initiatives in collaboration with partners to foster disability inclusion. With the goal of building bridges between the global disability inclusion community and regional innovation ecosystems, the Zero Project has carefully curated an International Delegation to Singapore. Engage with experts, policy makers, corporates, academics, and innovators from over 10 countries. | 28.11.202411:20 | 11:50 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Moderator:**Mr Michael FEMBEK, Essl Foundation |
| Collective Perspective Performance | N/A | 28.11.202411:50 | 12:05 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | N/A |
| Networking Lunch | N/A | 28.11.202412:05 | 13:30 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | N/A |
| Creating Innovative and Sustainable Employment Pathways for Students with Disabilities | The Enabling Pathway Programme is a ground-up initiative by the public, private and people sectors to drive long-term employment opportunities and career prospects for students with disabilities. Co-created by SG Enable, SIM People Development Fund, Institute of Technical Education, this unique programme focuses on the development of innovative employment pathways and enables employers to access a sustainable talent pool. This session will unpack the strategic considerations and insights of the various stakeholders, as well as feature a student with disability who participated in the pilot partnership under the programme. Join us as we explore ways to create new models and pathways in disability-inclusive employment. | 28.11.202413:30 | 14:05 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Moderator:**Mr Edward CHEW, SG Enable**Panellists:**Mr Yi Young LAM, SIM People Development FundMs Arfa TAQIAH, SBS TransitMs Sherin NG, SBS TransitMs Alice SEOW, ITE College West |
| Power of Evidence-Based Research in Disability Support | Global healthcare advances have benefitted from well-curated disease databases accessible for bioinformatical interrogation. Similarly, such datasets are beginning to be made available for various disabilities, providing information on the outcomes of funding scheme utility and quality of programmes. Statistically powered, data-driven approaches address unique challenges and drive meaningful progress across accessibility, education and independent living. This presentation will demonstrate methods to mine public disability datasets, supporting the potential of unique learning and training aids deployed in paediatric low vision. | 28.11.202414:05 | 14:20 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Presenter:**Dr Carol TANG, SG Enable |
| Tech for All: Enabling Independence and Inclusion through ICT | In a world increasingly shaped by information, technology, and communication technologies (ICT) have become essential tools in creating inclusive environments and fostering the independence of persons with disabilities. This panel will delve into how ICT innovations—ranging from accessible digital platforms and assistive technologies to AI-driven applications—are reshaping possibilities to reduce societal and environmental barriers. We will explore real-world examples and the role of collaboration across sectors to promote in accessibility ICT. Join us as we explore strategies to harness ICT to build a world where inclusivity is not just an ideal but a standard. | 28.11.202414:20 | 15:05 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Moderator:**Mr Herk NG, Herk Consulting**Panellists:**Mr He GONG, FingerDance Pte LtdMs Mandy LAU, Reach & Match (Australia)Prof Suranga NANAYAKKARA, National University of SingaporeMr Dennis TEO, SG EnableMr Gerald TEO, Sony Group Cooperation |
| Empowering Creativity: Inclusive Arts and Passion Careers | This session delves into the transformative intersection of the arts, inclusivity, and career development. It explores how fostering an inclusive environment in the arts not only enriches creative expression but also opens up dynamic career opportunities for persons with disabilities. "Empowering Creativity: Inclusive Arts and Passion Careers" aims to inspire attendees to embrace inclusivity, champion diversity, and create a more equitable arts and employment landscape where every individual can pursue their creative passions and achieve career success. | 28.11.202415:05 | 15:50 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Moderator:**Ms Shialey TAN, SG Enable**Panellists:**Mr Isaac Liang, zhijieart StudioMr Edwin LOW, SupermamaMs Angela TAN, ART:DIS Singapore |
| PM Tea Break | N/A | 28.11.202415:50 | 16:05 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | N/A |
| Launch of the Zero Project “Champions of Inclusive Spaces” Report | Be the first to get your hands on an exclusive report on universally designed architectural projects for diverse public spaces. The report features a selection of global "Champions of Inclusive Spaces" and thought leadership from leaders in the field of inclusive employment, accessibility, ICT, and innovation, including two landmark projects from Singapore, Enabling Village by SG Enable, and Punggol Library by National Library Board. | 28.11.202416:05 | 16:20 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | N/A |
| Beyond Accessibility: Building Inclusive Spaces for Independent Living, Learning, and Thriving in the Community | This panel explores how inclusive design and thoughtful business practices create meaningful opportunities for persons with disabilities to engage fully in their communities. The discussion will focus on the impact of accessibility in spaces where people live, learn, work, and play, and how these environments can empower individuals by enabling choice and independence. The focus will be on actionable strategies that businesses, urban planners, and community leaders can use to foster inclusivity. Panellists will share insights on fostering collaborative relationships, innovative design, and accessible services that support independence and opportunity for all. Join us in redefining what it means to build truly inclusive spaces in our communities. | 28.11.202416:20 | 17:20 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Moderator:**Dr Michael FEMBEK, Essl Foundation**Panellists:**Ms Siew Kim BEH, CapitaLand Investment and The Ascott LimitedMs Shivani GUPTA, GDI Hub (India)Mr Yock Song LAW, Tribe ToursMr Siau Yong NG, Singapore Land AuthorityMr Mark TRIEGLAFF, ACTServices |
| Closing Speech | N/A | 28.11.202417:20 | 17:35 | In-person | Raffles City Convention Centre, Stamford Ballroom | **Speaker:**Mr Moses LEE, SG Enable |
| Route 1: Sentosa Accessibility Tour with Tribe Tour (AM) | Explore Sentosa like you never done before! Meet your friendly wheelchair docent guides, experts in accessibility and bursting with island enthusiasm and get ready to embark on a 90-minute whirlwind adventure through the dazzling island of Sentosa, designed especially for our amazing friends on wheels. This tour is all about inclusion, excitement, and creating memories that will last a lifetime.  If you are a thrill-seeker, someone who is adventurous or just simply loves having fun, regardless of mobility, this tour is for you! ​Sentosa Nature Discovery: Immerse yourself in the lush rainforest, teeming with exotic wildlife. Glide along scenic boardwalks, marvel at hidden waterfalls, and even come face-to-face with adorable monkeys (don't worry, they're friendly!). Breathe in the fresh air, soak up the beauty, and reconnect with nature.​Time to Fly: Sky Helix: Buckle up for a breathtaking journey aboard the Sky Helix! This iconic open-air gondola will gently whisk you 79 meters above Sentosa, offering panoramic views of the island and beyond. Get ready for stunning sights, cool breezes, and maybe even a few butterflies in your stomach (the good kind, of course!).Learn more about our partners:[Click here for Sentosa’s website.](https://www.sentosa.com.sg/)[Click here for Tribe’s website.](https://tribe-tours.com/product/sentosa-wheel-venture-accessibility-tour/) | 29.11.2024 | AM | In-person | Sentosa | N/A |
| Route 2: Sensory Tours for the Visually Impaired @ Gardens by the Bay (AM) | Gardens by the Bay was voted the world’s 8th best attraction in Tripadvisor’s Traveler’s Choice Awards Best of the Best 2024! This tour will take participants through the Flower Dome. Participants are taken through the experience with a 2.5D tactile guidebook, which helps persons with visual impairment to feel the “shapes” of the various attractions and plants. A volunteer guide trained by Gardens will accompany participants and use descriptive language to explain the attractions as a simulation of the actual tour for visitors with visual impairment. Participants are also allowed to feel and touch certain plants and trees, which regular visitors are not allowed to do. The goal is to help persons with visual impairment create a mental image of the Gardens and the plants it contains.Learn more about our partner:[Click here for Gardens by the Bay’s website.](https://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/) | 29.11.2024 | AM | In-person | Gardens by the Bay | N/A |
| Route 3: Inclusive Spaces Tour @ Science Centre Singapore (AM) | Science Centre Singapore (SCS) was set up in 1977 under a National Act. The Centre, a non-profit organisation and Institution of Public Character operating under the Ministry of Education, promotes Science and Technology among youths and public members. SCS strives to make Science accessible and engaging, ensuring all generations of Singaporeans are not just scientifically aware but scientifically literate too. SCS believes in creating and providing environments where the community is empowered to advance their own learning and, hopefully, are inspired to do something incredible with their futures.  ​In this tour, learn about the transformative inclusion initiatives at Science Centre Singapore in this insightful sharing session – from tailoring programmes and resources for persons with special needs, forging partnerships with SPED institutions for work experience programmes, to collaborating with various communities and the focal agency to enhance accessibility and enrich the learning environment.  Join us to discover a journey of empowerment, as we illuminate the paths towards a more inclusive Science Centre for all. ​This session includes a tour of the Dialogue with Time exhibition, to experience and understand more about the ageing process and reconsider the perception of ageing respectively.Learn more about our partner:[Click here for Science Centre Singapore’s website.](https://www.science.edu.sg/) | 29.11.2024 | AM | In-person | Science Centre Singapore | N/A |
| Route 1 and 2: Learning Journey @ Punggol Regional Library (PM) | Spanning an impressive 12,180 square metres, the Punggol Regional Library (PRL) stands as Singapore's largest public library. However, its significance extends far beyond its physical size. PRL holds the distinction of being Singapore’s first inclusive library, offering a comprehensive range of services meticulously designed with and for persons with disabilities.The inclusive nature of PRL is evident in both prominent and subtle features throughout the library. Visitors are greeted by calm pods, providing a tranquil space for those who need it, and multi-coloured keyboards with large keys, tailored for individuals with visual impairments. Beyond these visible elements, PRL has also implemented thoughtful design choices like wider aisles, lower shelves, and overhead cables in the MakeIT space to accommodate wheelchair users, ensuring an accessible environment for all.Learn more about our partner:[Click here for National Library Board’s website.](https://www.nlb.gov.sg/main/visit-us/our-libraries-and-locations/libraries/punggol-regional-library/library-services) | 29.11.2024 | PM | In-person | Punggol Regional Library | N/A |
| Route 3: An Arts Centre for Everyone – Esplanade’s Journey to Facilitate Greater Accessibility and Inclusion in the Arts (PM) | Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is on a journey to make the arts more welcoming and accessible to all. Discover more about how Esplanade is enhancing accessibility, from improved physical access to inclusive programming and Relaxed Performances, so that even more can enjoy the offerings at the arts centre.Learn more about our partner:[Click here for Esplanade’s website.](https://www.esplanade.com/) | 29.11.2024 | PM | In-person | Esplanade | N/A |
| Route 3: Foreword Coffee – A Coffee Company’s Journey Towards Disability Inclusion (PM) | Started in 2017, Foreword Coffee is a social enterprise coffee company with the mission to mainstream disability and normalize inclusion. Having an inclusive work culture allowed the company to have over 80% of our employees identifying as a person with disability or having a mental health need.In the 1hr session, we will share about Foreword Coffee's journey as a social enterprise and why social inclusion is important to us. Beyond achieving social goals, Foreword Coffee has to balance with our business goals so that we keep the business sustainable. We will be sharing the joys and challenges in our past 7 years of experience and the hopes for the years to come. ​Learn more about our partner:[Click here for Foreword Coffee’s website.](https://forewordcoffee.com/) | 29.11.2024 | PM | In-person | Esplanade, Foreword Coffee | N/A |