

Issued together with the Press Release “From classroom to community: NUS College showcases student impact across Singapore and Southeast Asia at inaugural Impact Festival” on 15 Sept 2025

Annexe: Highlights of IEx Projects at the Impact Festival

Project: Bamboo for the Future by Team Bayanihan



Photo caption: Bamboo for the Future workshop participants celebrating the successful launch of their bamboo catapult. Photo credit: Team Bayanihan, NUS College

“Bamboo for the Future” was an educational workshop conducted in the Philippines that aimed to change the perception of bamboo among youths, promoting it as a sustainable alternative to wood in the context of deforestation and climate change. In collaboration with Grow School Philippines and other partners, the workshop combined agricultural education with hands-on bamboo modules in crafts, such as weaving coasters, and construction, such as building catapults. The initiative sought to break the stigma of bamboo as a “poor man’s timber” by showcasing its versatility and value through practical learning experiences.

Impact Festival Showcase: Bambusiness

The Department of Agriculture in the Philippines has been encouraging farmers to venture into bamboo-based agribusinesses for sustainable poverty alleviation. Unfortunately, government agribusiness initiatives have gained minimal traction, particularly among youths who remain the most vulnerable in the long term. To highlight the significance of bamboo in the country's past, present and future, this team produced a [narrative film](#) recounting their experience with their project partner, Youth Uprising Grow School.

The film will be screened at the inaugural Impact Festival 2025, alongside a line-up of other curated films.

Project: Turning Food Waste into Compost for Community Garden by w(eight)st not!



Photo caption: NUS College students from w(eight)st not! working through the final steps of making compost from food waste. Photo credit: w(eight)st not!, NUS College

Recognising that the hospitality industry is a major contributor to the problem of food waste, the project aimed to minimise food waste generated by Fairmont Singapore's kitchen through a composting pipeline that distributed compost to community gardens. By doing so, the project sought to encourage more sustainable methods of minimising food wastage through a proposed circular waste management system, while simultaneously spreading knowledge and awareness of composting to communities. Working closely with Corridor Farmers, who managed Fairmont's rooftop garden, the team recycled 100 kg of food waste into compost that was distributed to community partners such as MINDS and Metta Welfare Association.

Impact Festival Showcase: Would You Love Me If I Were A Worm?

In Singapore's hospitality industry, large amounts of food are discarded every day despite growing awareness of the economic and environmental cost of waste. The team spotlights on homes in Singapore, highlighting how small household actions can support broader sustainability goals. Their exhibition features a children's [book](#) which follows Jerome, a curious boy who wonders if his mother would love him even if he were a worm. Through playful storytelling, the book introduces families to composting, encouraging them to rethink waste and embrace sustainable habits starting from their own gardens.

Project: New Hope, New Beginnings by Team Homecoming



Photo caption: Team Homecoming took Joint Singles Scheme (Operator Run) residents out on a walking journey through the estates. Photo credit: Team Homecoming, NUS College

Team Homecoming served to better support individuals who were in the process of transitioning between homes. From residents of Transition Shelters to those who have moved into new permanent housing, the team worked with New Hope Community Services to increase community engagement for these groups through the analysis of the New Hope Connect app. The team also organised bonding activities such as a Park walk and Mooncake making activities for Joint Singles Scheme (Operator Run) residents in Woodleigh to form a new sense of community with their new neighbours.

Impact Festival Showcase: Home reDevelopment Box

Working with New Hope Community Services, the team supported the uptake of its new app, designed to reduce administrative strains on social workers. Engagements with the homeless community inspired a model of a [four-layer HDB block](#), each layer revealing emotions and circumstances in the homelessness journey. The exhibit title of “Home reDevelopment Box” is a play on “HDB” (Housing & Development Board) and invites audiences to rethink what “home” means, humanising experiences of displacement and exploring how housing, belonging and identity intertwine in Singapore’s urban landscape.

The physical, interactive exhibit will be on display at the Impact Festival.

Project: A Comprehensive Approach to Enhancing Fire Safety Resilience in Kampung Air by Team MEOWA



Photo caption: A Kampung Air resident shows one of several strategically placed Fire Aid Points around the kampung to provide residents with easy access to fire extinguishing equipment. Photo credit: Team MEOWA, NUS College

The team partnered with Borneo Komrad, a non-governmental organisation based in Sabah, East Malaysia, to address recurring fire hazards in Semporna's kampungs. These stilt-house settlements face frequent and devastating fires due to dense wooden housing, limited infrastructure and a lack of firefighting resources. In collaboration with local residents, teachers and the Semporna Fire and Rescue Department, the team developed and implemented fire safety measures, which included distributing Fire Aid Kits with essential emergency items, creating a tailored [Fire Safety Guide](#), conducting hands-on fire safety workshops and drills and establishing Fire Aid Points with extinguishers accessible to residents. A Volunteer Firefighting Team was also trained, empowering local youths to serve as first responders.

Impact Festival Showcase: Tides Between Us – Fiery Dreams

Persistent fire hazards in Kampung Air remain unaddressed due to inadequate awareness, infrastructures and access to resources. Responding to the recurring threat, this group's creation is three-fold. First, [portraits](#) of the local Bajau Laut community are imprinted with their own experiences. Then, the group produced [prose and poetry](#) in response to these stories. Finally, they co-created [zines](#) with the community to explore their dreams and wishes.

Project: Elephant in the Room by We ❤️ 🐘



Photo caption: NUS College students hiked through the rain in Huay Pakkoot to locate one of the elephants that are integral to the community's ecotourism business. Photo credit: We ❤️ 🐘, NUS College

The project focused on improving the elephant ecotourism model at the Karen village of Huay Pakkoot. The team worked alongside the Huay Pakkoot Elephant Community Foundation to enhance the ecotourism infrastructure and created archival records for both local cultural traditions and native biodiversity, with the aim of integrating these elements into the ecotourism model. Their work included setting up signboards along the main road and within the village to attract passing tourists and help them navigate the area. The team also produced a short documentary series about the village and initiated a wildlife project to track sightings of different species around Huay Pakkoot. Additionally, they crafted menus and field guides in English for the community to use when bringing tourists on hikes or elephant-spotting excursions. These efforts were intended to make the village more visible and appealing to motorists and potential tourists passing by Huay Pakkoot.

Impact Festival Showcase: Welcome to Huay Pakkoot

Led by the Karen people, Huay Pakkoot village pioneers community-based elephant tourism. However, lacking a sustainable framework, local mahouts and elephant tourism face economic instability amid preserving while striving to preserve cultural heritage. This team worked alongside the community to enhance support for both people and animals. Their exhibition provides an interactive experience of the Huay Pakkoot village, complete with guidebooks and mahout equipment. There will also be a screening of their four-part

documentary on the rhythms, responsibilities and resilience of the community at the Impact Festival.