



Cocktails with a green twist to save planet

Sam Riley

One wouldn't think they could help the planet by sipping a cocktail. But tomorrow night Shanghai's most eco-friendly crowd, with drink in hand of course, will launch their own chapter of "Green Drinks" — an informal networking event designed to bring together people interested in sustainability.

The drinks began in London in 1989. A chance to catch up, swap ideas, meet friends, even find a job, the drinks are organized by the URBN Hotel, China's first carbon neutral hotel, and Racks Billiards Club.

The evening will feature Amina Belouzzad from Space Development — the developers of the URBN Urban Hotel — who will discuss sustainable development.

Belouzzad has a background in business development in the hotel and hospitality sectors and has been involved in a range of redevelopment projects.

The second speaker is a representative of Roots and Shoots, an organization that tackles desertification in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region with a number of coordinated tree planting programs.

URBN Hotel's Communications and Events Manager Deirdre Morris says the monthly events aim to provide practical and useful information that people can apply to make their own lives more eco-friendly.

"The formats for the sessions are different in each city, but we would like to make Green Drinks Shanghai more function than form," she says.

"So we hope everyone is able to walk away from each session with new knowledge that can be applied immediately into action or with new

resources that motivates companies or individuals to move forward with current actions, projects or initiatives."

Part-owner of Racks, Min Yoo, says the drinks would have a casual, social atmosphere, with guests able to enjoy a cocktail while learning about sustainability in a relaxing environment.

In keeping with the spirit of Green Drinks, everyone is welcome to attend and encouraged to bring along a friend.

Each speaker will talk for about five minutes and a 20-minute question and answer session will follow.

The event will be held at the URBN Hotel on Jiaozhou Road and starts at 7pm.

For more information contact Deirdre Morris at the URBN on 5153-4600 or for more information on Green Drinks visit www.greendrinks.org.



Retail and rhetoric gear up for another successful year

Sam Riley

The highly successful Three Talks held at luxury retail complex Three On the Bund will kick off its 2009 series of speaking forums on Friday with best-selling author, management leader Peter Senge.

Dr Senge will discuss how senior managers can make their organizations more adaptive to change, particularly in these uncertain economic times.

Last year the Three Talks attracted top-line speakers and a range of high-profile panelists who discussed a range of topics from the rise of India and China and its effect on the world, and the financial crisis to more local issues like the importance of the Bund.

Some of the speakers at the well-attended and popular talks included Nobel Prize winning economist Kenneth Arrow and the Dean of Harvard Business School, Jay O. Light.

The ongoing forums aim to bring people together to listen and exchange views on a range of important subjects usually pertaining to current social trends or events.

Speeches are always followed by a question and answer session giving the audience the opportunity to initiate discussions.

Talks are also usually simultaneously translated. The Three Talks are part of Three on the Bund's "Three Spirit Patrons of Three" that



Peter Senge

aim to promote the values of philanthropy, sensitivity and unity through diversity in the arts and culture.

Yan Guoqiang, vice chairman of the Shanghai Commerce Commission, will chair Friday's talk. Dr Senge, a senior lecturer at MIT's Sloan School of Management, will discuss management techniques outlined in such best-selling books as "The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization."

Dr Senge has lectured extensively throughout the world, translating the abstract ideas of systems theory into tools for the better understanding of economic and organizational change.

He has focused on decentralizing the role of leadership in an organization so as to unleash the capacities of all its members to work productively toward a common goal.

Published in 1990, "The Fifth Discipline" has sold more than 1 million copies worldwide and in 1997, Harvard Business Review identified it as one of the seminal management books of the last 75 years.

Dr Senge has also authored many articles published in both academic journals and the business press on systems thinking in management.

The event will be held from 5pm to 7pm at the Shanghai Art Gallery on the third floor of Three on the Bund.

Anyone interested can contact Lisa Hong on 6329-9921 or email threetalk@on-the-bund.com.

Seats are strictly limited and printed confirmation slips issued by Three on the Bund are required for entry.

Staff Reporter

Explore Singapore on a virtual online tour, take a quiz, and stand a chance to win a customized trip to the "Lion City" — this is what this year's "Your Singapore Experience" contest offers.

The global contest (www.your-singapore-experience.sg) returns for a second run from January 6 to April 5. It gives non-Singaporeans and non-Singapore permanent residents residing abroad a special opportunity to win a five-day/ four-night trip to Singapore that is customized to suit the winner's individual interests. Among the highlights are meetings with leading personalities in selected fields, while being immersed in a truly authentic experience of Singapore.

Apart from a complete, all-rounded experience of the lifestyle and culture of Singapore, two winners of the contest will also get to meet with up to two prominent Singapore personalities

Experience the delights of Singapore

in specific areas of their choice during their stay. Each winner is entitled to bringing a partner and will get to experience various aspects of living, studying, working and playing in Singapore. Accommodation, transport and meals according to the customized itinerary will also be covered by the organizer.

The contest aims to deepen non-Singaporeans' impressions of Singapore beyond the country's tourist attractions and to expose them to Singapore's modern and dynamically changing culture and landscape.

One of the seven winners from the first "Your Singapore

Experience" contest in 2007 came from China. Bi Suzhi, a 21-year-old communications engineering student at Zhejiang University says he has found Singapore a relaxing and interesting escape.

"Singapore is a very welcoming country," he says. "The atmosphere made us feel totally at home and at ease during our short stay here. The government also has great respect for talent. It is evident in the way it goes about planning for its people — from housing, city planning and allowing its people to pursue their education and careers without any worry about finances."