

MODEL WORKER

Peter Tan Poh Tai

Executive, Security Management
National Parks Board

Nominated by the Amalgamated Union of Public Employees

Peter Tan Poh Tai joined National Parks Board (NParks) in 1996. During his 26 years of service with NParks, he was deployed to different work areas – from park ranger to handling technical equipment and the current front-facing visitor management. He started in NParks as a park ranger, focusing on enforcing park rules, collecting specimens, and ensuring that the parks were safe and enjoyable for the public. Brother Peter excelled in the role, given his military background.

In 2007, he was offered an opportunity to switch to handling equipment and buggy maintenance. This was a new area of work for Brother Peter who had no prior experience in maintenance. He could have stayed in his comfort zone as a park ranger, but he recognised early on that having a broader skillset and varied work experiences would make him valuable to the organisation. He proactively sought guidance from his colleagues and eventually became proficient in this new role.

Soon after, the role expanded to include visitor and security management duties. This again posed initial challenges for Brother Peter, given the customer-facing nature. Nonetheless, he saw these challenges as opportunities for growth. He worked tirelessly to ensure that he performed well in this role. The role became even more crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he had to ensure the safety of visitors in the parks.

Today, as an executive in the Visitor Management and Security Branch, his duties include day-to-day visitor management operations at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. His responsibilities include performing crowd control in the gardens and preparing the park facilities for foreign delegates' visits. This front-facing role requires Brother Peter to have strong interpersonal and communication skills. His positive work attitude and work ethic within NParks have not gone unnoticed.

At 73 years old, he is one of the most senior staff in NParks. He is an excellent example of how someone can learn and relearn at various junctures of his career to remain employable. Brother Peter enjoys great relations with his peers and is an enthusiastic supporter of the staff branch and the wider Labour Movement.