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The “In Time Of” Programme presents Episode Five “Colours of The Earth”  
To Explore Home-grown Natural Dyes and the Lifecycle of Agriculture in Connecting Humans and Nature



(Hong Kong, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021) – Following the success of Episode IV in the “In Time Of” series “A Date with Seeds” which ran in July/August – the Nan Fung Group is now presenting **Episode V “Colours of the Earth”** which invites the public to continue exploring the relationship between seeds and the soil by uncovering the myriad hues displayed by Mother Nature between September and November.

The “In Time Of” community initiative was launched by Nan Fung - Hong Kong’s leading diversified conglomerate - in February 2021 to engage society in rediscovering the connection between humanity and the natural environment through a diverse range of nature stories in five different episodes.

Inspired by the concept of a Resilient City, “In Time Of” aims to connect people from all walks of life through a variety of themed sustainable community programmes. The programme aspires to empower the community with the goals of accumulating social capital in the neighbourhood, advocating sustainability and reshaping a continuous relationship that bridges humanity and nature.

In **Episode V**, Nan Fung collaborated with several social stakeholders including **Sangwood KidsClub**, a local agricultural education group; and **Giants Tie Dye**, a group of tie-dye artists from Taiwan and Hong Kong as well as **UUendy Lau (UU)**, an installation artist who loves to observe animals and the natural world as inspiration for her designs. Together, they will create an exclusive multisensory exhibition with natural dye installations and a series of interactive workshops running from September to November at the Group’s iconic cultural landmark, The Mills. During the exhibition, visitors can explore nature’s language of colours first-hand through different artistic approaches and reflect on the importance of nature conservation.



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**Him Lo, Senior Manager of the Nan Fung Business Innovation, Cultural and Community Engagement Team said:** “In today’s fast paced world, we are all easily distracted, and often miss what’s going on in the natural environment around us. But that fact is that our daily lives are always closely linked to nature. It provides us with so many vital resources, from our food to things like natural dyes that complement our lives.”

“In this episode, we encourage the public to discover the natural world of colours and develop a better understanding of the relationships between seeds and the soil. Ultimately, we want to inspire people to pay more attention to the nature that surrounds us, respect the land, and build a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature even in the midst of our rapidly developing urban cityscapes.”

Biodiversity is an important element in maintaining a healthy ecosystem to achieve a more sustainable and resilient city in the long term. The same seed that falls in different types of ground, for example, can develop in completely different ways depending on the growing environment, the local climate, and the soil. Different conditions can also influence the colours of the final plants.

For instance, the indigo dye used in Hong Kong is rarely made from locally grown plants. So, with the aim of co-creating a more resilient future for the city through social empowerment, the Group reached out to the local agricultural education group, **Sangwood KidsClub** in Yuen Long under the “**Colours of the Earth**” programme last year.

The team collaborated with local farmers to explore the possibility of creating an exclusive “Hong Kong Blue” indigo dye for the programme by crossbreeding *Indigofera tinctoria* seeds from India with local seeds. They monitored and recorded the growing cycle of the plants over the past year and made timely adjustments to improve the quality in the hope of creating a new local species to increase the biodiversity of the city. Following impressive results, the harvest was processed by **Giants Tie Dye** into an indigo dye to use in the programme.

### Telling Nature Stories with Colours



Natural dyeing is an environmentally friendly dyeing method with a long history around the world. Each dyer has their own craft which can lead to different colour effects, so every product, in fact, is a unique work of art that illustrates our story with nature.

The Mills cooperated with designer **UUendy Lau (UU)** to create three large natural dye installation pieces with natural elements including flowers, leaves and branches, along with a fascinating story about a girl and a tree named the **“Happy Birthday to Tree”**, which was inspired by her personal experience with a Poinciana Tree in Tsuen Wan.

The resulting colourful installations, dyed with homemade indigo, gardenia fruit, and the common madder root, showed the creativity of UU. They also integrated the imaginative use of flowers and plants from different parties within the community. The Mills organised two pre-workshops based upon the exhibition and the overall narrative, invited students and elderly folks from the Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired as well as the St. James Settlement Project Care Neighbourhood Elderly Centre in Tsuen Wan to create natural dye artworks while discussing their views of the natural landscapes. All the finished works will be displayed in visual and tactile experiences around the venue, showcasing the variety of natural dyes to the public through a multisensory approach.



A series of eco-friendly natural dye workshops will be hold at The Mills and Centre for Heritage Arts & Culture (CHAT) for visitors to get creative and experience the fun of natural dying.

Alongside the exhibition, a series of eco-friendly natural dye workshops will also be held at The Mills and the Centre for Heritage Arts & Culture (CHAT) for visitors to get creative and learn about the dyeing techniques, while enjoying the fun of the natural dyeing process.

The experience includes the **“Natural Dye Washi Crafting Workshop”** hosted by the **Pok Fu Lam Village Ladies Workshop** who are skilled at making handicrafts from natural resources. Participants can learn how to extract colours from local natural ingredients, with the applications of tie-dye techniques, to create their own natural dyes and patterns based on Japanese Washi.

To celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, participants can also join the **“Natural Dye Washi Lantern Crafting Workshop”**, led by lantern master **Mr Ng Kong Kin**, and learn basic skills of crafting traditional lantern by using bamboo strips and paper sticks. In the final step of the Workshop, the air-dried natural dye Washi will be pasted on lanterns to create unique lantern patterns.



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A **Dreamcatcher** is a protective talisman, originating from North American cultures, that symbolises blessings and protection. It also represents unique energy and emotions with different decorations and colours. The “**Mini Dreamcatcher Workshop**” hosted by the **artist UU** will lead participants in interacting with nature through modern craftsmanship and art. Participants can learn to weave their own mini dreamcatchers using natural materials and indigo dyes.

The **CHAT team** has made use of the *Indigofera tinctoria* grown locally on the farmlands of the **Sangwood KidsClub** over the past year and processed it to produce a homemade indigo dye which they will introduce in collaboration with other artists to bring a variety of indigo dye experiences to visitors, including the “**Indigo Dye Tote Bag Design Workshop**”, the “**Botanical Eco-Printing Workshop**” and the “**Japanese Furoshiki Design Workshop**”. These workshops will help participants to learn different dyeing techniques such as wax resistant dyeing, indigo dyeing, and eco-printing.

Various plant growing stories will also be exhibited throughout the venue, so visitors can explore the life cycle of plants, the process of making natural dyes, and learn about the “**Colours of the Earth**” from different perspectives.

#### **The Mills Fabrica will Showcase Innovative Dyeing Solutions for a Sustainable Future**



Dye pollution has been a significant issue in the textile industry for years, but not much has been done about it. Many innovators are working hard to develop new textile colouring methods with reduced water consumption, and less wastewater toxicity to minimize the environmental impact.

**The Mills Fabrica (Fabrica)** – The Mills’ innovation arm, which focuses on facilitating the collaboration between technology and style – will present “**Colours of the Earth – The Palette for a Sustainable Tomorrow**” with an experiential pop-up showcase at **Techstyle X** in September.



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**Colorifix, Huue and Algaeing** – three textile industry change makers – among a long list of companies funded by Fabrica – will showcase some of their ground-breaking innovations and share ways to contribute to a greener future through DNA replication from nature, sugar fermentation, and lab-grown algae. They will also demonstrate how improvements in current technologies can bring revolutionary new influences to the traditional dyeing and textile industry.

There will also be a **marbling workshop**, introducing the 'Suminagashi', which translates to 'floating ink', dye technique and dates to the 12th century, where textile colouring methods originated, using natural pigments. Participants will learn this Japanese craftsmanship by applying it to an undyed eco-friendly pouch, as well as different methods to manipulate the ink into distinctive personalized swirled patterns.

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### **In Time Of – “Colours of the Earth”**

**Venue:** The Mills / Centre for Heritage Arts & Culture (CHAT)/ The Mills Fabrica @ Tsuen Wan

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### **“Colours of the Earth” Activities**

Activities	Date	Time	Location	Fee	Collaborators
“Happy Birthday to Tree” Exhibition and Natural Dye Installations	4th Sept – 28th Nov 2021	12nn-6pm	The Mills G/F	Free	Designer UUendy Lau (UU)
“Colours of the Earth – The Palette for a Sustainable Tomorrow” Exhibition	4 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2021	12nn-7pm	The Mills Fabrica - Techstyle X (Shop 108, The Mills )	Free	Colorifix 、Huue and Algaeing
Please refer to <a href="#">“In Time Of” website</a> and social media platforms for more workshop’s details	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2021		The Mills/ CHAT/ The Mills Fabrica	\$50 - \$550	

To find out more about “In Time Of” and “Colours of the Earth”, please visit the official website and follow the social media platforms below.

Website: <https://www.intimeof.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/InTimeOf>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/intimeofhk/>

**High Resolution Images can be downloaded in the link below:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wz43qemo9bhsayh/AADDmc33XP8sd5EFJa7oiSbMa?dl=0>



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**About “In Time Of”**

The “**In Time Of**” programme is a community initiative launched by the **Nan Fung Group** that engages society on multidisciplinary levels ranging from culture and arts to social design and sustainable development. Inspired by the global “Resilient Cities” concept that refers to a city with the resilience to absorb, recover from and prepare for future shocks in different areas of society including economic, environmental, social, infrastructural, and institutional. The programme aspires to empower the community to accumulate social capital in neighbourhoods, advocating sustainability, and reshaping a continuous relationship that bridges humanity and nature.

**The Group** will partner with a diversity of social stakeholders including non-profit organisations, social enterprises and community designers through the “**In Time Of**” programme to develop sustainable community programmes including exhibitions, seminars, workshops, and guided tours, realise social empowerment and improve the efficiency of resource utilisation in the hope of creating a more resilient future for local neighbourhoods.

**About Nan Fung Group**

Nan Fung Development Limited is a subsidiary of Nan Fung Group, one of the largest privately held conglomerates in Hong Kong with global interests in real estate development and investment and holds a well-diversified, substantial financial investment portfolio. The Group was founded in 1954 and has a track record spanning over 50 years with over 165 projects including residential, commercial and industrial buildings. The Group also strategically focuses on first-tier cities in Mainland China and recognises attractive opportunities for development and investment overseas, including New York and London.

In recent years, the Group expanded its investment focus on ICE (Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship), exemplified by its signature project, The Mills, a revitalization of its legacy yarn factories into a hub promoting techstyle (intersection of technology and style) and an integrated destination housing an experiential shopfloor, startup incubator and interactive gallery. The Group also made significant progress in investments related to life sciences in the US via Pivotal; and in Mainland China via an affiliate, New Frontier, which focuses on healthcare, elderly care, education, and new technology.