

# TECH

## Applaudable green idea

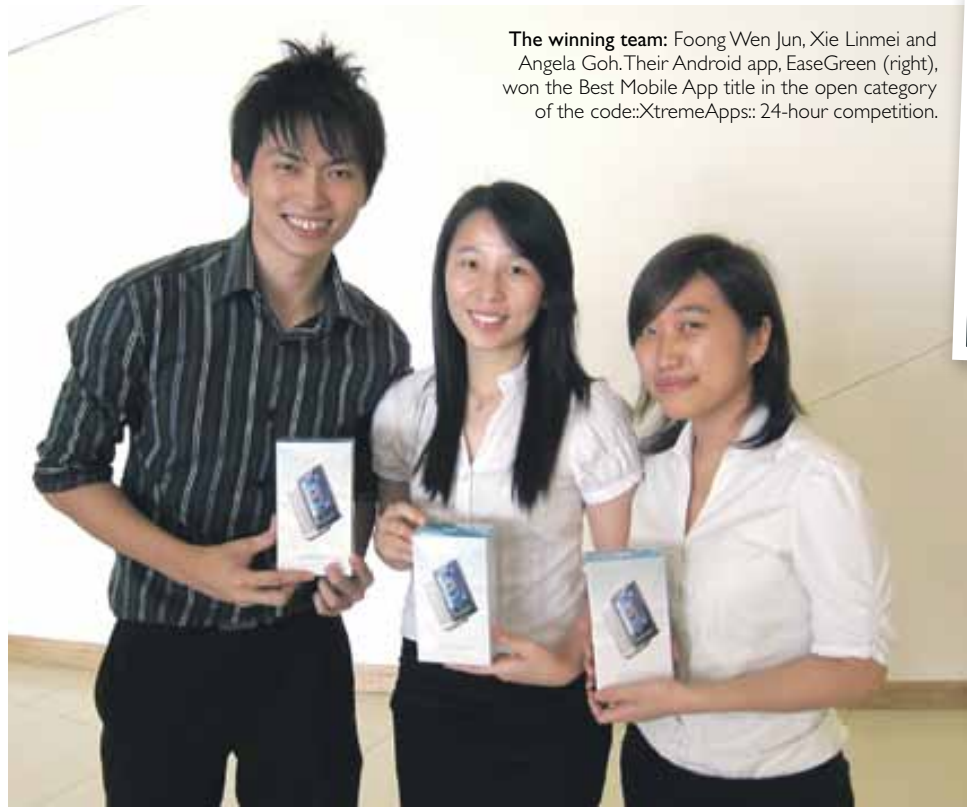
**Polytechnic trio's Android app on recycling clinches award in annual computer programming competition**

HAVE you ever thought about promoting the cause of recycling through technology? Three students from Nanyang Polytechnic — Foong Wen Jun, 26, Angela Goh Shi Yun, 19, and Xie Linmei, 23 — not only thought about it, they turned it into an Android mobile app. And all within the span of just 24 hours.

The team, which goes by the moniker of Save3Earth, was announced last week as the Best Mobile App Open Category winner in the fourth annual code::XtremeApps:: 24-hour computer programming competition.

Organised by the Information Technology Standards Committee (an industry partnership supported by IDA Singapore and SPRING Singapore), the competition tasked participants with developing a web or mobile app to promote sustainable living in Singapore within the time limit.

The Android app developed by Save3Earth, called EaseGreen, uses



The winning team: Foong Wen Jun, Xie Linmei and Angela Goh. Their Android app, EaseGreen (right), won the Best Mobile App title in the open category of the code::XtremeApps:: 24-hour competition.



technology to locate the place-marks through a live camera view.

Foong admitted that developing a working, robust mobile app in under 24 hours was not easy, especially since he had to rush back to his army camp for mobilisation during the competition.

“But we are delighted to be able to showcase how technology can be fun and cool, using augmented reality to promote the green initiative,” the diploma in Information Technology student told TODAY.

The Best Mobile App award, a new category in the code::XtremeApps:: competition, was presented to Save3Earth by mobile operator M1. Each team member won a Sony Ericsson Xperia X10 Mini Pro handset. M1 will work with Save3Earth to refine the app and make it available on the M1 AppStore for its subscribers. **SIM CHENG KAI**

augmented reality (which supplements a live video feed of the environment with virtual text and imagery) and location-awareness technology through GPS to let users contribute and retrieve information on “green locations” in Singapore, such as recycling bins.

Users can upload a picture of a recycling bin and key in relevant information like description and type. The information is then uploaded onto Google Maps to let all users locate these bins via place-marks (points of interests). Users can also enable augmented reality

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Touch screen



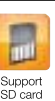
3D building



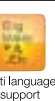
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## Symbian App of the Week

### Phone Torch

FREE me-too torchlight apps are ubiquitous on the Web, but none matches up to the functionality offered by PhoneTorch (\$4.99, from the Nokia Ovi store), now in its second incarnation.

Choose to beam a source of light from your smartphone's display screen, its LED flash unit, or both simultaneously. You can even change the light colour for the screen. There is also a Morse code feature where text typed into the app can be converted into a series of light flashes long and short.

What makes this app worth paying for are handy features like a hotkey that turns

the torch on and off even when the phone is locked, and a brightness intensity setting.

At its maximum setting, it is several times brighter than other apps, making it actually practical when used as an impromptu light stick at a concert, or for “light paintings” — pictures where you swing a light source around in front of a digicam on a slow shutter speed. Beware the battery drain, though. **SIM CHENG KAI**



### TOP 5 APPS IN SINGAPORE FROM THE ANDROID MARKET (AS OF AUG 3)

Rank	Name	Description
1	<b>Google Maps (Free)</b>	A service that provides directions for driving, public transport and walking, with street-level imagery and real-time traffic updates.
2	<b>Google Sky Map (Free)</b>	Point your handset at the sky and this app will help you to identify the celestial objects — stars, planets, constellations — in view.
3	<b>Advanced Task Killer (Free)</b>	Kill running applications with a single touch — particularly handy when you need to conserve battery power.
4	<b>Barcode Scanner (Free)</b>	Scan QR codes to reveal the URLs, calendar events and other embedded information. Also, look up prices and reviews on CDs and books, or search for a word in a book and find where it occurs.
5	<b>Compass (Free)</b>	Displays direction and location. Users can also save geo-tagged notes.