

新加坡走繩現況

Elephant Invasion – An Intimate Look at Slacklining in Singapore

Slacklining is nothing new to Singapore, or perhaps to put it more accurately, Singaporean rock climbers. A more conventional way of any contact with a slackline would be through rock climbing which makes a lot of sense since slacklining is believed to be found and popularized by American rock climbers. For the past year (yes it has been just *one* year, tell us about it!), one can see a wave of slacklining activities crashing the island and what's more? We are looking forward to more fun coming very soon...

There are already some slackline interest groups in Singapore, consisting of mainly tertiary students who are very much into especially trick lining since the past few years. But what pushes the sport to a new level and to reach out to the mass public begins with the arrival of Elephant Slackline since February 2012. In less than a year, one can witness how the sport has gained the attention of even a passer-by.



Arrival of The Elephant

We began with slackline workshops in a local gym for people to learn the fundamentals of balancing, walking and learning simple tricks. At the same, this also acts as a form of publicity for the new sport to onlookers who are climbing and at the same time, distracted and curious to find out what this sport is all about.



Slackline Workshop in a local climbing gym

A casual facebook post then led to the meeting of a rock climber and tree climber who display their love towards the rock and trees in the Rock 2 Tree Project which is not only the first ever high line in Singapore, but also one that is set up from a rock face to a tree literally.



Rock 2 Tree Project – first high line ever in Singapore

Slackline seems to work really well with schools as well. We were approached by local schools, Australian International School and UniSIM to include slacklining as part of their school's activities. From school camps, major school events to Adventure Races, a simple slackline is creatively designed and transformed into a team building game, a mini competition or a low element obstacle course to suit the context.

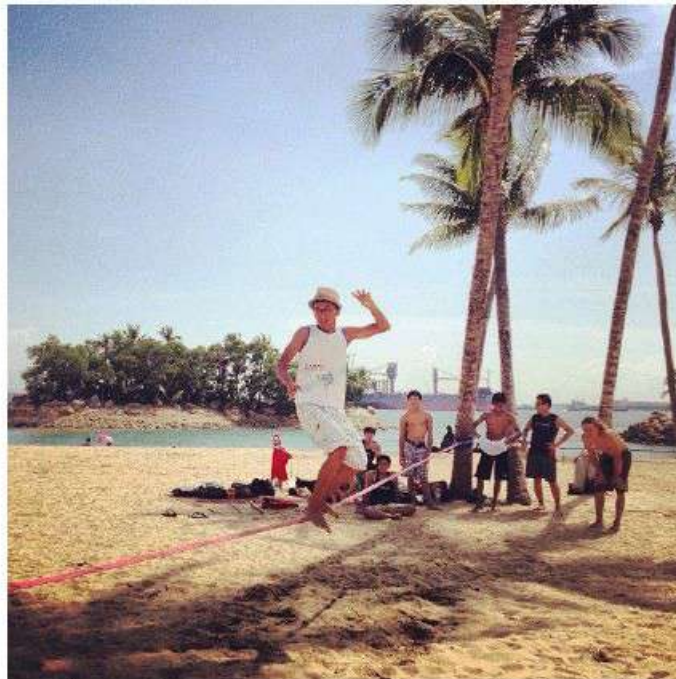


Slacklining in schools and events.
Lower right: Desky, our youngest athlete demonstrating what trick-lining is.



Obstacle course for Uni Sim's Adventure Race

Gaining the thumbs-up from Sentosa for slackline to be allowed on the island is a pat on the shoulder for us (we were so happy we invited the local slackline community for a session at Sentosa which turn-out was great!). Yes, we do get ourselves into trouble when we slackline in the outdoors in Singapore. But we believe that protecting Mother Nature while we are having fun is crucial in gaining public acceptance for the sport. So remember to put on those tree wraps before you hop onto the line if you're slacklining here! In the meantime, we will continue to strive to educate the public and defy any stereotype that people may have for the sport.



Sentosa Outing for yes to slacklining on the island =D

We decide to venture beyond our island to seek for new places for set up our lines. High-lining in Long Dong, Taiwan was a breath-taking experience (we'll be back to

vie the strong winds and finish the line!) and a short water-line session at Pulau Waterfall, Malaysia was a fun getaway from the city.



High-lining in Long Dong, Taiwan



Water-lining in Pulau Waterfall, Malaysia

And of course, being invited to feature slackline in a local TV programme is simply a great way to end off the year.



Filming with local TV programme, Style: Check-In

From a toddler who can hardly walk on the ground to 59 year-old Mr Chin (very likely the most senior slackliner in Singapore and a strong supporter of Elephant Slackline. Thanks Mr Chin!), looking back at year 2012, we are glad that through Elephant Slackline, we have such a diverse range of people who had taken their first step on the line. And not to mention, our sponsored Elephant athletes, Fal, Randy, Irham, Jiahui, Desky and Sushii and travelling athlete, Wes, thank you for believing in us.

So what's more are we expecting next? Check out our website at www.elephantslacklinessg.com for news on the Tonsai Slackline Festival in Krabi, Thailand at the end of February (everyone is welcome to join us!) and a slackline park coming to Singapore very soon (woo hooooooooo~)! Keep on slacking, keep on breaking limits!



Our Team