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NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM 2006 FINALE – YOUTHS SPEARHEAD SIX NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

“Our youths do care about the future and what goes on around them. They have opinions, ideas, and are prepared to stand up for these. A good many are inspired to turn talk into action.”

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan
Minister for Community Development, Youth & Sports
Second Minister for Information, Communications & the Arts and
Chairman of the National Youth Council
COS Debate, 9 March 2006

At the National Youth Forum (NYF) 2006 Finale on 28 September 2006, the 90 participating youths will announce five new youth-driven community initiatives, and share how they have translated their ideas into action.

2 Reflective of a generation comfortable with using the new media as a means to engage each other, three of the five youth projects involve using the internet to reach out to other youths. An example is a comic strip project to help young Singaporeans understand public policies and national issues, which will be released via the Youth.SG youth portal. Another project is an online forum for young people to air their views and commentaries on public policies and national issues. One other initiative is a youth counselling website, featuring youths as volunteer counsellors to other young people who wish to voice their problems and seek advice anonymously over the Internet.

3 A group of young people from the NYF have also stepped up to accept the offer made by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and Chairman of the National Youth Council

(NYC), to take over the reins of the government-managed online portal for young Singaporeans, Youth.SG. The announcement about this sixth initiative by youths to take ownership of the existing youth portal will be made at the NYF 2006 Finale by the Guest-of-Honour, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan. (See the programme and project summaries at Annex 1.)

4 NYF was established under the auspices of the NYC in 2004, to address the call by PM Lee Hsien Loong to enhance the level of youth civic participation. Arising from the Remaking Singapore Committee's recommendations to give our young people a greater say, the NYF was conceived to equip them with a better understanding of policy-making processes and governance in Singapore. (For more details about NYF, please visit www.nyf.sg.)

5 The second NYF, which took place from June to September 2006, saw 90 youth participants (aged 17 to 25) ranging from ITE students, to university undergraduates and young working adults, go through case studies and learning journeys, study selected national issues, recommend changes and see through projects to address those issues. (The profile of participants is attached at Annex 2.)

6 Since its launch on 23 June 2006, participating youths have met the President and the Speaker of Parliament in sharing sessions, and undergone study visits to government agencies and non-profit organisations. They have also engaged in discussions with experts on various topics of national concern, including education, health, media and politics, foreign talent, and multi-racialism and multi-culturalism.

7 On 15 July 2006, they presented their recommendations and project proposals on these selected national issues to a panel of representatives from relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies, as well as a larger youth audience. Following feedback received at the event, the participants have fine-tuned their proposals and are in the midst of implementing their projects. The entire NYF 2006 programme will culminate with a presentation of these projects at the Finale on 28 September 2006. (The NYF 2006 programme outline and key programme components are attached at Annexes 3 and 4 respectively.)

8 Themed "Take the Lead, Be the Change. Right Here, Right Now.", the second NYF is fully conceptualised and organised by a youth committee of 12 previous NYF participants and supported by NYC. The youth committee is guided by an advisory panel, chaired by Mr Ahmad Nizam Abbas, Council

Member of the 9th NYC. (Details on the youth committee and advisory panel can be found at Annexes 5 and 6 respectively.)

9 The youth committee cordially invites your reporter and photographer / camera crew to cover the NYF 2006 Finale. The details are:

Event : National Youth Forum 2006 Finale

Date : Thursday, 28 September 2006

Time : 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Venue : The Glass Hall, Singapore Art Museum

10 We would appreciate it if you could contact Ms Christina Ching at Tel: 6839 9122 / 9876 9237 or Email: Christina_CHING@pa.gov.sg to confirm your attendance at the event by Wednesday, 27 September 2006 (5:00 pm).

This news release is transmitted via telebox by the Corporate Communications Section of the National Youth Council. The National Youth Council is a Division of the People's Association. For further information, please contact:

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**NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM 2006 FINALE
28 SEPTEMBER 2006, AT THE GLASS HALL OF SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM**

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

6:30pm	Registration Standing Buffet Dinner
7:00pm	Arrival of Guest-of-Honour, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports 2nd Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Chairman of National Youth Council
7:50pm	Opening Remarks by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan
8:00pm	Project Presentations by NYF 2006 Participants
9:15pm	Closing Remarks by Representative of NYF 2006 Participants
9:30pm	End of Programme

*** Photo opportunities and interviews with NYF participants and guests will be from 6:30pm to 7:50pm and 9:30pm to 10:00pm.**

NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM 2006 FINALE
28 SEPTEMBER 2006, AT THE GLASS HALL OF SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Workgroup on Education (ONE-DERS)

The Comic Strip Project

The project aims to enhance the understanding of public policies and national issues among young Singaporeans (ages 13-21) through the use of comic strips (phase I) and animations (phase II) produced in collaboration with the Kaki Bukit Prison School (KBPS). Phase I of the project will see the comic strips being released fortnightly on the Youth.SG portal (www.youth.sg).

Workgroup on Foreign Talent and Opportunities (FT United)

“Go Global” Business Plan Competition

The project aims to create a culture of entrepreneurship and develop an international mindset amongst youth through a business case competition. Apart from local students from the Institutes of Technical Education, Junior Colleges and Polytechnics, the project will also target international students studying in Singapore to provide an opportunity for people from different backgrounds and culture to work together. Participants will go through a "business and entrepreneurship" education camp which will culminate in a business plan or case competition. It is hoped that both the seminars and the diverse experiences of participants will be a rewarding educational experience for all involved.

Workgroup on Multi-culturalism and Multi-racialism (Kullu Melinyu)

Project Connect: Youth Interfaith Engagement

Adopted by the Inter-Religious Organisation of Singapore as a youth initiative, it is a pilot study on the Four Phase Engagement Process by Brother Michael Broughton, to develop an inter-faith youth methodology for Singapore. Translated into a working programme - Singapore Inter-Faith Youth Forum 2007, it is also a platform for religious youth leaders to have a positive environment for interaction, sharing of spiritual development work and intellectual exchanges of youth related issues in the religious communities. The four phases will start with a Camp Connect in December 2006 and end with an awareness exhibition and forum dialogue in January 2007. The evaluation phase will be held in February 2007.

Workgroup on Media (Channel You)

Refresh: A Forum on Public Policies and National Issues

The project aims to provide a platform for young Singaporeans to better understand and responsibly discuss national issues and public policies affecting Singapore. The forum will be hosted on the Youth.SG portal as a start, and will feature commentaries and articles by young people themselves.

Workgroup on Health (Y-tamin)

Audible Hearts

Supported by the Health Promotion Board (HPB), Audible Hearts is an online youth counselling website which aims to provide an avenue for young people to voice their problems and seek advice anonymously over the Internet. Youths from schools and youth organisations will be recruited as volunteer counsellors and undergo training provided by Marine Parade Family Service Centre. The online youth counselling website will be an extension to the existing Youth Advolvement for Health (YAH!) web portal managed by HPB.

NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM 2006 PARTICIPANTS

NYF 2006 received about 170 applications from youths, aged 17 to 25 (compared to 140 applications for the first NYF in 2004). To be inclusive, all applicants were invited to face-to-face selection interviews, conducted over two weeks in May 2006 by a panel comprising selected members of the Youth Organising Committee and the Advisory Panel. 90 youths were selected for NYF 2006. They represent a cross-section of the youth population in terms of gender, ethnicity and educational and social backgrounds.

Profile of Participants

by Gender

Total	Male	Female
90	42 (47%)	48 (53%)

by Ethnic Group

Total	Chinese	Malay	Indian & Others
90	70 (78%)	9 (10%)	11 (12%)

by Occupation

Total	Student				Working
90	74 (82%)				16 (18%)
	Junior College	ITE	Polytechnic	University	
	26 (35%)	5 (7%)	12 (16%)	31 (42%)	

by Citizenship

Total	Singaporeans	Permanent Residents
90	85 (94%)	5 (6%)

**NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM (NYF) 2006
Programme Outline**

Session 1 : “Boarding Pass” – Orientation @ NYC

Venue : National Youth Council

Dates : 16 June 2006

Highlights : • Introduction to NYF – objectives, programme, expectations and deliverables

Session 2 : “Takeoff” - Launch @ Skate Park

Venue : Skate Park, Somerset

Dates : 23 June 2006

Highlights : • Celebration of youth
- Talks by youth leaders and developers on youth engagement and activism;
- Exhibitions by youth organisations to showcase their work; and
- Band performances

Session 3 : “Flight Info” – Induction @ NACLI (Residential)

Venue : National Community Leadership Institute (NACLI)

Dates : 24-26 June 2006

Highlights : • Critical Thinking and Logical Reasoning
• Public Speaking and Presentation
• Community and Us
- Role of Grassroots Organisations
- Singapore – A Multicultural Society
- Youth in Community Development
• Learning Journeys
- Study visits to Grassroots Heritage Centre, voluntary welfare organisations, and community-based organisations.

Session 4 & 5 : “In the Cockpit” – Impact of Public Policy @ The Arts House

Venue : City Hall Chamber, Istana, Parliament House and other venues

Dates : 29 June-1 July 2006, 15 July 2006 and 28 August 2006

Highlights :

- Introduction to Public Policy
- Case Study by Institute of Public Policy
- Dialogue and Focus Group Discussions with:
 - Parliamentarians
 - Media and Think Tanks
 - Special Interest Groups and International Non-Profit Organisations
- Learning Journeys:
 - Tea Session with the President at the Istana
 - Dialogue Session with the Speaker of Parliament
 - Tour of Parliament House
 - Dialogue Session with an Ambassador
 - Observe Meet-the-People Sessions hosted by Members of Parliament
 - Study visits to relevant public agencies and non-governmental organisations.
- Panel Presentation
 - Presentation of recommendations on NYF topic to panel of decision-makers, and a larger audience.

Session 6 : “Final Approach” - Community Projects

Dates : July to September 2006

Highlights : Execution of feasible community projects with relevant authorities and organisations.

Session 7 : “Touchdown” – Grand Finale

Dates : 28 September 2006

Highlights :

- Presentation of community projects
 - Sharing of project outcomes and learning points
- Dinner and dance

**NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM (NYF) 2006
KEY PROGRAMME COMPONENTS**

Date / Time	Session
Friday, 23 June 2006 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm Skate Park (Somerset)	Launch @ Skate Park GOH: Dr Vivian Balakrishnan Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports 2nd Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Chairman of the National Youth Council
Saturday, 24 June 2006 1.40 pm to 3.10 pm Learning Lounge, NACLI	(70 South Buona Vista Road) “Role of Grassroots Organisations” by Mr Lee Hong Chuang Council Member of 9th NYC Chairman, PAYM Central Youth Council
Sunday, 25 June 2006 9.00 am to 11.00 am Learning Lounge, NACLI (70 South Buona Vista Road)	“Singapore – A Multicultural Society” by Ms Iva Aminuddin (Mendaki Club) Mr Satwant Singh (Young Sikh Association) Mr Jonathan Capel (Eurasian Association)
6.30 pm to 8.00 pm Learning Lounge, NACLI (70 South Buona Vista Road)	Informal Dinner with Religious Leaders
Monday, 26 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.30 am Learning Lounge, NACLI (70 South Buona Vista Road)	“Anchor Your Purpose” by Ms Elim Chew Council Member of 9th NYC Board of Advisor, The Young Entrepreneur Mastery Founder/President, 77th Street
11.30 am to 1.00 pm Auditorium, Joint Social Service Centre (381 Toa Payoh Lorong 1)	“Youth Helping Youth” by Dr John Tan Executive Director Children At Risk Empowerment Mr Trevor Xie Founder Student Advisory Centre
3.15 pm to 5.00 pm Renci Hospital (10 Buangkok View)	Dialogue with Dr Ong Seh Hong MP for Marine Parade GRC COO of Renci Hospital

Date / Time	Session
Tuesday, 27 June 2006 9am to 12pm OR 2 to 5pm ISD Heritage Centre	Tour of ISD Heritage Centre
Thursday, 29 June 2006 9.00 am to 12.30 pm Possibility Room National Library Building	“Introduction to Public Policy” by Dr Ho Khai Leong Associate Professor Public Administration Programme, NTU
1.40 pm to 3.10 pm Possibility Room National Library Building	“Role of Law in Singapore” Mr Chandra Mohan (Partner, Tan, Rajah & Cheah) Assoc Prof Thio Li Ann (Law Faculty, NUS)
Friday, 30 June 2006 10.00 am to 12.00 pm Dining Hall, Parliament House	Dialogue with the Speaker of Parliament
2.30 pm to 4.00 pm The Chamber, Arts House	Panel Discussion with MPs on Education Mr Masagos Zulkifli (Senior Parl Sec for Education) Ms Denise Phua (MP-Elect for Jalan Besar GRC) Mr Zulkifli Baharudin (ex-NMP)
4.30 pm to 6.00 pm The Chamber, Arts House	“Singaporean Diplomacy and Foreign Policy” by Dr Eric Teo Council Member, Singapore Institute of International Affairs
Saturday, 1 July 2006 10.00 am to 2.00 pm MediaCorp (Caldecott Broadcast Centre)	Focus Group Discussions hosted by Mdm Chua Foo Yong (Executive Advisor, MediaCorp) Mr Viswa Sadasivan (Chairman, The Right Angle Pte Ltd) Ms Leong Ching (Senior Correspondent, The New Paper) Dr Gillian Koh (Snr Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies) Dr Eugene Tan (Assoc Law Professor, SMU)
Saturday, 15 July 2006 9.30 am to 1.00 pm Conference Hall School of Accountancy Singapore Management University	Panel Presentation by Participants
Monday, 28 August 2006 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm The Istana	Tea Session with President S R Nathan
Thursday, 28 September 2006 7.00pm to 9.30pm Glass Hall, Singapore Art Museum	Grand Finale Presentation by Participants

**NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM 2006
ORGANISING COMMITTEE (OC) MEMBERS**

Sn	Name, Age	Bio
1	Ms Tin Pei Ling, 22 Chairperson, NYF 2006 OC	Tin Pei Ling is an Honours student in the NUS University Scholars Programme, majoring in Psychology. Pei Ling served as President of the NUS Society of Social Work & Psychology Students in 2003/04. She is also a grassroots volunteer with the Ulu Pandan Community Club Youth Executive Committee, and the South West Community Development Council. Pei Ling is also Vice Chairman for the Worldview Conference 2005 and 2006. A natural orator, who had participated in various international youth programmes, she competed against native speakers from Beijing, Hong Kong and Taiwan in the inaugural Taipei City Cup Chinese-English Impromptu Speech Contest in 2005, and did Singapore proud by emerging with the top prize in the tertiary category.
2	Mr Alex Tan Chee Wei, 22 Dy Chairperson, NYF 2006 OC	Alex Tan is Vice Chairman and IT Secretary of the Kebun Bahru CC Youth Executive Committee. He is also active in youth developmental activities as a Youth Panellist for the Young ChangeMakers, and is the President of the Peircean Association, the alumni for his alma mater, Peirce Secondary School.
3	Ms Guy Bte Ghazali, 23 Dy Chairperson, NYF 2006 OC	Guy Ghazali is a lawyer at Tan Rajah & Cheah. A well-known figure in the Malay debate scene, Guy was the presenter for "Titian Minda 2002", a Singapore-Brunei debate collaboration held in Brunei Darussalam and televised on SURIA Mediacorp TV 12. She is on the Malay Activities Executive Committee at Bishan North Community Club, and is an active volunteer with the Malay Youth Literary Association (4PM).
4	Mr Huang Danwei, 24 Chairperson, Facilitation Sub-Committee (SC)	Huang Danwei is an active volunteer with the Youth Expedition Project (YEP). He is a YEP Alumni Blue Water Volunteer who serves as a nature guide for the coral reefs of the Southern Islands. Danwei is also involved in crisis relief. After the Asian Tsunami struck in 2005, he led a team of students on a 15-day humanitarian relief mission to Sri Lanka. When an earthquake struck Pakistan shortly afterwards, he led another team on a crisis relief mission to Pakistan.
5	Ms Michelle Chang Shuhui, 21 Co-Chairperson, Programme SC	Michelle Chang is an active member of the Debate Association (Singapore), serving as Secretary in the Executive Committee. She is also its Tournament Convenor and Liaison Person. Passionate about youth development, Michelle is a Volunteer Instructor for the association's Youth Development Programme and Debate Excellence Programme. She is also a Youth Panellist for the Young ChangeMakers.
6	Mr Martino Tan, 24 Co-Chairperson, Programme SC	Martino Tan writes freelance for Lime Magazine, Gethat Magazine and Anchor Newsletter. He was the President of the Singapore Students' Association at Murdoch University, Australia. Recently graduated

		with an Honours degree in Mass Communications, and back in Singapore, Martino is now an active grassroots volunteer and a Young ChangeMaker Youth Panellist.
7	Mr Alan Goh Eng Song, 24 Co-Chairperson, Projects SC	As Organising Vice Chairman for the Worldview Youth Conference 2005, Alan Goh was the chief architect behind the well-received conference programme. In 2004, Alan was appointed as committee member of the Youth and Sports Functional Committee of the South West Community Development Council. He also volunteers with the Ulu Pandan Community Club Youth Executive Committee and the Students Care Services (Clementi Centre).
8	Ms Ng Xiao Yan, 21 Co-Chairperson, Projects SC	Ng Xiao Yan was Assistant Honorary General Secretary of the Society of Social Work and Psychology Students in 2004/05. Xiao Yan started volunteering with the Changi General Hospital Pharmacy in December 2001. Since then, she has volunteered at Good Life @ South East and the YAH (Young At Heart) Community College. She has also been a Befriender for the METOYOU Cyber-Counselling Programme for students since May 2005.
9	Mr Andy Chua, 19 Co-Chairperson, Publicity SC	Andy Chua is a nursing student from Nanyang Polytechnic. He has been volunteering his time with Metropolitan YMCA Heartzlink since 2003. Andy serves the elderly and intellectually disabled children at Heartzlink, and also volunteers in various ad-hoc community projects.
10	Ms Natalya Twohill, 20 Co-Chairperson, Publicity SC	As Singapore's representative for the 'Speak Your Mind Campaign', Natalya Twohill once presented the Asian Youth Charter to Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. A recent Ngee Ann Polytechnic graduate, Natalya is Founder/President of the United Nations Youth Association (Singapore). She is also a member of the Kebun Bahru Community Club Youth Executive Committee and the Central Singapore Community Development Council's "High-Five" Youth Alumni.
11	Ms Lingehswari d/o Eisvran, 20 Co-Chairperson, Research SC	Lingehswari is currently majoring in Sociology. She took part in the Korean ASEAN Future Youth Exchange Programme in 2005 and is currently also involved in the NTU Model United Nations. Her community involvement includes volunteering at MINDS and Grace Haven Salvation Army. She is a Youth Panellist with the Young ChangeMakers, and is also involved in the work of the Young Leaders Foundation.
12	Ms Tan Hui Yi, 19 Co-Chairperson, Research SC	Hui Yi is a Youth Panellist with the Young ChangeMakers. Besides helping out at the Eunos Community Centre, Hui Yi also contributed to the The Fingers Players Annual Charity Carnival, and volunteers in various ad hoc community projects.

**NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM 2006
ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS**

Sn	Name, Age	Bio
1	<p>Mr Ahmad Nizam Abbas Chairman, NYF 2006 AP Advisor to Programme Sub-Committee (SC)</p>	<p>Mr Ahmad Nizam Abbas was the President of Mendaki Club between 2003 and 2005. Appointed as a Councillor of the Central Singapore Community Development Council in 2001, he is currently Vice-Chairman of the Social Service Development Committee. Mr Ahmad Nizam also chaired the Community Development Group of the Feedback Unit from 2002 to 2005, and since April 2005, sits on the Feedback Unit Supervisory Panel. A strong supporter of youth development, Mr Ahmad Nizam had also chaired the Steering Committee for the inaugural National Youth Forum in 2004.</p>
2	<p>Mr Tan Cheng Kiong Co-Chief Facilitator</p>	<p>Mr Tan Cheng Kiong is the Deputy Chief Commissioner of The Singapore Scout Association. He has also been serving as the Assistant Leader Trainer of The Singapore Scout Association National Training Team since 2000, and has been a committee member of the Asia Pacific Region Scout Committee since 2004. Besides youth developmental activities, Mr Tan is also an active member of other committees and boards, including the People's Association.</p>
3	<p>Mr Jeffrey Yip Co-Chief Facilitator</p>	<p>Mr Jeffrey Yip is currently a Research Associate at the Centre for Creative Leadership. He co-founded the Young Leaders Foundation in Singapore, a growing non-profit organisation with the mission of developing young leaders through training seminars, scholarship grants and mentorship programmes. He was also a committee member of the YMCA Community Development Division (Singapore) from 2002 to 2004 and a mentor with Project Bridge (Singapore) from 2001 to 2004. Mr Yip was also a regional representative for East Asia on the International Council on National Youth Policy, a United Nations-affiliated tripartite expert body, in 2004.</p>
4	<p>Mr Lee Hong Chuang, PBM Advisor to Projects SC</p>	<p>Mr Lee Hong Chuang is the Chairman of the People's Association Youth Movement Central Youth Council and Teck Ghee Community Club Youth Executive Committee. He was also the Co-Chairman of the Advisory Panel for SHINE 2005 and 2006, the youth-oriented festival jointly organised by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports and National Youth Council. Mr Lee is also passionate</p>

		about gymnastics. He is currently the President of the Singapore Amateur Gymnastic Association and has been a Coach at the Association since 1987, and a Committee Member of the Association since 1994.
5	Ms Elim Chew Advisor to Publicity SC	Ms Elim Chew is the Founder and President of 77th Street (s) Pte Ltd, the first streetwear store for the young and fashionable in Singapore. A strong supporter of youth development in Singapore, Ms Chew initiated the "Youth Voices Series" and started The Young Entrepreneur Mastery (TYEM), a non-profit body to cultivate entrepreneurial skills in youths. In 2005, she was appointed Co-Chairman of SHINE, the youth-oriented festival jointly organised by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports and National Youth Council, and became a member of the *scape Advisory Panel.
6	Mr Ng How Yue Co-Advisor to Research SC	Mr Ng How Yue joined the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) as the Director of Youth in 2005. He is responsible for reviewing, formulating and coordinating the Government's youth development policies. Prior to that, Mr Ng had been with the Customs & Excise Department of the Ministry of Finance since 2001, where he was responsible for establishing the development strategies and policies to help facilitate trade and travel while safeguarding Singapore against the entry of contraband goods. Mr Ng's varied experience in the civil service includes postings in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Information, Communications & the Arts. Recently, he was concurrently appointed as Director of the National Youth Council on 1 July 2006.
7	Ms Sum Chee Wah Co-Advisor to Research SC	Ms Sum Chee Wah has been the Director of the Education Programmes Division since 2004 and is responsible for planning, developing and monitoring polices and programmes including co-curricular activities, pastoral care and career guidance, gifted education, specialised programmes, pre-schools, and the development of pupils' talents and abilities. She is also on the Board of Governors of Temasek Polytechnic and is a Council Member of the Singapore Sports Council.