

Embargoed till 1st October 2022, 1730hrs



30 September 2022

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More opportunities for youths to deepen bonds with Singaporeans from different races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds

As part of the Forward SG exercise to strengthen our social compact, the National Youth Council (NYC) Singapore will provide close to 3,000 community volunteering opportunities for youths to participate in from October to December 2022. To deepen bonds across races and religions, a commemorative Forward SG civic conversation toolkit will also be launched by November 2022 for youths to facilitate their own conversations on this sensitive topic.

2 Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law Edwin Tong made the announcement today (1 Oct) at the closing ceremony of the Our Singapore Leadership Programme (OSLP). Around 50 Singaporean youth leaders participated in a 4-day programme to deepen their understanding and appreciation of national policies at the annual event.

Do Good Fest Returns

3 NYC's volunteering division, Youth Corps Singapore (YCS), launched its second run of *Do Good Fest* with close to 3,000 volunteering opportunities of varying durations¹ from 1 October 2022. Youths can volunteer for causes they care for, such as seniors, children, persons with special needs, youth mental well-being, and the environment. The *Do Good Fest* returns after a successful first run in June this year, when more than 2,500 volunteering opportunities were taken up during the school holidays. Details on *Do Good Fest 2* and the full listing of volunteering opportunities can be found at do-good-fest.sg.

Toolkit to Deepen Interracial and Religious Harmony

4 The culmination of a series of civic conversations led by NYC², the first commemorative Forward SG toolkit encourages youths to reflect, share, and discuss Race & Religion issues such as casual racism and discriminatory workplace practices, in a safe and structured manner. The toolkits, developed as questions-based conversation cards, use carefully curated and authentic scenarios for youths to initiate their own conversations. Beyond Race & Religion, there will be conversation cards developed progressively to address themes such as Intergenerational Harmony and Local-Foreigner Relations.

5 NYC will be partnering schools such as the Institute of Technical Education, Polytechnics, and Universities, civil society groups such as Whitehatters and Bold at Work, and self-help groups such as SINDA Youth Club and Mendaki Club, to equip youths with fundamental civic discourse skills such as active listening and understanding diverse

¹ There are daily volunteering stints, to programmes that require a commitment of a few weeks or longer.

² <https://www.todayonline.com/brandstudio/civic-conversations/campaignsummary>

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perspectives when the first toolkit is launched. A digital engagement campaign to promote the values of inclusivity whilst empowering youths to engage in difficult conversations of their own will start from October this year to January 2023.

6 Please refer to Annex A for the OSLP programme. A factsheet of the Forward Singapore Unite Pillar is attached separately. For further information, please reach out to the media contacts below.

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About the National Youth Council

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard and have agency to make a difference. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience, and an enterprising spirit. We acknowledge the diverse needs and aspirations of young Singaporeans and ensure our youth have opportunities to develop self-awareness, deepen community spirit, and be future-ready. We hear youth, we empower youth and are **HERE FOR YOUTH**.

About the Youth Corps Singapore

Youth Corps Singapore (YCS) is a division of the National Youth Council (NYC). YCS was launched in 2014 to champion youth volunteerism and build active citizenry for a caring and cohesive society. YCS serves as a collaboration platform between youths, community service organisations, and the wider society to ignite positive change.

About Our Singapore Leadership Programme

Our Singapore Leadership Programme (OSLP) is a dedicated initiative for a community of young Singaporean leaders who advocate and champion national issues to deepen their understanding and appreciation of Government policies and challenges ahead for Singapore. The programme curriculum is designed to enable participants to appreciate Singapore's unique challenges, constraints and vulnerabilities, the changing governance context and the multifaceted nature of policymaking, understand how the public, private and people sectors work together in advancing Singapore's interests, and commit to building a cohesive society that is united and strong in the face of adversity, and a citizenry that is rooted, enterprising and resilient.

Our Singapore Leadership Programme 2022 Schedule

| Day 1 (9 Sep) | Day 2 (10 Sep) | Day 3 (30 Sep) | Day 4 (1 Oct) |
|---|---|---|--|
| Our Place in the World | Sustaining Our People and Our Economy | Building a Liveable and Sustainable City | Building a Strong, Resilient, and Cohesive Singapore |
| Opening by NYC | Fiscal Sustainability and Inclusive Growth MOF representative | Learning Journey to Jurong Island | Building an Inclusive and Closer Knitted Singapore Fireside Chat with Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Finance, Indraneel Rajah <i>Forward SG (Care): Health and Social Support</i> |
| Learning Journey with ISD | | Planning for a Sustainable and Resilient City of the Future Fireside Chat with Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of National Development, Tan Kiat How <i>Forward SG (Build): Home and Living Environment</i> | Strengthening Racial and Religious Harmony MCCY representative <i>Forward SG (Unite): Singapore Identity</i> |
| Geopolitics Flux and Singapore: What does it mean for us? Fireside Chat with Minister for Foreign Affairs, Vivian Balakrishnan | Future of Skills for the Green Economy Panel session with MTI representative and Ms Gwee Cai Lin (IBIS Consulting) <i>Forward SG (Steward): Environment and Fiscal Sustainability</i> | Singapore moving forward to COP27 MSE and other invited representatives <i>Forward SG (Steward): Environment and Fiscal Sustainability</i> | Closing reflections Closing Ceremony and Dialogue with Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Edwin Tong <i>Forward SG (Unite): Singapore Identity</i> |