



Bringing you snippets of youth trends and issues compiled from diverse sources such as news reports, journals and press releases. Y+ is a bi-monthly e-newsletter that aims to help you stay in touch with the constantly evolving youth scene.

## YOUTH ACTIVISM

Social and Family Development Minister Chan Chun Sing, in a dialogue with 130 youths, encouraged youths to step up to help shape Singapore over the next 50 years. Mr Chan noted that success is not only dependent on hard work and talent but also opportunities. He called on those who are more successful to help those who are less successful ([Asia One Singapore](#)).

More youths are becoming active in (i) making their voices heard; and (ii) serving the society. In Singapore, youths are stepping up. For example, [a group of youths from Mendaki](#) developed an app to distribute food more efficiently and effectively to senior citizens in their community. Another youth, 15 year old [Lee Song Yang](#), wrote to The Straits Times Forum page five times in 2014 to voice his opinions on a wide range of issues. Internationally, in the spotlight, is "[Occupy Central](#)", a pro-democracy street protest in Hong Kong. The protests garnered international attention and drew both praise and criticism regarding its approach. This issue of Y+ highlights (i) recent initiatives which support youth activism; and (ii) the role new media play in facilitating youth activism.

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### **1. Youth Corps Pilot Group Get Set for Community Projects [Singapore]**

The idea of [Youth Corps Singapore](#) was mooted by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong during the National Day Rally 2013. Set up by the National Youth Council, Youth Corps is a platform for youths to meet like-minded individuals to do community projects. The first batch of 90 Youth Corps volunteers had recently undergone a [five-day training camp](#) on Pulau Ubin. The training programme sought to equip participants with leadership and project management skills necessary for leading larger-scale community projects. Upon completion of their training, the youths will work with identified community partners on projects that benefits the organisations' beneficiaries. Access the full article [here](#).

(Source: The Straits Times website. Accessed on 10 November 2014)

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/idea-jam-2014/story/youth-corps-pilot-group-gets-set-community-projects-20140624>

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### **2. Young DIY Approach 'Can Propel Singapore's Progress' [Singapore]**

At the inaugural IPS-Nathan Lectures, 2014 S R Nathan Fellow Ho Kwon Ping, noted that the onus would be on the younger generation to drive Singapore's growth for the next 50 years. Building on the idea of the participatory democracy, Ho pointed to the energy, optimism, and self-agency possessed by the younger generation as the key for Singapore to flourish. His full speech can be accessed [here](#).

Source: AsiaOne website. Accessed on 10 November 2014)

<http://news.asiaone.com/news/singapore/youngs-diy-approach-can-propel-singapores-progress>

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### 3. Hong Kong Students on Strike – Class Struggle [Hong Kong]

For five days in September, thousands of students gathered at Chinese University of Hong Kong campus and government headquarters to rally for greater democracy in the former British colony. The mass demonstration, backed by leading academics in Hong Kong, marked the beginning of a week-long boycott of university classes. Organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Students and Scholarism, the boycott was in response to the China's legislature, National People's Congress, decision to impose restrictions on the choosing of candidates for the city's top leader for the 2017 election. Activists described the student protests as a start of a civil disobedience campaign. Find out more [here](#).

Source: The Economist website. Accessed on 7 November 2014)

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/analects/2014/09/hong-kong-students-strike>

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### 4. Youth Activism: Why a Vote Makes All the Difference [United States]



Youths are influencing government's policy globally. They want to be engaged, they want to have a say. For instance, in Scotland, Scottish youth (aged 16 and 17 year olds) were recently allowed to vote for the country's independence. Closer to home, in Hong Kong, students were demanding for democracy from the Chinese government through street protests. The author calls for greater engagement of youths in US politics.

(Source: Point of View website. Accessed on 7 November 2014)

<http://www.bbnpov.com/?p=1713>

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### 5. Community Service Programs that Include Reflection Found to be More Beneficial to Youth [United States]

A meta analysis conducted by researchers from Utrecht University and Rutgers University found that while community service benefited adolescents broadly, activities accompanied by reflection and discussion were particularly effective. Community service which included reflection had a substantial, beneficial effect, while those without reflection yielded a negligible effect. The more frequent community service was performed, the greater the benefits; and positive effects were strengthened when reflection were included and performed frequently.



(Source: Science Daily website. Accessed on 7 November 2014)

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/07/140724094212.htm>

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## 6. Youth, New Media, and the Rise of Participatory Politics [United States]

New media is playing an increasingly important role in political engagement. Social networking sites, web sites and text messages act as platforms for youth to communicate or exchange their political ideas, raise funds, as well as mobilise others to vote, protest or even work on public issues. It provides new opportunities for youths' to voice and discuss political issues, giving rise to political engagement in one's public life. This report examined the implications of the rise of new media for the practice of politics among youths. Read more about the report [here](#).



(Source: Digital Media and Learning Central website. Accessed on 7 November 2014)

[http://dmlcentral.net/sites/dmlcentral/files/resource\\_files/ypp\\_workingpapers\\_paper01\\_1.pdf](http://dmlcentral.net/sites/dmlcentral/files/resource_files/ypp_workingpapers_paper01_1.pdf)

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## 7. What Kind of Activist are You? [Australia]



There are different types of activists in the world. Do you think you are one of them? If yes, what kind of activist are you? To find out, take the [Activist quiz](#) created by Youth Central.

(Source: Youth Central website. Accessed on 5 November 2014)

<https://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/government-info-assistance/do-it-yourself-democracy/finding-your-focus/what-kind-of-activist-are-you>

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## 8. Further Readings

- [4 Ways Millennials are Changing Politics](#)
- [The Rise of the Slacktivist](#)
- [Millennial Activists Driving America's Revenue Growth](#)
- [Empowering Youth: Anti Corruption Kit for Young Activists](#)

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