



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED TILL 14 JULY, 12.00PM

14 July 2017

NATIONAL YOUTH SURVEY 2016: SINGAPOREAN YOUTH ROOTED IN GLOBALISED NATION AMIDST ADULTING CHALLENGES

Young Singaporeans are navigating their transition to adulthood in one of the most globalised countries in the world. They are more open and accepting of diversity, and believe they have a stake in the future of our nation. Driven to achieve their goals, youth are worried about their future and responsibilities of adulthood. However, they remain positive in their outlook of life in Singapore.

2 This is according to the National Youth Survey (NYS) 2016 topline findings released by the National Youth Council on 14 July 2017, in conjunction with Youth Month. The NYS 2016 is the fifth iteration of a time-series study, which surveys youths on topics such as aspirations, values, social participation and civic engagement. Previous surveys were conducted in 2002, 2005, 2010 and 2013. A representative sample of 3,531 youths of diverse backgrounds, aged between 15 and 34, were surveyed from October to December 2016.

Key findings from NYS 2016 include:

A Global Generation – Youth are more open and accepting of diversity; aspirations remain constant

3 Globalisation has led to more well-informed Singaporean youths, who are attuned to the latest news and trends locally and globally. Youth today are not just early adopters – they are digital natives who are capable of harnessing technology to stay updated and connected. 90% of young people reported accessing social networking sites at least once a day, while 86% of youth report using the internet at least once a day to get news and information on current affairs. Despite the increasing time spent online, youths continue to spend the most time with their families. 53% of youths reported spending 10 hours or more of leisure time per week with their family and relatives.

4 An increasingly globalised society has also resulted in changes among youths. The increased exposure to other perspectives and conversations

on current affairs and wide-ranging issues has given rise to a youth population that is more open and accepting of diversity. Today, there are increasingly diverse friendships among youths, with 60% reporting having close friends of a different race, up from 53% in 2013. 45% also stated that they have close friends of a different nationality, an increase from 42% in 2013. They are also comfortable working or being neighbours with someone of a different race or nationality.

5 While globalisation has led to changes among our youths, their aspirations remain constant. Their top three “very important” life goals continue to include having a place of their own (70%), maintaining strong family relationships (70%) and acquiring new skills and knowledge (65%).

Youth are worried about the future and “adulting” challenges

6 In pursuit of their aspirations, youths are stressed about the future and responsibilities of adulthood. The top three stressors concerning our young Singaporeans are: Future Uncertainty (3.46 – mean score out of 5); Studies (3.36 – mean score out of 5) and Emerging Adult Responsibility (3.30 – mean score out of 5). They are not entirely confident that there are enough opportunities in Singapore to fulfil their aspirations (3.28 – mean score out of 5) or to have a good career (3.37 – mean score out of 5).

Youth are rooted and proud to be Singaporean

7 Nevertheless, youths are proud to be Singaporean and believe they have a stake here. National pride remains strong (3.37 in 2016 and 3.18 in 2013 – mean scores out of 4) and confidence in the government and related institutions is high. In Focus Group Discussions conducted for NYS 2016, youths felt a sense of security and stability in Singapore as compared to other countries. They also felt that the government has improved its communication and has initiated various policies to meet their needs.

8 Youths are also committed to Singapore, agreeing that they have a part to play in developing the nation for the current and future generations (3.31 – mean score out of 4). They feel a sense of belonging to Singapore and will do what they can to support the nation in times of crises (3.30 – mean score out of 4).

Youth wellbeing is good, with increasing social and civic participation

9 On the whole, our youths continue to have aspirations and remain positive in their outlook. Their sense of wellbeing is positive and this is reflected in the rise of their happiness and life satisfaction from 2013.

	2013	2016
Happiness (7-pt)	4.92	5.07
Life Satisfaction (10-pt)	6.79	6.89
Future Confidence (10-pt)	6.49	6.54

11 Social participation has continued to increase with 68% of youths being involved in at least one social group, as compared to 65% in 2013. Additionally, young Singaporeans also displayed a strong sense of responsibility as citizens, with more being involved in their communities. Two in five youths consider contributing to society and helping the less fortunate as ‘very important’ life goals, with 65% of youths reporting that they engaged in at least one civic activity in the past year.

12 During the Youth month of July, many youths are leading and participating in ground-up initiatives, as well as platforms organised by NYC. This includes the recent SHINE Festival and the upcoming Youth Expedition Project Exhibition and the National Youth Film Awards. (More information is available in attachment ‘C’.)

13 The NYS 2016 results provides NYC insights into the strength and character of our youths. Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Chairman of NYC, Grace Fu said in her Youth Month message, “We are living in challenging yet exciting times. Globalisation, technological disruption, slower economic growth and nativist politics are leading to significant shifts globally... To all our youths out there, you have a critical role to play in shaping the future of our nation. Our people have been, and remain our biggest strength. To steer Singapore forward, we need leaders who are bold, innovative and compassionate. We also need a people that is enterprising, resilient and cohesive. While these may seem daunting, I am confident that [our youths] can rise up to the task.”

14 Apart from the National Youth Survey, NYC will be embarking on the first-ever national level longitudinal research of youths in Singapore, “Youth Study on the Transitions and Evolving Pathways in Singapore (Youth STEPS)”. This is in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Studies Social Lab. (More information is available in attachment ‘E’)

Media requests

NYC will be pleased to facilitate media interviews. Please contact the media contact persons below for assistance:

Clara Chee (Ms)
Manager
National Youth Council

DID : 6839 9161

HP : 9618 5990

Email : Clara_Chee@nyc.gov.sg

Chong Yi Han (Mr)

Assistant Manager

National Youth Council

DID : 6839 9151

HP : 9836 7101

Email : Chong_Yi_Han@nyc.gov.sg

Please see accompanying media documents:

- A) NYS 2016 Infographics
 - B) Media Profiles of Youths
 - C) Media Profiles of Panellists
 - D) Youth Month Highlights
 - E) Factsheet on Youth STEPS
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About the National Youth Council (全国青年理事会)

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard, and have the ability to influence and make a difference to the world. 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.

About Outward Bound Singapore (新加坡外展训练中心)

With 50 years of legacy, Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) is the pioneer and leader in outdoor education in Singapore, providing adventure-based experiential learning to help develop rugged and resilient youths. From 1 January 2015, OBS is part of the strengthened National Youth Council to drive youth development and broaden outreach to young Singaporeans and youth sector organisations.

About Youth Corps Singapore (新加坡青年志愿团队)

Launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and the National Youth Council, Youth Corps Singapore is a national institution that supports youths who are keen to serve the community. As the champion for youth volunteerism, it triggers collaboration between youths, community service organisations and the wider society to ignite positive change.

Youth Corps Singapore provides a platform for youths to receive life-skills training and mentorship throughout their volunteering journey, and meet like-minded peers with a strong esprit de corps that share the same service ethos. It provides both breadth and depth of volunteering opportunities for youths during and beyond their school days, through a diverse range of community service events, regular sector-specific volunteering opportunities, Youth Expedition Projects (YEP) and training and mentoring programme for volunteer leaders.