



**Outward Bound
Singapore**

INSPIRING

INDIVIDUALS

TRANSFORMING

COMMUNITIES

MENTAL
RUGGEDNESS

PHYSICAL
RESILIENCE

TEAMWORK

KEY

HIGHLIGHTS

2014

Commemorative Edⁿ

NATIONAL YOUTH
DEVELOPER

CHARACTER
DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPING
ACTIVE
CITIZENRY

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Director's MESSAGE



2014 has been nothing short of pivotal. I am pleased that the extraordinary strategic emphasis committed to synergising our programmes with the education progression pathway has yielded exciting results for sustained youth development.

First, as announced by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) in June, OBS will be restructured as part of the strengthened National Youth Council (NYC) Autonomous Agency (AA). I see many opportunities for our youth alumni in terms of a greater range of community causes and funding for youth-initiated projects. As OBS shifts gears into our augmented role as national youth developer, I wish to thank our partners and stakeholders for the continued generous support of the Outward Bound mission.

Second, OBS is partnering the Ministry of Education (MOE) to train a landmark cohort of student leaders at the secondary school level. We envisage the early exposure to leadership and service to the community providing a natural progression to other youth development platforms, such as the Youth Corps Singapore — which we are proud to be co-driving with the NYC. As Prime Minister Lee observed, our youth today live in an age with the amenities, knowledge and resources accumulated in the past 50 years of effort by our pioneer generation. In this digital era, it is imperative that our youth retain the human connection. They will need empathy to recognise emerging community needs, as well as the confidence and resilience to make an impact to society.

Crucially, we know that the Outward Bound pedagogy and programme designs deliver the life skills and values effective in achieving these outcomes, as a research study of more than 2,000 OBS participants shows on Page 6.

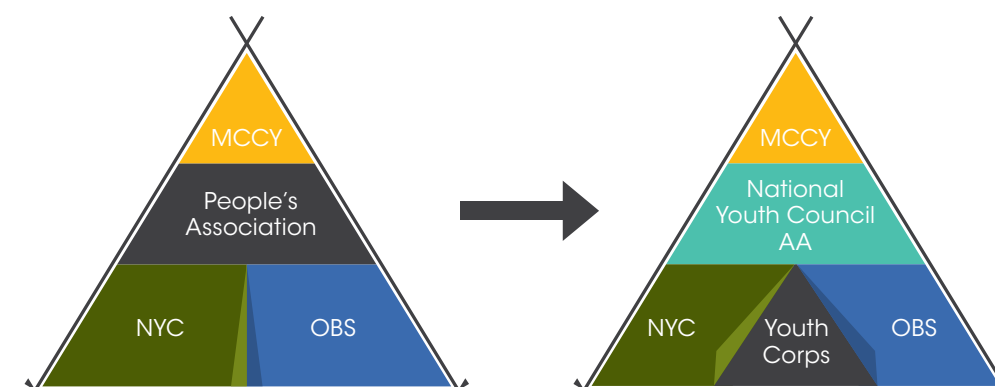
We anticipate tremendous growth in youth outreach and engagement in the coming year. Please continue to join us in providing opportunities and support for our passionate youth volunteers, as we work towards the vision: "Inspiring individuals, transforming communities" in 2015!

Nicholas Conceicao
Director
Outward Bound Singapore

An Augmented NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPER

When Dr. Goh Keng Swee founded Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) in 1967, he knew that mental and physical resilience were crucial for the success of Singapore in the early uncertain years. 47 years on, his foresight remains cutting-edge.

As OBS becomes part of the strengthened National Youth Council (NYC), the synergies with NYC present an exciting progression of volunteering opportunities and resource base for youth passionate in making a difference.



AT OBS

Discovering self-empowerment

Practising compassion through service



AT NYC

Funding sustainable youth projects



Research that listens in on the heartbeat of youth action

OBS Milestones

1967

Outward Bound School of Singapore (OBSS) was established as part of People's Association (PA).

1970

OBSS moved under the management of Ministry of Defence, with programmes focused on training young men for enlistment into National Service.

1991

OBSS returned to PA and renamed Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) to align with its national identity centred on youth development.

2015

OBS moved out of PA to be part of National Youth Council (NYC) autonomous agency to play a greater role as a national youth developer.

Empowering Youths as FUTURE LEADERS OF SINGAPORE



NATIONAL YOUTH INTERNSHIP Programme

Age group: 16 – 17 years old

Target Audience: Uniformed Groups (pilot intake)

Programme Highlights

- Opportunity for post-secondary school youth to serve in the community
- Internship between 2 to 6 months with their respective Uniformed Groups
- OBS induction programme before internship commencement



PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS EDUCATION BRANCH (PESEB) Courses

Age group: 15 – 16 years old

Target Audience: Student leaders from various Secondary Schools

Programme Highlights

- Partnership with the Ministry of Education (MOE)
- Threefold increase to 4,500 student leaders in 2014
- More than 138 schools have benefitted from the 5-day programme incorporating the Harry Kramer's Value-Based Leadership framework

YOUTH CORPS Singapore

Age group: 17 – 35 years old

Target Audience: Youths aspiring to serve the community

Programme Highlights

- An outcome of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's vision for youth volunteerism shared during the National Day Rally 2013
- Structured platform matching youth with community partners in need
- 1 local and 1 overseas community project over 1 year



DIAFORA! (Coming Up in 2015)

Age group: 17 – 18 years old

Target Audience: Student leaders across Junior Colleges

Programme Highlights

- Partnership with Halogen Foundation Singapore
- Networking for student leaders from diverse backgrounds
- Leadership profiling and development



Aspirants on a land expedition

Inducting Youth Corps to the community

The inaugural Youth Corps induction programme for 90 pioneer youth Aspirants was held at the OBS Pulau Ubin campus in June 2014. Over the course of 5 days, the youths embarked on a structured training programme where OBS instructors imparted valuable leadership and project management skills. They met with like-minded individuals, networked with social entrepreneurs and learnt how to diagnose social problems and propose solutions for various beneficiaries.

The training at OBS provided them with skills to serve their beneficiaries better. Service projects that they have worked on include an initiative to develop a Hokkien workshop to enable youths to connect with the elderly residents in Yishun, setting up a thrift shop to help patients with mental disabilities re-integrate back to society and co-creating an office waste reduction pilot project with the Vietnamese environment agency to be implemented in other office buildings in Vietnam.

Youth Corps Singapore is a national platform where youths get collective support and funding to embark on sustained and meaningful contributions to society. With a team of trainers committed to the vision of "inspiring individuals, transforming communities", OBS plays an important role in developing the potential of these youth volunteers and empowering them to serve the community.

Driving Youth Corps Singapore with NYC

While the National Youth Council (NYC) looks at policy making, framework development and infrastructural support, OBS designs and conducts programmes for selection, training and team bonding for the Youth Corps, with ongoing mentoring towards local and overseas community service projects.

"The Youth Corps Singapore is a milestone set in the right direction. It provides our youths with a supportive and structured environment to encourage youth volunteerism and for our youths to make sustained impact in the community."

— Ng Thian Choon, Assistant Director, Outward Bound Youth (OBS)

"Being part of the Youth Corps allows me to serve the community alongside like-minded individuals. It has been a very inspiring journey especially with my mentors often posing thought-provoking questions and sharing with us valuable leadership and influencing skills."



— Amelia Goh Tsi Hui, 20, Youth Corps Aspirant

Aspirants learning about teamwork passing backpacks from sea to shore with a human chain



Mentoring YOUTH CORPS ASPIRANTS

A recent national youth survey by the National Youth Council showed that 65 percent of youths today are involved in social groups compared to 44 percent a decade ago. Leveraging this encouraging trend, OBS stepped up to mentor the Youth Corps Aspirants in the quest to empower them for effective community action.

Mentoring the Youth Corps Aspirants is a long-term process involving personal commitment from both Mentors and Aspirants. Even after the induction programme, 18 OBS mentors continue to help the youths develop essential skills and provide valuable guidance as they actualise their projects and deliver tangible outcomes for their selected causes. Although this means less time for their own families on weekday evenings and weekends, the mentors know that this is an important contribution that kickstarts a national ripple effect for active citizenry.

“Developing the Youth Corps Singapore curriculum from scratch is indeed a huge honour for me. Being one of the mentors for the pilot programme allows me to witness the passion that some of the youths had in wanting to ‘serve’. This is similar to the passion that I had when I embarked on my adventure trips!”

— Ms. Ong Chiew Ling
(extreme left)
Youth Corps Mentor,
Head, Youth Leadership
& Development (OBS)



Mr. Chaw Chin Yong, Head, Organisation Learning & Development, who is part of the team that developed the Youth Corps Singapore programme, enthused, “It’s a great privilege to be part of the pioneering team spearheading this national initiative. Despite the intensive process, I’m exhilarated to be part of a great team that is shaping a better society for my children.”

5
DAYS

Duration of outdoor
experiential training
programme at OBS.

6000
Volunteers

that OBS will eventually
train per year.

250

Applicants for the inaugural
batch of Youth Corps Singapore.

15–35
YEARS OLD

Age range of
youths in the Youth
Corps programme.

90

Pioneer youth aspirants
participated in the OBS training.

18

Number of
MENTORS
from OBS in 2014.

12

COMMUNITY
SERVICE
PROJECTS
MENTORED
by OBS in the
pilot intake.

2

EXPEDITIONS

that each aspirant goes through in OBS,
one on land and another in the sea.

“I believe in the act of paying it forward. My involvement as a Youth Corps Singapore mentor enables me to share ideas with the young minds of our nation. Through mentoring them, I also learn valuable life lessons myself.”

— Mr. Gideon Lu
Youth Corps Mentor, Head,
Business Resource Management (OBS)



Bound for Discovery, CHANGED FOR LIFE

Facts of study

Total number of respondents:
2,444

Age group:
Students and working professionals

Measurement Tool:
The renowned
Life Effectiveness Questionnaire (LEQ)
developed by James Neill measures the rating of one's life effectiveness components before and after participation in an OBS course

The LEQ components are rated with a maximum score of
8

Are young Singaporeans ill-prepared for the future because modern life has deprived them of the exposure of real life challenges? How effective are OBS programmes in addressing this apparent societal decline through outdoor experiential learning? In the first half of 2014, an intensive impact study of participants from various profiles was conducted, with a strong majority of 81% experiencing positive changes in their life effectiveness.

Life effectiveness

noun

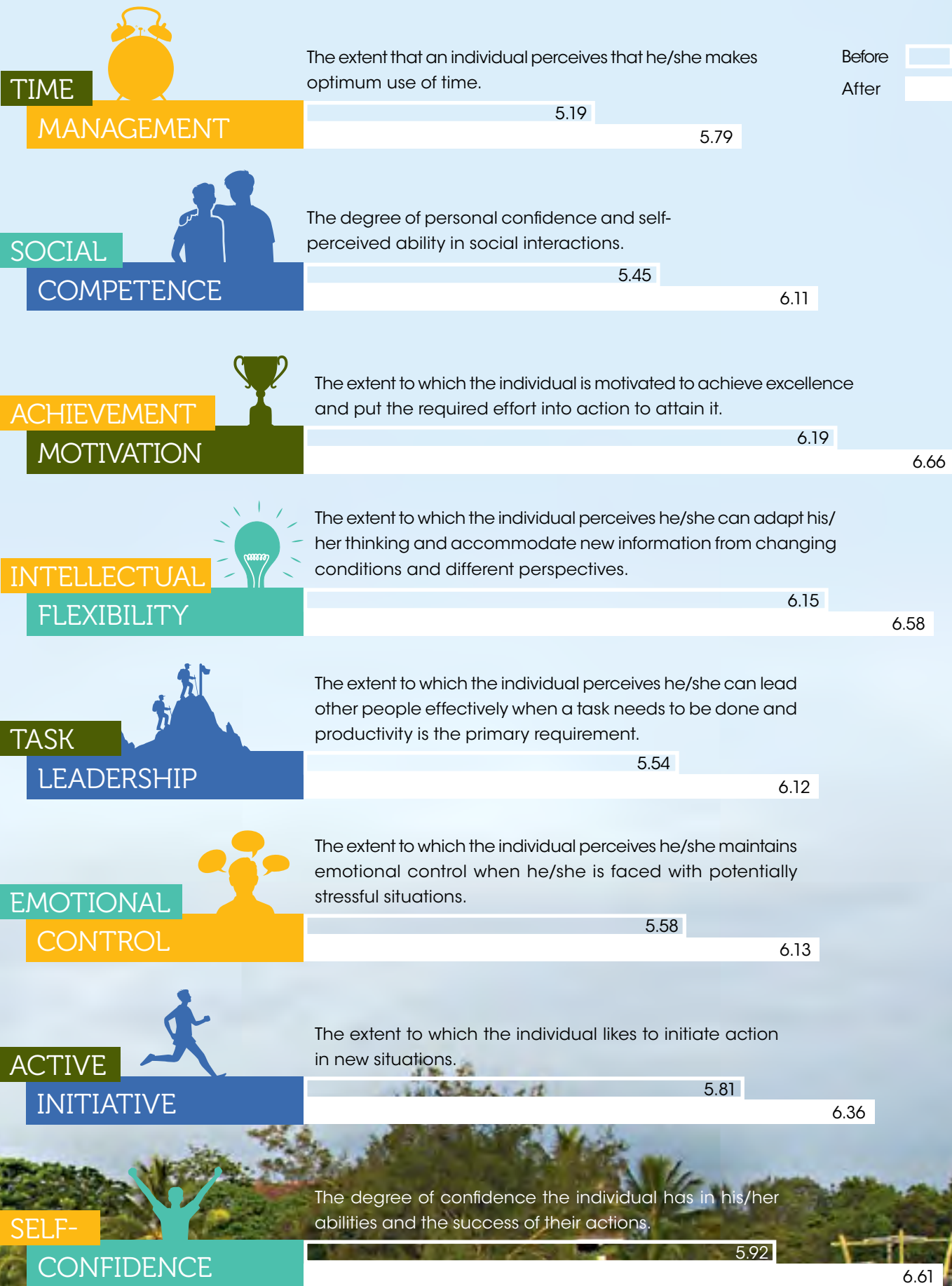
skills and competencies which help a person function at work or in school, as well as their personal and social life in an effort to achieve their wishes and desires in life

The results show that people who have gone through OBS are more confident of their actions and are more likely to overcome difficulties to achieve their goals.

They are also enabled as better communicators in terms of active listening and conflict resolution.

In the area of time management, the respondents are impelled to make optimum use of their time with better self-discipline.

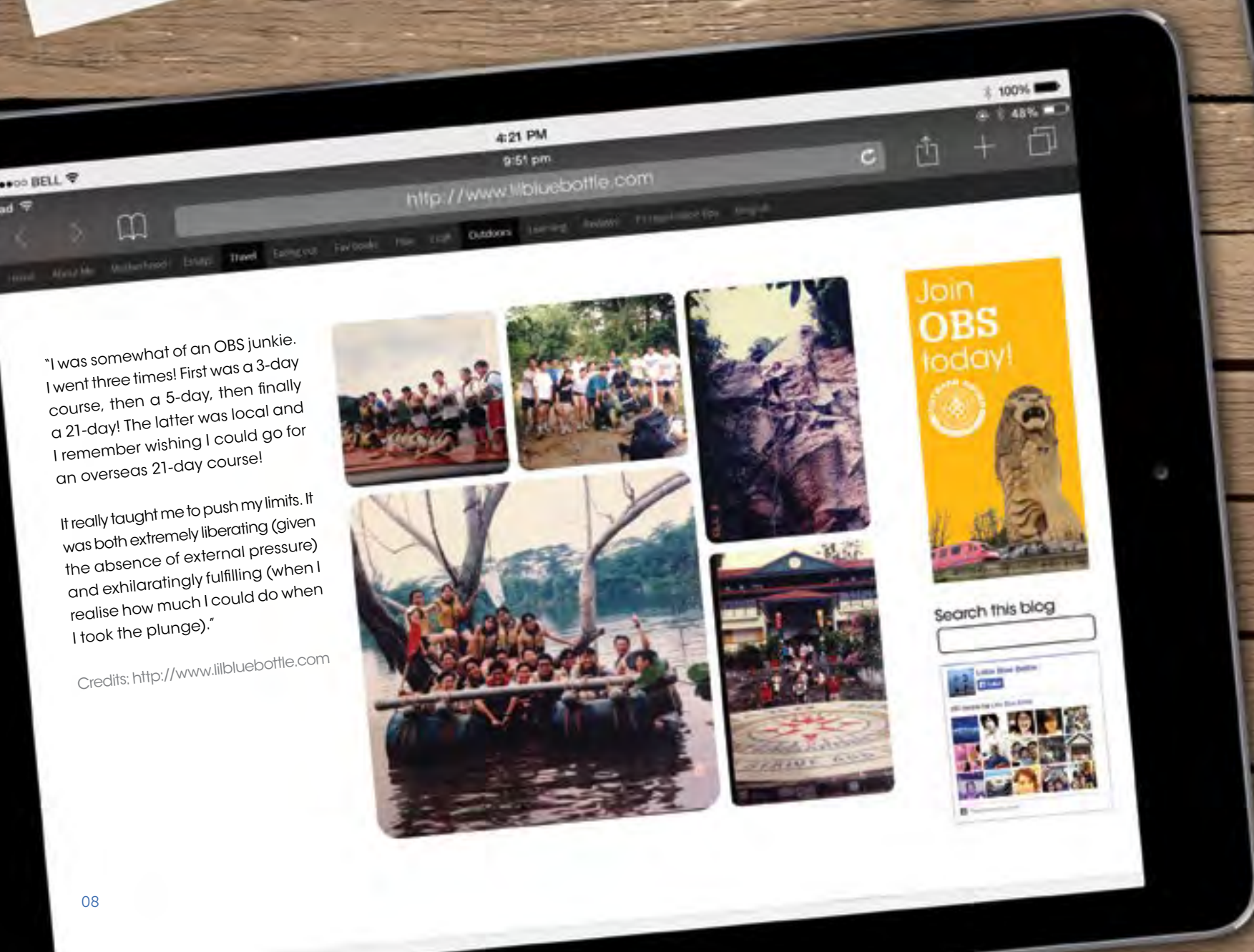
A resounding 97.8% of the participants would recommend OBS programmes to their family and friends. This is a great testament of the positive impact of OBS programmes!



#OUTWARDBOUND SG

In today's day and age, everyone seems caught up in the technological rat race — bigger and faster phones, information on-the-go and social media!

What happens during an OBS programme when participants have their mobile devices safe kept for them? They create memories which are immortalised on social media platforms after their OBS experience. Check out what some participants captured.



Aqilah Phoenix



Aqilah Phoenix

Jun 9th, 7:23pm

OBS made me realised that with perseverance, I can overcome challenges that is beyond my strengths. I wanna thank Instructor Arfan who took my watch (Dhanabalan), Instructor Khaliq (watch - Eng Soon) and Instructor Jia Yi (watch - Raja) for taking care of us (Camp 1 Charlie), guiding us as well as motivating us throughout the 5 days course. The 3 Instructors have made a difference in my life. A journey never to be forgotten. Thank you Instructors for having the patience and sacrificing your family time with us there to conduct the meaningful programme. We really appreciate your job as an Instructors and we love you. #WRSS #26May-30May

Amanda Lam



Amanda Lam

Jun 13th, 10:51am

Hello!

I just attended a 9 day leadership course at OBS and I would like to thank instructor Chloe for being the pushing force which I needed to open up and share my feelings. Something i wouldnt normally even attempt or consider doing.

She shared with us this quote "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." And it made me realize that so often in life have i passed up opportunities to make things better because i always took the backseat and did nothing.

I'm really grateful to her for shedding some light in my life and helping me in my journey, thought the time we spent together was brief. She also guided my in changing my perspective towards certain things which is necessary sometimes in life.

Thanks Chloe and thank you OBS! I really learnt a lot from this course. Maybe not so much about leadership but about myself and how i can improve and be a better person.

P.s. i wanted to wait till a later time if chloe was featured for the instructor thing but i didnt wanna take the chance that i might forget to give my thanks to this wonderful person.

"[My instructor] guided me in changing my perspective which is necessary in life. Thanks Chloe and thank you OBS! I really learnt a lot from this course."

Defining Moments in the HISTORY OF OBS

1967

Outward Bound School of Singapore (OBSS) is established.

1968

The first Outward Bound course in Singapore is conducted.

1991

The first free-standing, multi-dimensional rock climbing tower in the region, is built at OBS.

1993

The Overseas Youth Programme is initiated to develop youths to be more adventurous and expose them to the outside world.

1995

OBS becomes self-sufficient in its water supply with a \$2.5 million reservoir built.

1997

OBS' new campus, the first purpose-built modern Outward Bound centre in the world, conceptualised entirely by OBS staff, officially opens.

OBS receives the OBS Spirit Award from Chairman of Outward Bound International.

OBS receives the Spirit of the Outward Bound Award from Outward Bound Australia.

1998

OBS staff, Edwin Siew, summits Mount Everest as part of the first Singaporean team to scale the highest peak in the world.

1999

OBS staff, David Lim, successfully completes the first polar trek to the South Pole by a Singapore team.

2000

OBS receives the Distinguished Service Award from Outward Bound International and Outward Bound Indonesia, the highest distinction ever given to an organisation, for its significant role in setting up new OB centres worldwide and for its outstanding facilities and operations.

OBS receives the Excellence for Singapore Award from the Singapore Totalisator Board for being a world-class organisation for in outdoor education and experiential learning.

2001

OBS receives the Innovative Programming Award from Outward Bound International for its Overseas Youth Programme.

2002

OBS hosts the 10th Outward Bound World Conference on Pulau Ubin with the largest participant attendance in its history.

2009

50 OBS staff successfully complete the first circumnavigation of Bintan island by sea kayaks, pioneering the new expedition route.

2010

OBS hosts the Culture and Education component of the inaugural Singapore Youth Olympic Games on Pulau Ubin.

2011

OBS hosts the Outward Bound International staff symposium, receiving more than 160 overseas delegates from 32 Outward Bound centres.

OBS launches the Leadership and Service Award incorporating the 21-day Classic Challenge to develop the potential of youth leaders.

2012

OBS refreshes its organisational vision: "Inspired Individuals, Transformed Communities".

OBS commemorates its 45th anniversary with the first-ever Singa-Lumut cutter sailing expedition covering 630 nautical miles over 10 days with more than 40 OBS staff.

The OBS Alumni is established to deepen youth engagement and widen community outreach.

2013

OBS holds its first-ever charity abseil down the iconic Merlion in Sentosa.

OBS is accredited as a Basic Cardiac Life Support training centre by the National Resuscitation Council.

2014

OBS runs its first global programme to the Middle East at Outward Bound Oman.

OBS trains and mentors the first batch of Youth Corps Singapore Aspirants.


OBS prepares the pioneer batch of students for the National Youth Internship Programme.

The restructuring of OBS as part of the strengthened National Youth Council is announced.

Commemorating OBS EAST COAST CAMPUS

With the new restructuring, OBS East Coast Campus (ECC) will go under the care of the National Community Leadership Institute (NACLI), part of the People's Association network. It will continue to conduct leadership and teambuilding programmes for the community. As we witness the handover of ECC, we celebrate the legacy of the grande dame of OBS' track record of innovation.

ACCOLADES



2001

OBS receives the Innovative Program Award from Outward Bound International for its ground-breaking adventure training centre for children, the first of its kind in Singapore and Asia.

2002

OBS receives the NOVA Merit Award at the PS21 ExCEL Award Ceremony for its artificial Tunnel/ Cave/Maze (TCM) training facility. The TCM also wins the Outward Bound International Innovative Program Award presented to Outward Bound centres that have implemented innovative, effective and impactful projects that fulfill the Outward Bound mission and have the potential for replication at other centres worldwide.



Humble beginnings

Little sparks of fire for dreams & possibilities. That was the vision of ECC when it was established as SparkC @ Marine Parade in 2001, (later renamed OBS East Coast Campus to align with the OBS heritage and brand). It was borne out of a desire to ignite the enthusiasm of children to have courage and confidence to face challenges with compassion. A 3-man team consisting of Ahmad Lee, Allan Lee and Peter Low revolutionised their thinking caps in designing innovative training facilities and adventure activities, which became the first-of-its-kind adventure centre to enthuse young children between the ages of 10 and 13 years old to the outdoors.

Believing in every child's potential

The success of SparkC was attributed to the cohesive team of instructors with their unwavering vision to create an exciting adventure training facility for children. Together with a unique culture that embodied the slogan — 'Others Before Self', the instructors worked tirelessly for 6 days every week to bring experiential learning to children. These instructors were rotated between SparkC and the Pulau Ubin campus, giving them the privilege of inspiring both primary and secondary school students.

Campus of endless possibilities

The magic of SparkC lay in its astrological theme with warm, cosy tree huts, named after the planetary constellations, serving as accommodation for the children. Entirely designed by OBS staff, the challenge rope courses with their high safety standards enabled the children to fully experience the outdoors under the watchful supervision of full-time OBS Instructors. Customised systems were designed around the children's needs. For instance, an additional safety line for Rock Climbing controlled the descent of the children and a seamless climbing system allowed children to climb without being belayed, among many others.



2.
3.
1. Zipping down the flying fox was the highlight for many children
2. Scaling the challenge rope courses helped children gain confidence
3. Meet the capable and cohesive team that brought SparkC to greater heights



DID YOU KNOW?

- Cultural Medallion winner, Ong Kim Seng, spent 14 months producing 45 watercolour scenes of Pulau Ubin. He sold more than 80 per cent of his works, with half of the proceeds donated to the development of SparkC.
- SparkC used to flood whenever the tide was high coupled with a heavy thunderstorm, until a storm drain was enhanced to rectify the situation.
- Chesdale used to sponsor cheese for the participants' breakfast and little notebooks for the children during SparkC's programmes.
- A squirrel mascot was designed and used to better engage the children in the tunnel cave maze activity.

"The highly specialised trainers at OBS are trusted in playing a vital role where they facilitate an exciting outdoor education for pupils within a safe environment. Over the 13 years of partnership, the school is convinced that the OBS Programme is a well-structured one. Year after year, positive feedback from teachers and especially pupils has further supported this. The organising team behind the ECC Programme is highly driven and sensitive to the school's needs. The activities are well-tailored so pupils are able to experience outdoor education in a challenging yet enjoyable manner."

— Ms Neo Lay Peng
Head of Department
Physical Education and
Co-Curricular Activities
Tao Nan School

Community Engagement Through INSPIRED OBS ALUMNI

Serve • Grow • Inspire

**OUTWARD
BOUND**
SINGAPORE
Alumni

The OBS Alumni network is made up of youths who wish to transform their communities after being inspired by their OBS experience. It is a platform to network with like-minded individuals and to participate in meaningful alumni-initiated community projects such as engaging at-risk children, distributing food to low-income families, conducting coastal clean-ups and volunteering as buddies to the special needs profile at OBS programmes, among many others.

Volunteering becomes a family affair

While most teenagers would shy away from involving their parents in their social activities, 16-year old Ma Tian actually asks his mother along whenever he signs up for OBS Alumni volunteering events. "I am grateful that OBS supports family volunteering and my mother and I could deliver meals to the needy together. It has brought us closer by giving us many shared experience to continue the conversation at home."

Another OBS Alumni, 43-year-old Diana Toh was spotted planting tree saplings together with her husband and son during the OBS Ubin Reforestation Project. She shared that her OBS programme as a trainee teacher left a deep impression on her, and she wanted her family to join her in making a positive impact to the community.

Volunteer Recognition

The inaugural OBS Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony was held on 29 March 2014 to recognise more than 70 youth volunteers for their passion and commitment in serving their respective communities as role models, leaders and mentors. One of the award recipients, **29-year-old Noreen Taha** made use of her nursing background to provide assurance to wheelchair-bound seniors during outings.

Project initiation

Many zealous youths who have a cause they are passionate about are excited to discover the strong support OBS gives to alumni-initiated community projects. An example is **16-year-old Cara Chua**, who actively champions for children suffering from chronic, life-threatening illnesses. Leveraging on the extensive network, she roped in more than 110 volunteers to assist in the design, production and sales of youth-centric merchandises, raising an impressive \$33,000 for Club Rainbow.

The OBS Alumni Network



Alumni-led mentorship

A number of senior and more experienced OBS Alumni members have chosen to take on the role of a mentor. **34-year-old Chon Cherng Qiang** is an educator who desires to inspire the younger OBS Alumni members to focus on the community's needs rather than their own. This motivated him to help run a reforestation event at Pulau Ubin where more than 100 volunteers were mobilised to help plant young tree saplings in the burnt forest.

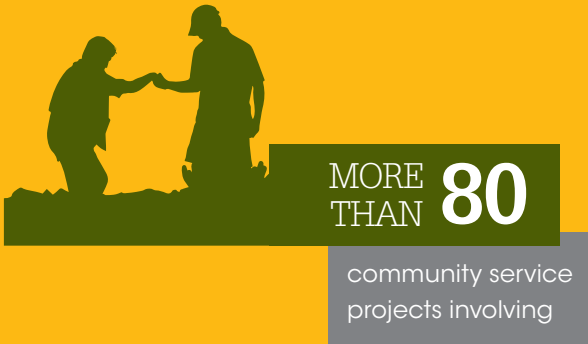
Diana Toh planting trees in a burnt forest with her family



Creating Sustained Impact in THE COMMUNITY

Dedicated to developing the potential of individuals, OBS believes that no youth should be disadvantaged by circumstances. Emphasising sustained engagement, OBS spent more than a full year enthusing both its stakeholders and the general public to empower the beneficiaries from Life Community Services Society (LCSS), a registered charity that takes care of disadvantaged children.

Between 2012 to 2014,



"OBS is a good example of a socially responsible corporate citizen who regularly gives back to the community; it also took a step further to build the kind of lasting charitable partnerships that bring long term benefits to everyone. Both the staff and beneficiaries of Life Community Services Society have benefitted tremendously from the skilled volunteering of OBS. We are very privileged to be adopted as its charity."

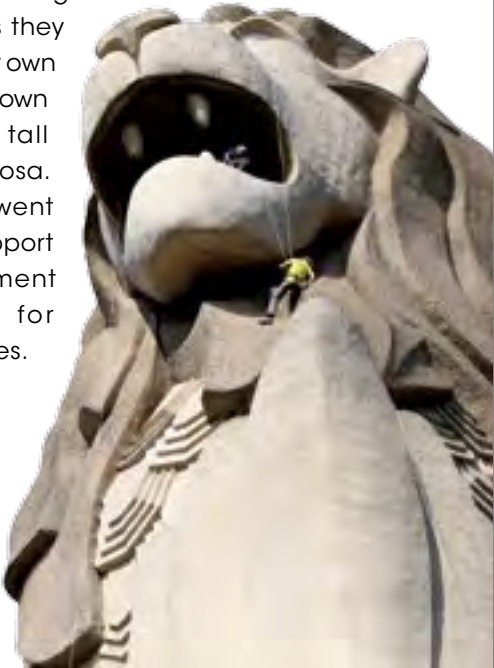


— Lam Moi Kwai,
Chief Executive Officer,
Life Community Services Society

2013
July 20

OBS-The Merlion Charity Abseil

OBS' partnership with LCSS started in this first-ever bold experience aimed at evoking empathy for children growing up without their parents. The over-subscribed event saw more than 100 big-hearted and gutsy donors relating to the children as they confronted their own fears abseiling down the 12-storey tall Merlion at Sentosa. All proceeds went towards the support and development programmes for the beneficiaries.



2013
Sept 14

Sundown Ultra Marathon

In a show of solidarity for the less-fortunate children, close to 100 OBS Alumni, OBS staff and LCSS staff ran a collective distance of 229 km at Marina Barrage to raise awareness for the cause demonstrating how camaraderie and team-spirit can ease difficulties in challenging situations.



2014
May 24

Snow City

80 OBS staff exchanged their outdoor gear for winter wear to give 53 disadvantaged children a special snow experience, raising funds through the sale of home-baked cupcakes to make the children's snowy dreams come true at Snow City. The children's wide-eyed expressions of wonder and exhilaration... priceless!



2014
Dec 5

Show-and-tell my Art Piece!

Due to their family situations, disadvantaged children often spend their time aimlessly in the school holidays. To help them learn new skills and to increase their self-confidence, the OBS Alumni designed art and craft sessions with a show-and-tell component, which the children enjoyed tremendously!



OBS Lives Up To ITS MOTTO

The Outward Bound philosophy emphasises development of oneself to make a positive difference to others. At OBS, staff are personally invested in what we teach our young charges, walking the talk and keeping true to our motto — to serve, to strive and not to yield.



OBS was resourceful in fighting the forest fire that broke out on Pulau Ubin



Staff are kept current with continuous skills training

To serve the community

Every year, OBS serves our community in different ways with various beneficiaries. Besides bringing adventure and excitement to beneficiaries with special needs, the OBS team has also left the comfort of Ubin's shores and reached out to various profiles, ranging from low-income elderly with persistent bed-bug issues to children from underprivileged family backgrounds. This year, OBS wowed children from Life Community Services Society with their first winter experience at Snow City Singapore. Overcame with excitement, one child gushed with delight, "The snow is so cold and wet! I love it!" Moments like this melt our hearts and spur us to serve more.

As a division of the People's Association (PA), OBS also strives to contribute our outdoor expertise to the causes that PA spearheads, sometimes to great fanfare. Recalling the PA Chingay Parade in 2008, 14 OBS Instructors abseiled the City Hall building as one of the key opening performances, backed by a crew of close to 50 OBS staff. As with past years, 2014 has also seen cohorts of new PA staff forge lifelong bonds through their staff induction programme by OBS trainers on Ubin — Outward Bound-style.

To strive & not to yield

OBS constantly strives to be the 'first' in exploring new terrain with the yearly Staff Expedition. For the last 20 years, OBS instructors push themselves for 10 days every year on either a land or sea expedition, climbing the peaks of nearby countries or scouring Indonesian and Malaysian waters with kayaks and sail boats. This year's first-of-its-kind expedition took OBS staff through the islands of Terangganu, kayaking from island to island covering an estimated 180km over 6 days. This annual training is designed to push the instructors beyond their own comfort zone and walk in the shoes of a participant. It is a battle of wills and a test of the instructors' ability not to yield!

Other continuous training that OBS staff receive to boost to their arsenal of outdoor capabilities include a 4-day Wilderness Advanced First Aid (WAFA) course conducted by international wilderness educators from

the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Staff were trained in the systematic triaging of mass casualties in the outdoors, as well as the stabilisation, treatment and evacuation of patients in remote areas.

Our staff also displayed exceptional organisational strength in fighting the forest fire that broke out on Pulau Ubin in late March due to the dry spell. Due to the inaccessibility of the densely forested area, numerous staff stayed back and worked through the night, guiding fire-fighters from Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) in the unfamiliar terrain. Their piloting of our shallow-hulled Sandpiper boats enabled the brave fire-fighters to close in on the fire via the coast. Thank you SCDF and kudos to the OBS staff volunteers for 2 days of unyielding spirit and hard work!

Staying ahead OF THE CURVE

Today, OBS is one of the largest experiential learning organisations in the world. This did not come about by chance; neither should the growth be seen as an end in itself. By purposeful, strategic planning, OBS has scaled up since 1967 to serve our national mission of developing character, resilience and active citizenry. Managed and driven by passionate field and support staff, OBS has constantly pushed its own boundaries, deepening the quality of programme design and instruction, upgrading training facilities and reaching out to more students and working youths in new, relevant ways over the years. An OBS Instructor knows that change is the only constant in the outdoors, and OBS leverages change in our societal landscape to connect with and inspire our emerging generation.

OBS also continues to provide customised cutting-edge experiential learning programmes for corporate partners. With capabilities in personality profiling tools, Emotional Quotient (EQ)-oriented learning models and the latest pedagogies, OBS is an important business partner for corporations seeking excellence in leadership, teamwork and change management. The exchange of experience and competencies with our valued partners enrich our training expertise and flow back to benefit the development of our core youth group.

Setting industry standards

As a premiere experiential learning institution, OBS is constantly looking for ways to surpass its own training standards. Working closely with national sport agencies such as Singapore Mountaineering Federation (SMF) and Singapore Canoe Federation (SCF) as well as international organisations such as National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), OBS is the only training organisation in Singapore that conducts proficiency courses such as Abseil Proficiency Level 3, Kayaking 4 Star Award and Tropical Mountain-Walker Leader's Proficiency for outdoor leaders. These programmes position OBS in the forefront of the outdoor adventure industry and help to raise the overall industry standard.

Recognising and empowering young community leaders

Young community leaders are increasingly challenged to make a concrete, positive difference. The OBS Leadership and Service Award (LSA) launched in 2012 celebrates and supports youth for such a purpose. LSA participants are offered a scholarship to undertake a unique multi-element and multi-expeditionary 21-day leadership and service challenge designed to sharpen their leadership skills and inspire them to play a much greater sustained role in the community. Thereafter, they are presented actual community projects to apply their enhanced community leadership and service competencies.

>> WHAT THEY SAY

"We would like more of our students, more of our people to come and have this experience which would leave them changed - not just physically fitter but mentally tougher and more cohesive as a team and with memories which would last them a lifetime."

— Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

"I've received consistently good feedback about the OBS trainers and their programmes. Many young people who have gone through OBS would share that it is a transformational, life-changing experience."

— Mr Lawrence Wong,
Minister for Culture,
Community and Youth

"One of the smallest countries in the world with one of the largest base in the OB family, limited natural resources and abundance in numbers of participants. Outward Bound Singapore lives the motto to its utmost meaning: it serves Singaporeans in a unique way, it strives in the pursuit of its mission, and it surely does not yield in the face of adversities and challenges!"

— Mr Andreas G. Martin,
Executive Director,
Outward Bound Brazil

"A truly exhilarating experience.
A must-do part of education."

— Ms Grace Ng,
Principal, Methodist
Girls' School

"OBS gives our students a fantastic opportunity to learn in an environment outside of their comfortable school environment. Our students come back more responsible and independent."



— Mr Nick McFarlane,
Head (Co-Curricular Activities),
Anglo-Chinese School
(International)

Global perspectives

It is commonly said at OBS that our classroom lies beyond the four walls. In fact, it is truly borderless. Every year, more than 500 participants embark on international Outward Bound journeys that take them to the countries of Sabah, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India, South Korea, Oman, South Africa, and more. Learning through adventure with an international cultural background offers OBS participants the global lens to appreciate cultural diversity. These global perspectives broaden their horizons, bringing about deeper appreciation and understanding of self and others. High safety standards are achieved in collaboration with OBS' 33 affiliated Outward Bound centres worldwide, all sharing the same guiding philosophy of inspiring positive changes in individuals.

Moving forward as a national youth developer

We look excitedly towards 2015, as we strive to engage youth through innovative programming and messaging that emphasise both character and leadership development skills. Despite our impressive growth rate, we know that there are more youth out there than we can reach at present.

As part of the strengthened National Youth Council, OBS will continue to work closely with our partners and stakeholders to empower and inspire our future leaders to achieve greater heights.