

Please check against delivery

**OPENING REMARKS BY MR NG SER MIANG
CHAIRMAN OF THE SINGAPORE YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES ORGANISING
COMMITTEE
AT THE OPENING OF THE YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES (YOG) LEARNING
CENTRE
ON 30 OCTOBER 2008 AT 12.35 PM**

Mr Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Defence and President of Singapore National Olympic Council

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports

Mr Sergey Bubka, Chairman of the International Olympic Committee Coordination Commission for the First Summer Youth Olympic Games in 2010

Members of the IOC Coordination Commission and Youth Olympic team,

Members of the SYOGOC Board and Advisory Committees, Distinguished
Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon.

2. Welcome to the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee

(SYOGOC) Headquarters and the opening of the YOG Learning Centre. I would like to thank Minister Teo for gracing this occasion despite his busy schedule.

Thank you, too, to Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, and Mr Sergey Bubka and his colleagues for joining us today. To our guests from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), welcome to Singapore and SYOGOC. I am happy also to welcome the many SYOGOC partners from the Government and the private and people sectors.

3. The opening of the YOG Learning Centre marks a milestone in our preparations for the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games (Singapore 2010). SYOGOC seized the opportunity of increased public interest in the Olympic Movement to create this Centre to encourage people, especially youth, to learn more about the Olympic Movement and the Youth Olympic Games, starting with Singapore 2010. Visitors will experience the power of the Olympic Values through the inspiring stories of Olympians and how they overcame many hurdles in their quest for excellence. They will also learn about Singapore's journey towards Singapore 2010, discover the different Olympic sports in the YOG, and have the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about playing a part in creating Olympic history.

4. The YOG Learning Centre would not have been possible without the strong partnership with many agencies, sports associations and individuals. I would like to thank Pico Art International, the Singapore Sports Council, *Scape, the National Library Board, the national sports associations, and the athletes for their contributions in making this happen. This is the partnership that will ensure a successful Singapore 2010 in less than 2 years.

5. Today also marks the beginning of the next exciting chapter as we finalise our Games Foundation Plan and enter the operational planning phase. Over the course of the next year, SYOGOC will translate the concept of Singapore 2010 into the detailed plans needed to create a memorable, integrated sporting,

cultural and educational experience for all YOG participants and, indeed, all of Singapore and the youth of the world.

6. Dear friends, I hope that all of us here today, and future visitors to this Learning Centre, young or old, will be inspired by the vision of the Olympic Movement, experience the power of the Olympic Values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect, and be moved to embrace, embody and express those values in their lives.

7. Thank you.

###

National Archives of Singapore