



MEDIA RELEASE

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First Asian Youth Games Opening Ceremony to be a dazzling celebration of the creativity and exuberance of youth

1. The inaugural Asian Youth Games Opening Ceremony is set to be a dazzling showcase of the exuberance of youth and the multi-cultural diversity of Asia. Themed "***Asia's Youth, Our Future***", the Opening Ceremony promises to be a feast for the senses with its music and colours, bringing more than 1,400 performers from 20 schools and tertiary institutions together in an exciting display of teamwork and vigour.
2. The Asian Youth Games celebrations will kick off with the Opening Ceremony at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on 29 June 2009, where Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong will be the Guest of Honour. Representatives from the Olympic Council of Asia and the Singapore National Olympic Council will also be present.
3. More than 7,000 people are expected to catch the performances live at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. In a first for an international multi-sport games, the Opening Ceremony will be broadcast live via webcast to reach out to the international community.

Highlights of *Asia's Youth, Our Future*

4. Giving a glimpse of the Opening Ceremony today, the Singapore Asian Youth Games Organising Committee (SAYGOC) wowed guests with a preview of the show highlights, with sneak peeks at energetic dance performances and mass displays that will form the backbone of the Opening Ceremony's show segment. The show comprises three mass displays, titled "Garden in the City", "Asia's Zest" and "Spirit of Evolution", which make use of visual illusions as well as the innovative use of props and costumes to capture the imaginations of the audience. Highlights include an energetic dance featuring bamboo sticks, a musical piece incorporating Korean drums and Sanskrit phrases – an ancient Asian language – and a show-stopping descent from the skies by two dancers.
5. The AYG Ceremony will also feature a celebration song, "Asia's Youth, Our Future", an upbeat number which carries the message of hope, friendship and community. Youth talent Amni Musfirah from the School of the Arts, as well as Nathan

Hartono and Lian Kim Selby from Anglo-Chinese Junior College, will deliver renditions of the theme song, accompanied by the Singapore National Youth Orchestra.

6. In another novel move for an international sporting event, the contingent of more than 1,400 athletes from 40 countries participating in the inaugural Asian Youth Games will also partake as spectators throughout the Opening Ceremony. They will march into the arena from the viewing galleries, via specially constructed platforms to take the athletes' oath and to witness the lighting of the cauldron.

7. The AYG, to be held from 29 June to 7 July 2009, will feature athletes across nine sports - aquatics (swimming and diving), athletics, FIBA33 (3-on-3 basketball), beach volleyball, bowling, football, sailing, shooting and table tennis.

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About the 1st Asian Youth Games Singapore 2009

The Asian Youth Games (AYG) is an international multi-sports event held every four years to complement the existing Asian Games. The idea was first mooted as part of Singapore's Youth Olympic Games bid in 2007. On 3 April 2008, the Olympic Council of Asia's (OCA) Executive Board unanimously agreed to award the hosting of the first AYG to Singapore. This decision was backed by all 45 members of the OCA on 6 April 2008. The inaugural AYG, which is co-organised by the Singapore Sports Council and the Ministry of Education, aims to gather the youth from around Asia in a celebration of youth, sports and learning, where they will engage in friendly competition and imbibe the Olympic sporting values of excellence, friendship and respect. AYG Singapore 2009 will see athletes aged between 14 and 17 from 45 OCA member nations competing in 90 events across nine sports from 29 June to 7 July 2009. Please visit www.ayg2009.com.sg for more information.

About Singapore Sports Council

The Singapore Sports Council (SSC) is Singapore's lead agency tasked with developing sports in Singapore. Our vision is to create a Sporting Singapore where Sports is a way of life. SSC aims to develop sports champions and create enjoyable sporting experiences for Singapore through the three strategic thrusts of cultivating a sporting culture, achieving sports excellence and creating a vibrant sports industry. Formed on 1 October 1973, SSC is a statutory board under the purview of the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports. Please visit the SSC website at www.ssc.gov.sg for more information.

About Ministry of Education

The Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE) formulates and implements education policies and programmes in consultation with its stakeholders. These policies and programmes aim to help all students discover their talents, realise their potential, and develop a passion for learning that lasts through life. MOE also oversees the development and management of the Government and

Government-aided primary schools, secondary schools and junior colleges. Please visit www.moe.gov.sg for more information.

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