

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

SPEECH BY DR ONG CHIT CHUNG, PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY (HOME AFFAIRS & LABOUR) & MP FOR BUKIT
BATOK, AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE
"JOB PLACEMENT SCHEME", ORGANISED BY YOUTH
CHALLENGE, AT MANDARIN COURT, MANDARIN
SINGAPORE, 333 ORCHARD ROAD ON THURSDAY, 29 OCT
92 AT 12.00 PM

Mr Vincent Lam, Executive President,

Youth Challenge, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. In a recent survey, many youths
admitted that they are most lonely over
the weekends and during the school
vacations.

It is of great concern to us how our
youths spend their time and what they
can learn from their chosen activities.

2 Energy and enthusiasm are the strengths of youths and should be harnessed for healthy and fruitful activities that will lead to social, emotional and intellectual development for the youth.

To this end, the Youth Challenge has started the community-service project, the "Job Placement Scheme", which helps students seek vacation and weekend jobs. The job placement and experience will help to enhance maturity, develop a sense of responsibility and promote self-confidence and self-esteem. They will learn about the value of money, thrift and

hard work.

3 It is most heartening to see that
the "Job Placement Scheme" is
expanding.

The number of companies that participated in the scheme has increased from 37 in 1991 to 61 in 1992. The companies cover a wide range of interests - from statutory boards, hotels, publishing firms, departmental stores and banks to restaurants.

4 To make the vacation job more meaningful, Youth Challenge is introducing the Job Placement Passbook for the employers to record the attendance, attitude, conduct, initiative, punctuality and teamwork of the student workers.

The passbook will not only instill good work habits in the young workers but will also serve as a powerful testimony for the students in their search for full-time employment later on.

5 In addition, an incentive scheme is being developed to motivate these student workers to give their best in their work performance.

Certificates of Commendation will be awarded to those who obtain exemplary conduct.

6 The Job Placement Scheme is one project which seeks to achieve not only community service objectives but also aims to develop Singapore youths into independent, civic-minded and responsible workers of tomorrow.

I encourage more youth groups to emulate

the efforts of Youth Challenge and initiate similar schemes for our young people.

7 Finally, I wish to thank the participants for not only giving the opportunities to the youth, to have some working experience, but also for their supervision and guidance to the youth.

8 Thank you.

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