



MEDIA ADVISORY

18 October 2010

Embargoed till 20 October 2010, 8.00 pm

SOTA'S UNIQUE ARTS-BASED SERVICE LEARNING INITIATIVES RECEIVES FUNDING FROM NYC YOUTH EXPEDITION PROJECT- PROGRAMME GRANT

Under a new strategic partnership between the National Youth Council (NYC) and Singapore's first national pre-tertiary arts school, School of the Arts (SOTA), the School will benefit from a funding boost of \$440,000 from NYC between October 2010 to March 2014 for their local and overseas service action in community programmes.

2 The Youth Expedition Project-Programme Funding (YEP-PF) will support programmes such as the 16-day Global PerspectiveS (GPS)/YEP overseas programme organised by SOTA's Year 5 students. Part of the funding will also be used for local community service projects by Years 5 and 6 students and a series of four student-led annual Gotong Royong@SOTA events. The annual event will showcase Service-Learning projects, provide a platform for meaningful interaction between schools and community partners in Singapore and abroad, and support the development of resources to enhance community development.

3 Mr Christopher De Souza, Chairman of the YEP Advisory Panel, believes that this partnership will prove valuable for the SOTA students. "The objectives of YEP complement SOTA's student development curriculum. I am certain that YEP will enhance the student's interest and knowledge in important global issues and inspire them to take action to serve the community both local and overseas."

4 Melody Teoh, aged 16, Year 4 SOTA student and Chairperson for Gotong Royong@SOTA said, "Going to Cambodia this year for my service-learning is probably the most impactful trip I have ever been on. A group of 20 students went to work with Riverkids Foundation, an NGO which aims to prevent child trafficking. Though I went there initially to teach and share, I was taught much more by the kids at the end of my trip. Since returning from

Cambodia, I am determined to do something about raising awareness about social issues such as poverty”.

5 The YEP-PF will also provide SOTA with more autonomy in developing its overseas community service master plan to further enhance the efforts in International Volunteerism (IV). Other organisations that have benefited from the YEP-PF are Mercy Relief and the Institute of Technical Education (ITE).

Contact person/s : Norhana Hamdan
 Manager (Corporate Communications)
 National Youth Council
 DID : 6839 9122
 HP : 9711 0277
 Fax : 6737 2025
 Email : Norhana_Hamdan@pa.gov.sg

Er Ker Jia
 Manager, Corporate Communications (Media)
 School of the Arts
 DID : 6342 5804
 HP : 9437 0977
 Fax : 63389763
 Email : kerjia.er@sota.edu.sg

About the National Youth Council

National Youth Council (NYC) is the Advocate, Connector and Enabler for Youth. Together with our partners, NYC develops a vibrant and supportive environment for youth who are inspired to dream and committed to action to bring about a future that they want. NYC is Part of the People’s Association Network.

About The School of the Arts, Singapore

The School of the Arts (SOTA) is Singapore’s first national pre-tertiary specialised arts school to offer a 6-year unique integrated arts and academic curriculum for youths aged 13 – 18 years old who demonstrate talent and excellence in the arts.

Set up by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA), the School offers a dedicated development path for those who have interest and show early talent in the arts (dance, music, theatre, visual arts) providing a learning environment where both the artistic and academic potential can best be realised.

With a vision to identify and groom future generations of artists and creative professionals to be leaders in all fields, SOTA builds on Singapore’s unique strengths, including her multicultural Asian diversity and global connected networks to synergise talents and resources.

A school of the future, SOTA embraces a holistic educational philosophy that celebrates experimentation, expression and discovery.

Youth Expedition Project

Since its launch in February 2000 by our then Deputy Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Loong, National Youth Council (NYC), Youth Expedition Project (YEP) has supported more than 21,000 youth in over 1,000 International Service-Learning projects to ASEAN, China and India. As one of Singapore's key youth volunteerism programmes, YEP aims to build up confident youth volunteers who can identify regional issues and needs, and make active contributions to communities both at home and abroad.

NYC funds youth between 15 and 35 years old, as leaders or participants, on expeditions. Leaders will undergo NYC-YEP leaders training course to be equipped with the skills and knowledge required for leading and implementing overseas Service-Learning projects.

Every expedition is a learning opportunity. Participants get to interact with people from different communities, identify community needs and come up with workable solutions. Such needs can be identified from but not confined to several areas including the arts, culture and heritage, education, environment and conservation, healthcare, income generation, special needs, and technology transfer.

The YEP journey encompasses three phases which teams take 3 to 9 months to complete. Teams organise and conduct the pre-expedition local project in Phase 1 with the aim of learning more about their local community before heading overseas. That is followed by Phase 2 which is the actual implementation of the overseas expedition project. For Phase 3, the teams are encouraged to continue engaging the community through service after their return.

More information is available on <http://www.yep.nyc.sg>.

