MOU bantu belia jadi peniaga

Oleh NAZRY MOKHTAR

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BELIA-BELIA daripada keluarga kurang mampu kini mempunyai satu saluran baru untuk mengasah bakat keusahawanan mereka dan sekali gus dibantu keluar daripada lingkaran musibah.

Ini menyusuli pemeteraian Memorandum Persefahaman (MOU) antara Dana Centennial dari Arab Saudi dengan Youth Business Singapore (YBS) kelmarin.

Dana Centennial adalah satu inisiatif Penguasa Pelaburan Umum Arab Saudi (Sagia) untuk memupuk semangat keusahawanan di kalangan belia negara itu.

YBS pula sebuah program yang dirintis Heartware Network, sebuah badan amal yang memberi tumpuan pada pembangunan belia di Singapura.

MOU itu dimeterai di majlis jamuan malam yang turut dihadiri Menteri Pembimbing, Encik Lee Kuan Yew, dan Putera Abdul Aziz Bin Abdullah, putera Raja Abdullah dari Arab Saudi dan juga Pengerusi Lembaga Pengamanah Dana Centennial.

Majlis yang turut meraikan peserta Forum Daya Saing Global anjuran kerajaan itu diadakan di sebuah perkhemahan padang pasir diraja yang terletak sekitar sejam perjalanan dari Riyadh.

Menurut Pengasas dan Pengerusi Heartware Network, Encik Raymond Huang, di bawah MOU itu pihaknya berharap dapat menimba pengalaman dan kepakaran Dana Centennial dalam memupuk semangat keusahawanan belia di Singapura.

Antara lain, belia berbakat akan diberi bantuan dari segi latihan keusahawanan, pinjaman wang untuk memulakan pernia-

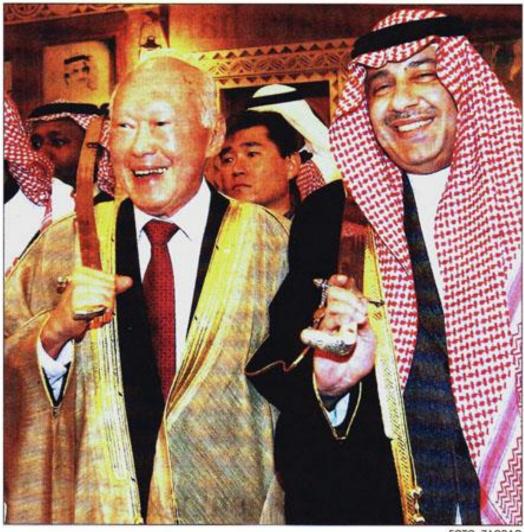


FOTO: ZAOBAC

SAMBIL DIRAI TURUT SAMA MEMERIAHKAN SUASANA: Encik Lee mengenakan 'bisht', sejenis pakaian tradisi Arab, lengkap dengan pedang, di majlis jamuan malam di Riyadh kelmarin, dengan diiringi Putera Abdul Aziz.

gaan dan bimbingan para mentor yang juga usahawan berjaya.

Menurut Encik Huang, matlamat awal pihaknya ialah mengumpul setengah juta dolar untuk membiayai perbelanjaan tahunan, dengan \$400,000 daripadanya bagi pinjaman niaga.

Pada peringkat awal, YBS berharap dapat mengeluarkan 20 pinjaman setiap tahun.

Sebuah hab niaga bagi belia turut dirancang.

"Kami ingin memupuk budaya keusahawanan di Singapura menerusi belia yang berbakat. Ini sekali gus dapat mengurangkan masalah belia terpinggir dan konflik sosial dalam masyarakat," kata Encik Huang.

Dalam majlis gilanggemilang tersebut, para tetamu berbilang bangsa – termasuk delegasi Singapura dan para undangan badan rangkaian hubungan Arab Saudi, Friends of Saudi Arabia – telah disambut dengan paluan gendang tradisi Arab.

Suasana dimeriahkan oleh para penunggang kuda dan unta yang mengelilingi perkhemahan berupa replika sebuah kubu purba kerajaan Saudi. Para tetamu turut dihiburkan dengan persembahan tarian pedang tradisi Arab oleh penari penuh segak dan berpakaian berwarna-warni.

Majlis mencapai kemuncaknya apabila Encik Lee, yang mengenakan bisht, sejenis pakaian tradisi Arab, turut diundang untuk menari bersama.

Tarian yang pernah digunakan untuk menyemarakkan semangat pejuang sewaktu perang itu kini digunakan untuk menghormati tetamu di majlis keramaian.

Encik Lee berlepas pulang ke tanah air semalam.



PHOTO: LIANHE ZAOBAO

CEREMONIAL FRIENDSHIP DANCE: MM Lee (centre) participating in the traditional al Ardha dance after dinner on Monday night. On his left is Prince Abdul Aziz Al Saud, a son of King Abdullah.

Saudi charity to share expertise with S'pore counterpart

By Li Xueying In Riyadh

OVER the past four years, Saudi non-profit group The Centennial Fund has been turning needy youths into budding entrepreneurs.

Now, Saudi Arabia's largest charity is poised to start teaching Singapore's Heartware Network how to do the same, with the signing of a memorandum of understanding on Monday.

The ceremony was witnessed by Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, who is here on a week-long visit.

Heartware Network wants to give out 20 loans worth a total of \$\$400,000 in the coming year, to disadvantaged youths who have "good business ideas", chairman Raymond Huang said.

It will also matchmake the youths with industry leaders, who will act as their mentors.

The Centennial Fund, which has had a similar scheme in place for four years, will be transmitting know-how in areas such as criteria for assessing the business proposals and key performance indicators to measure success.

"Of course, we can't take it lock, stock and barrel," Mr Huang said with a laugh. "For example, Saudi Arabia gives a lot of loans to farming and transportation projects. While in Singapore, we're looking at cafes and retailing."

The knowledge transfer is not a one-way street.

Saudi officials hope for Singapore assistance to build up their new National Entrepreneurship Centre (NEC).

They are in talks with the National University of Singapore's Entrepreneurship Centre for the transfer of academic knowledge, and Spring Singapore for the transfer of mechanical and technical skills.

Mr Hesham Tashkandi, general manager of The Centennial Fund which is involved in the NEC, said: "In Saudi Arabia, most people don't think that they can be entrepreneurs.

"They want to be teachers, scientists, engineers, but they don't think that they can be businessmen."

On the MOU signed, he added: "Today, we establish one more solid step to establishing the friend-ship between the two nations."

Certainly, friendship was the theme of the night as business leaders and government officials sipped spicy Arabic coffee and posed for photos with camels at a government retreat – a fortressed farm about an hour's car ride from Riyadh

Mr Lee attended a dinner hosted by Prince Abdul Aziz Al Saud, a son of King Abdullah, after which he and the other guests were treated to traditional Saudi dances.

Invited to join in, Mr Lee gamely participated in the al Ardha dance, where sword-carrying men dance shoulder to shoulder while drummers beat out a rhythm.

Originally a war dance, it is today a ceremonial dance of friend-

Yesterday, Mr Lee met Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Ali Ibrahim Naimi.

助年轻人创业

我国向沙地百年基金学经验

我们希望筹得50万元,第一年向20名青年发出总额40万元的贷款,并在碧山第八站设立一个1000平方英尺的中心,展示其他国家的青年成功创业的例子。

——心件工程主席黄德宇

(游润恬利雅得报道)沙地阿拉伯 青年亚哈发现村庄周围500公里没人售 卖床褥,于是找到了新商机。在"百年 基金" (Centennial Fund) 的帮助 下,他不但申请到一笔贷款,还获得 专人指点,在村子里卖床褥,经营这 门利润丰厚的小本生意。

百年基金是阿卜都拉国王四年前推出的一项经济措施,向有意创业的年轻沙地男女伸出援手,给予贷款和指导,协助他们经济独立。基金拥有至少1亿5000万里亚尔(约5800万新元)的雄厚资金,主要来自沙地皇室。

青年组织心件工程 与百年基金签谅解备忘录

我国一个青年组织心件工程 (Heartware Network) 有意借鉴百年基 金的经验,在新加坡推出类似百年基 金的计划,帮助生活条件不佳的年轻 人创业,成为成功的企业家。

心件工程主席黄德宇和百年基金总经理希沙姆 (Hisham) 前晚在首都利雅得附近的穆萨城堡里签署一项谅解备忘录,促进彼此的交流。内阁资政李光耀和百年基金主席阿卜杜勒王子见证了签署仪式。阿卜杜勒王子是现

任国王阿卜都拉的儿子。

黄德宇受访说: "我们希望筹得50万元,第一年向20名青年发出总额40万元的贷款,并在碧山第八站设立一个1000平方英尺的中心,展示其他国家的青年成功创业的例子。"他透露,心件工程信托委员会主席孔宪基(雅思柏设计事务所主席,72岁)承诺提供50万元资金,协助年轻人创业。

他说,百年基金已有一套有效的计划,如利用资讯科技使申请贷款的过程便利化、邀请企业代表评估申请者所提出的创业点子的可行性等。他认为心件工程若沿用沙地的这套计划,就可以在本地推行类似协助年轻人创业的计划时,节省许多时间和精力。

黄德宇前年11月同希沙姆接洽,向对方提出把这套运作模式搬来新加坡的建议。沙地过去借鉴许多新加坡发展经济与规划城市的经验,并从中受惠,因此乐于同我国分享沙地在发展慈善事业的经验。

希沙姆说: "沙地和新加坡不是一 天两天,而是永远的朋友。真正的友 谊是双向的,你给我一些,我给你一 些。"

前晚官方科学机构阿卜杜勒阿齐兹 科学与科技城(King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology)也和百 年基金签署协议,在下个月底设立一 所全国企业中心。希沙姆透露,新加 坡国立大学和标新局将同全国企业中 心分享学术知识及商业知识。

除此之外,黄德宇将在五月率领 12名年龄介于15岁至18岁的新加坡青 少年到沙地浸濡两星期,他们除了在 当地学校上课外,也会到沙地学生的 家里作客,了解当地人生活情况。

Super Chingay but help ushers do their job well

I WOULD like to thank the People's Association for the great Chingay show last Saturday.

It was a wonderful parade and I appreciate the hard work that went into organising it.

We arrived at the Padang at 6pm, and were directed to our picnic area A by a group of pleasant and friendly ushers.

However, as showtime approached, the jostling began for a better view.

The crowd ignored the pleas by the emcee to sit down and allow everyone in the audience to enjoy the view.

We were lucky we had seats in the front row as we arrived early, so our view was not blocked.

We also repeatedly asked the ushers standing on the parade route to control the crowd and persuade them to sit.

But persuasion and enforcement were beyond their scope, we found out. Some ushers told us that their duty was to blow the whistle. Those who tried to persuade people to sit failed.

The result: a three-hour experience that was marred by viewing problems, appeals and counter-appeals for consideration among the audience.

My question is whether there is a clear need to have a group of ushers or staff trained in crowd control. The ushers on duty were obviously not equipped for the task.

Will the organisers consider introducing such a group to ensure that all members of the audience are seated? If not, the ushers, who were volunteers, should at least be trained to enforce the sitting rule.

If the same inconsideration was shown by people in the audience at a show in an indoor stadium, I'm sure that these offenders would be shown the door.

The other unpleasant occurrence was that rubbish was strewn all over after the show was over.

This happened despite the presence of a cleaner who regularly swept the area to clear the litter.

What was ironical was that

just as we were about to leave, a group of volunteers lined our exit route to wish us a fond farewell.

I was touched by their gesture. But I would have been happier if they had pitched in to help the lone cleaner tackle the rubbish left behind.

My companion, a senior lawyer, and I certainly didn't have a problem helping the cleaner, which we did.

I do not know about the duties of the volunteers at the parade. I was a volunteer at similar events once and it certainly meant doing more than just getting involved in the glad-handling part of our jobs.

As volunteers, our duties in organising a show came in three parts: help set up the show, serve the audience when the show began, and clean up after it was over.

These three aspects of volunteering are equally important even though the first and third parts may not be glamorous.

Volunteerism is an important culture to inculcate if we are to achieve the civic-mindedness required of a world-class city.

Engaging the youth in this respect is a positive step. But it would be more meaningful if these youngsters were equipped with the proper training to volunteer effectively.

That's how a graceful society emerges.

Han Li

Everyone can do their part to make Chingay enjoyable

I REFER to the letter, "Super Chingay but help ushers do their job well" by Mr Han Li (Feb 22).

We thank Mr Han for his feedback and suggestion. Together with our volunteer management partners, we will certainly do more to train and better prepare our volunteers for future Chingay parades.

Spectators can also do their part and observe the courtesy of not blocking the view of fellow spectators. Everyone should also be responsible and keep the parade route litter-free.

Julian Aw

Coordinator (Parade and Volunteer Management), Chingay 2008 Acting Assistant Director (Arts Projects) People's Association

Sin Chew Daily (Malacca Edition) - Wed 21 May 2008



首長:已指示行政議員市廳

與35老屋業主對話



省长秦哈末阿里(前排右三)与剪访的新加坡青年代表团团员会照。

接 获 指示的 州行政议员是房 屋·小镇发展及工 程复工委员会主席 章督加化阿升,以 及地方政府及环境 委员会主席章督拉 迪夫提比区。

至于州政府 当局。则是土地局 及马六甲市政厅。

奏哈米阿里 今日为巫统武中 市通区部移交中 请人党表格主持仪 武后,针对记者的 海面,作出简短答

不过, 他没 有透露举行对话的 日期,

古宁 衡 35 间 老规的业主是于上 出的通知情。指例 们的原子占用到沿 河的政府保留地。 因此,限期30天内 自行拆除。违反 者将在上地广 数1万令吉成坐牢 款1万令吉成坐牢

除了土地局 之外,市政厅也接 引1974年道路、沟 渠及建筑法令发出 指示,于本月12至 14日把限期30天内

自行拆屋的公面张

贴在店屋门上。

不超过1年或两者

Priority was for safety at Chingay

I REFER to the letter, "Super Chingay but help ushers do their job well" (Feb 22), by Mr Han Li.

To a certain extent, Mr Han is correct to say that "persuasion and enforcement were beyond (the volunteers') scope".

With so many floats and performers parading down the street, the volunteers' main priority was to make sure the crowd did not spill into the street, thus ensuring their safety and preventing any mishap.

venting any mishap.
Our 1,500 volunteers from 35 schools were trained by the Heartware Network, and briefed by the People's Association before the event.

Each volunteer must complete 27 hours of service learning, scenario planning and role-plays over eight weeks to qualify to volunteer at Chingay. Those who missed the training sessions without proper reasons were replaced.

At the end of the parade, volunteers were also given feedback forms and encouraged to share their views, so that our youth planning exco for Chingay can improve.

We will continue to work with all partners to ensure an enjoyable experience for the public at future Chingay parades.

Raymond Huang

Founding chairman Heartware Network Lawatan sambil belajar belia 'Kota Singa'

Singapura jadikan Melaka destinasi lawatan tetap

MUHAMMAD ZAIDEE DAUT

KRUBONG, 18 Mei – Program lawatan sambil belajar oleh Belia Singapura ke Melaka yang bermula hari ini hingga 21 Mei ini, bakal mengerat-kan lagi hubungan antara kedua-dua pertubuhan belia yang sedia terjalin sebelum ini.

Ini dapat dilihat menerusi pertukaran pandangan dan idea oleh wakil pertubuhan dari ne-gara 'Kota Singa' itu dengan wakil Majlis Gabungan Belia Melaka (MGBM) dan beberapa pertubuhan belia di negeri ini.

Presiden MGBM, Datuk Idris Haron ber-kata,

lawatan seramai 15 ahli belia dari Singapura itu bukan sahaja akan dapat memberi manfaat kepada mereka, malah kepada ahli belia di negeri ini.

Idris memberitahu, Singapura yang diketuai Raymond. Huang telah bersetuju untuk menjadikan Melaka sebagai destinasi lawatan tetap mereka ke negeri ini bagi memberi pendedahan kepada golongan belia mereka mengetahui cara pengurusan persatuan belia yang lebih esfisien.

Lihat muka 4



Idris dan Raymond bergambar bersama ahli belia Singapura dan GB4B Cawangan Tampoi

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Melaka Hari Ini | Isnin 19 Mei 2008

Singapura jadikan Melaka destinasi lawatan tetap



Idris memberikan taklimat kepada belia Singapura di Hang Tuah Mall

"Melalui lawatan ini, mereka bukan sahaja dibawa melawat ke tempat menarik di negeri ini, malah turut dibawa melawat Gerakan Belia 4B (GB4B) Crawangan Tampoi dan beberapa pertubuhan belia lain di negeri ini, "katanya.

Pada lawatan itu, semua peserta lawatan dijamu makan tengah hari di Hang Tuah Mall dan mengikuti program Teknologi Maklumat dan Komunikasi (ICT) serta melawat GB4B Cawangan Tampoi.

Dalam lawatan ke GB-4B Tampoi, wakil Belia Singapura itu turut menghulurkan derma kilat sebanyak RM700 bagi membantu kutipan Tabung Bencana Taufan Nargis, Myanmar.

Menurut Raymond, derma kilat yang dilakukan oleh belia itu adalah sebagai tanda prihatin mereka kepada mangsa ribut taufan Nargis dan sebagai tanda sokongan belia Singapura kepada aktiviti pertubuhan belia Melaka.

"Kami berasa kagum dengan sikap prihatin belia Melaka terutama Pengerusi Gerak Masyarakat GB4B Tampoi, Mohd Nizam Ahmad yang berjaya mengumpulkan derma untuk membantu golongan yang memerlukan, "katanya.



Raymond

Turut hadir pada majlis itu ialah Pengerusi Penaja GB4B Melaka, Mohd Nizam Omar, Pengerusi Penaja GB4B kawasan Tangga Batu, Zali Mat Yasin dan Ketua GB4B Cawangan Tampoi, Abd Latip Abu.

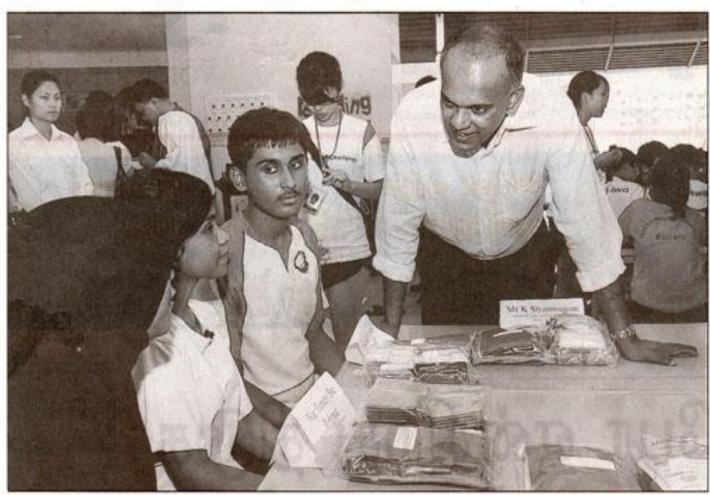


Idris menerima cenderamata daripada Raymond



Raymond menyerahkan sumbangan derma kepada GB4B Cawangan Tampoi bagi membantu mangsa ribut taufan Nargis.

அமைச்சருடன் அவசரகால உணவு



மாணவர் முகாமுக்கு வருகையளித்த சட்ட அமைச்சர் கே.சண்முகத்துடன் உரையாடுகிறார் பிடோக் வியூ உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளி மாணவர் யுட்கார்ஷ் பாண்டே.

ஸ்ட்ரெயிட்ஸ் டைம்ஸ்

அவசரகாலத்தில் உணவை எவ்வாறு பங்கிட்டு உண்பது என்பதை யுட்கார்ஷ் பாண்டே நேற்றுத் தெரிந்துகொண்டார்.

முகாமுக்கு வருகையளித்த சட்ட அமைச்சரும் இரண்டாவது உள்துறை அமைச்சருமான கே.சண்முகம் மாணவர்களுடன் சேர்ந்து பங்கீட்டு உணவை உண்டார்.

போர், இயற்கை பேரிடர், பயங்கரவாத தாக்குதல்கள் போன்ற நேரத்தில் கிடைக்கும் உணவை பங்கிட்டு உண்ண வேண்டும்

என்பதை முகாமில் பங்கேற்ற மாணவர்கள் அறிந்தனர்.

ஏறக்குறைய 24 பள்ளிகளைச் சேர்ந்த 300 மாணவர்கள் கலந்துகொண்ட இந்த சுமுக விழிப்புணர்வு முகாமில், முதல் முறையாக மதராஸா பள்ளி மாணவர்களும் பங்கேற்றனர்.

"அவசரகாலத்தின் புரிந்துணர்வும் குழு உணர்வும் முக்கியம் என்பதை அறிந்தேன், என்றார் பிடோக் வியூ உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளி மான.வரான யுட்கார்ஷ்.

300 students learn how to cope with a terrorist attack

Dealing with bomb attack on train is part of 4-day camp on safety and security

By SUIIN THOMAS

A LOUD bang sounded inside a stationary MRT train at City Hall station yesterday morning. It was followed by a pungent white smoke that drove 300 passengers from the train into a south-bound tunnel.

They ambled 250m along the tracks before climbing up a seven-storey staircase, emerging safely in front of the Padang.

The "evacuation" was part of a youth camp designed to teach students about matters like first aid, fire-fighting and how to escape from a train attacked by terrorists.

The four-day Community Safety & Security Programme Challenge Camp, now in its sixth year, also aimed to make students more aware of their surroundings and prepare them for things like a bomb attack.

Themed "Vigilant Youth, Resilient Nation", it included 300 secondary students from 24 schools and began on Tuesday.

Students from the Singapore Management University, as well as those from three madrasahs, also took part in the evacuation exercise.

Senior Minister of State for Education Lui Tuck Yew was the guest of honour.

Before the train evacuation, students were briefed on how to

CONFIDENT NOW

"I feel that I have the skills and knowledge now to react in the event of a real emergency."

ARJUN SASANGAN, 14, a Riverside Secondary School student, on how he has benefited from the youth camp exercise report suspicious persons and items they came across in the MRT. They also learnt to use safety features such as the emergency communication button, emergency-stop plungers and fire extinguishers.

Two SMRT staff members, dressed in black and carrying bags, even posed as terrorist suspects. The students tried to spot them and report them to the

authorities.

The camp was organised by a committee of student volunteers with guidance from non-profit youth organisation Heartware Network.

"I believe the students are now more aware of their surroundings," said organising committee president John Ang, 17, a Year 5 student from Anglo-Chinese School (Independent).

Riverside Secondary School student Arjun Sasangan, 14, found the exercise "relatively

realistic"

"I feel that I have the skills and knowledge now to react in the event of a real emergency," he said

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Students in midnight MRT drill

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IT WAS the first underground MRT emergency exercise since Exercise Northstar V was held more than two years ago, and this time round students — instead of national agencies — spearheaded the drill.

Planned and organised by student volunteers from Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Anderson Junior College, Raffles JC and Hwa Chong JC as part of the Community Safety and Security Programme (CSSP) Challenge VI Camp, the exercise was carried out at City Hall MRT station just after midnight yesterday. About 300 students from 24 schools — including three madrasahs taking part for the first time — participated.

A train packed full with students came to a sudden halt at the station after a "bomb" exploded. Emergency exits at both ends of the train opened and the students poured out onto the tracks amid thick smoke before making their way to the safety of Connaught Drive seven storeys above.

The "overnight in-tunnel emergency" was one of the highlights of the camp. Students used items in their Ready Bag — such as torchlights — as they walked 250 metres in the tunnel to an escape shaft, then climbed seven storeys to ground level.

The theme for this year's CSSP camp is "Vigilant Youth, Resilient Nation" and aims to "inspire and challenge youths to be vigilant in their community and take on an active role in responding to civil emergency situations". This is the sixth consecutive year that students have taken part in a MRT drill at the annual camp.

"As a public transport service provider, SMRT believes it is crucial for commuters to be equipped with the knowledge of what they can do to help themselves and fellow commuters should there be an emergency situation in our trains," said Mr Choy Kin Chong, SMRT's deputy director for security and emergency planning.



WEETECK HIAN

THERE'S LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL: About 280 youths from 24 schools participating in the Community Safety and Security Programme Challenge Camp VI. The camp aims to inspire and challenge youths to be vigilant in their community and take on an active role in responding to civil emergency situations in Singapore. The highlight of the four-day camp is the overnight simulated emergency drill in a SMRT tunnel and the evacuation of passengers to safety at Connaught Drive through an escape shaft.

宣读信约贺国庆

3万多青少年手牵手组20公里长"人龙"



参与"心连心,新加坡"活动的务德中学学生,昨天在大巴窑1巷手牵手,象征团结一致。共有3万多名青少年参加这活动。(梁麒麟摄)

陈锦柏●报道

昨天下午12时10分 左右。3万多名本地青少 年于牵手组成一条20公 里长的"人龙"链,一 同宣读公民信约,庆祝 国庆。

这项名为"心莲 心,新加坡"(Connect Singapore)的活动,由青年组织心件工程 (Heartware Network)主办及筹划。活动的目录 是要启发表。而等是要的公民。而等等 因结演的角色都是重要的。

参与活动的学生来 自本地53所学府。心件 工程总经理罗明金受访 参与活动的学生来自本地 53所学府。这条"人龙" 链绕过杨厝港、宏茂桥、 碧山、大巴窑、玛丽蒙路 和汤申路一带,终点在汤

申路的旧警察学院。

这些学校的学生也 会参与"总统挑战2008" 慈善筹款活动,附属该 活动的31个福利团体将 受惠。一部分善款则作 为"心件工程"推展一系列有关青年活动的经 费。整个筹款目标是43 万元。

纳开总统,以及教育部兼新闻、通讯和艺术部高级政务部长吕德 者是与会贵宾,他们出席在旧警察学院举行的 以武,并与学生在同一时间一起宣读信约。

参与支援活动的义 安理工学院学生庞道群