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PTC celebrates Youth Day

by Sebastian Goh, volunteer



This year, Youth Day came early for the teens at PTC.

On 22nd June, more than 30 teens assembled at PTC premises at 10 a.m. to embark on a day of fun in celebrating Youth Day. Accompanying them were seven volunteers and ubiquitous staff of PTC.

For a change, the bus brought everyone to the Singapore Botanic Gardens to celebrate the occasion. Base station was set up at the foot of the famous 'Five-dollar' tree where all activities of the day would begin and terminate. To kick off the day, ice-breaker games were played under the shade of this legendary tree. The warm-up games not only helped break the ice among the teens, alumni as well as volunteers, but it also helped work up a voracious appetite in all present - surprisingly, even among the oldies but 'young-at-heart' volunteers.

Everyone present were treated with a sumptuous lunch of their choice as each was given an allowance to eat at the Taman Serasi Food-court which boasts of some of the best hawker food in Singapore.

Even before the burps of satisfaction resulting from the delicious lunch could settle, the teens were in for another surprise. The staff of PTC had planned a mini version of the Amazing Race to be played within the grounds of the Botanic Gardens. While the six teams, with four players each, were being briefed by PTC's very own Phil Keoghan a.k.a. Sr Maria, the volunteers were sent off to the various stations to man the 'Pit Stops'.

The teens were sent off to the various key attractions of the gardens first by solving a word puzzle which would give the name of the location each team was to head for.



Then it took a combination of map-reading skill and lots of leg power to propel team members to each destination where they were required to look for clues to answer questions given. The quest took them to six of the major attractions. One point which stumped many was at the Bonsai Corner, when participants were asked to name two types of bonsai. With some 30 varieties staring back at them, they spent considerable time looking for 'bonsai' prefixed to the plants' names. In the end, it was common-

sense combined with a little alertness that saw them through. To many, it was a new learning experience, looking for and learning about the varied flora in the Gardens. Even 'Uncle' Beng Huat was so fascinated with the seeds of the Shorea tree which rotated like pin-wheels as they dropped from the trees, that he picked up a bagful of them to bring home.

It did not take the teams very long to complete the rounds of the six stations and return to base, all dripping with perspiration but their faces glowing with satisfaction from the successful completion of their mission. It did not matter which team completed first because all completed their tasks and were winners one and all. Each team was rewarded

with cash vouchers for meals at Burger King.

Fittingly, the celebrations at Botanic Gardens ended with presentation of National Youth Achievement Awards certificates to those PTC teens, who had successfully completed their Bronze Awards.



Youth Day for PTC ended after return to the Centre where a free flow of ice-cream, for youth of all ages was dished out.



What is ITE ?

by Wang Junyong, Alumni

I could vividly remember that it was during one of our PTC Alumni meetings that Melvin proposed 'presenting ITE' to the PTC youths. During our initial months at ITE we learned that many of our friends, after taking their N-level result, didn't know what course they wanted to enrol in. Subsequently they just registered in a course without knowing its details and their future working environment. And they often only aim for a pass for their subject mainly because they thought that a pass will enable them to get into the course they want. After entering the course they discovered that they are not interested in it, and eventually dropped out of it.

The alumni team went through a series of discussions and research work for two weeks. And



this became our first project which we presented on 27 July 2007 sharing with the PTC youths our experiences and informing them the many possibilities at ITE. The presentation on powerpoint went smoothly with as much information we could impart to them.

I would not say that we have covered everything in just one day. However, I believe that it was a helpful session for the youths as during the Q&A session they asked many relevant questions.

Below is some feedback :

I feel that the presentation is very good as it tells us much about the ITE and its benefits.

Edmund - Sec 3

The session is useful and it somehow cleared all my doubts about the ITE! I now think I know what course to choose and the CCAs offered.

Kelvin - Sec 3



The presentation is very useful and I am very sure about the course I would want to take up. The alumni team had done a great job.

Mervin - Sec 3

And how did the alumni feel :

BEN - *This sharing from ITE students would help PTC youths graduating from HSC to choose their course wisely and also to motivate them to study harder.*

JUNYONG - *It was an opportunity for alumni and juniors to bond together.*

MELVIN - *I am happy to present with the alumni as this is the first event organized by us, and there's still room for us to improve!*

**BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
THAT YOU CAN DO IT !!
& ALL THE BEST**



What's coming up next....

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| 14 October | Parents' Awareness Day (P.A.D)
An afternoon with our youths' parents, sharing with them tips on parent-teen relationship. |
| 18 October | Training session for Volunteers on "Stress Management" by Bro. Collin Wee |
| 19 & 20 November | Volunteers' Appreciation Day & Year End Party with Youths
A time to say "THANK YOU" to our dedicated volunteers entertaining them with a line-up of programmes.
Also an early (because of next event) year end party for our youths. |
| 8 December | Community Service Project in collaboration with "Habitat for Humanity" Singapore
Our team of youths, volunteers and staff will join hands & hearts with other groups to clean the houses of destitute elderly in Woodlands/Marsiling. |
| 11 – 19 December | Community Service Project in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah East Malaysia
It's still in the process of ground work – discussion, coordination, and negotiation....
Once finalized, we'll be helping in the renovation and painting work of a community pre-school building in Kota Kinabalu. |

At a recent kayak training session at Pasir Ris, a theory test was carried out with hilarious results. It shows how "clueless" our youths can be!!!

Trainer : Why does the high water tide flow from Causeway to Changi?
Why not the other way round?

Student: Because there is a gate at Causeway to release water into the channel.



Trainer : During spring tide, why is the tide the lowest ?
Student: Because the MOON SUCKS THE WATER !



Trainer : What does it mean when we say high to low ?
Student: Causeway to Changi
Trainer : OK, what does it mean when we say Causeway to Changi ?
Student: High to low, lah....
Trainer : SO!? Explain HIGH to LOW!!!
Causeway to Changi !!!



SNIPPETS



10 of our youths received their NYAA Bronze award and 1 Silver at the Singapore Polytechnic on 8 May 2007. We are very proud of them — Well done!!



Our youths performed Japanese Drums at the North East Racial Harmony Closing Ceremony on 29 July. Four songs were played, much to the delight of the 5,000 resident-spectators in the Tampines Stadium. The Sec 2 students who barely learned the skill for 4 months, demonstrated their skill passionately with much encouragement and support from their seniors including the PTC alumni members.

In line with our Centre's policy on skills-upgrading, PTC sent its volunteers for a one-day workshop on *Understanding & Working with Youths* organized by the SSTI School of Social Service, on 28 July 2007. Those volunteers who could free themselves from their busy schedule to attend are Felicity, Cecilia, Sebastian, Philip, Lily and Daniel.

