



SINGAPORE 2010
YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES
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Blazing the Trail | Official Report



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PROLOGUE

Inspiring Youth, Sporting Singapore

Inspiring Youth, Sporting Singapore: these four simple words expressed the essence of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games (Singapore 2010). From the start, and throughout, this goal was to be achieved by inviting participation, encouraging contribution, enabling partnership and providing opportunities for doing good. The vision was a Games filled with unforgettable experiences that inspired all participants to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect in their lives. The message, loud and clear, was this: “Everyone can make the world better: no deed is too small”.

Connecting People

The guiding light was more than Citius, Altius, Fortius – the famous Olympic motto associated with competitive sports. There was also focus on the Olympic creed emphasising participation, learning the Olympic values through sports and applying those values to life beyond sports. Singapore 2010 was all that, and more: it sought to connect youth throughout the world with one another and the Olympic Movement. Beyond the participants, Singapore 2010 also reached out to the people connected to the participants – their families, friends, teachers, coaches and communities – to similarly encourage them to participate, contribute and live by the Olympic values.



Guiding Principles

So, it's all about people and the Olympic values. The Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (SYOGOC) kept this statement firmly in mind even as they worked on a multitude of tasks. Translated into practice, it meant a few important principles:

- Firstly, the value of Respect was crucial. Guided by the respect for the intelligence and autonomy of individuals and organisations, SYOGOC 'invited' people and organisations to 'participate' in the Games, and worked to 'liberate' and 'unleash' their energies through actions that benefited others and the community. Singapore 2010 became a platform on which anyone who held the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect was welcomed to join and add to the project. SYOGOC's task was to overcome the constraints of time and resources to enable this to happen for as many people and organisations as possible.
- Secondly, SYOGOC discarded the conventional perception of youth as the 'future': 'not-yet adults' who had therefore to be 'inculcated' with adult-approved ideas. Instead, SYOGOC perceived youth as 'the present'; the "here and now"; people with ideas of their own; individuals bursting with aspiration, imagination and energy that could inspire others. As such, the notion of "Inspiring Youth", so key to the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) story, took on a double meaning: the Games

would inspire the youth; at the same time, the youth themselves would be inspiring to others.

- Thirdly, the emphasis on people, especially youth, and values meant that the focus on the Culture and Education Programme was "equal" (not merely 'strong') to the focus on Sport. Moreover, the activities of the Programme were structured to help the participants learn through discovery rather than just being told what to do.
- Fourthly, the emphasis on people meant that each individual participant was important, and not just the winners. This led SYOGOC and its partners to create innovative initiatives to commemorate not only victories, but also participation.
- Fifthly, in organising the YOG, the intention was to create, first and foremost, something of value to the Olympic Movement, the youth of the world and Singapore. The Committee believed that the YOG would connect people and fire them up with a greater passion for sport.
- Finally, the YOG provided opportunity for host city Singapore to introduce its cultures and share its experiences with the participants and global audience. Through hosting the YOG, it is also hoped that the young athletes and youth around the world would be inspired to dream big, knowing that they can realise their goals if they set their hearts and minds to do so, just as how a small city state like Singapore won the bid to host the first-ever YOG.

▲ The Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games connected youths of the world – through the Singapore 2010 Friendship Camp (left) and sport competitions.

◀ Bronze medallist **Viktoria Wolfhardt** of Austria (right) hugs her team mate after the girls' K1 Canoe Slalom final.



In the Rockspring Valley River near Liberia's capital city, Monrovia, swimmers Sima Weah and Mika-Jah Teah play with crabs and kismet fish as part of their training. In Kiribati, a country made up of a collection of coral atolls in the Pacific Ocean, sprinter Etita Tio trains by running on the beach or at the capital Bairiki's crumbling Dasio Stadium that dates back to World War II. In Marcos Paz, Argentina, javelin thrower Brian Toledo too pursues his sporting dream, training on fields because there is no athletics track with a proper javelin runway in his hometown. Their paths and their stories of hope, passion and determination meet – at a grand gathering of athletes called the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore. The same script about people coming together and inspiring each other is replayed for each official, coach, volunteer and spectator.

◀ Athletes compete during the boys 3000m qualification on 17 August 2010.



Living in the small town of Gore on the southern tip of New Zealand's south island, triathlete Aaron Barclay trains hard for the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) – his first event outside of Oceania. Nothing will hinder him, not even the fact that he is visually impaired. Equally determined to make a mark is Malaysian diver Pandelega Pamg. The YOG shall be the stage for her to shine, never mind if she has a neck injury shortly before the big event. Barclay's country man, boxer Joseph Parker, also knows a thing or two about overcoming odds, including the lack of attention and financial support for his sport. This means overseas competitions have to be funded mostly by his family and his coach. Tuvalu's shuttler Tiaese Tapumanaia has an even bigger obstacle. The tiny Pacific island nation which she represents is better known for fishing than it is for any sport. Yet she is not about to give up as she gets ready for the biggest competition of her life, alongside big names like China's swimmer Tang Yi, Russia's gymnast Viktoria Komova, Britain's diver Tom Daley, South Korea's shuttler Kang Ji Wook and Ireland's boxer Joe Ward. It doesn't matter where they come from or what sport they are in - all these young athletes have trained long and hard for the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games.

► New Zealand's Aaron Barclay came in first in the men triathlon held at East Coast Park on 16 August 2010.



01/IN THE BEGINNING

BEFORE THE GAMES

BLAZING THE TRAIL

Normally, given the magnitude of the Olympic Games, host cities will take about seven years to prepare the necessary infrastructure, facilities and workforce. For the first-ever Youth Olympic Games (YOG), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) released the bid procedure, questionnaire and event manual in August 2007, just three years before the Games.

The brainchild of IOC President Jacques Rogge, the YOG aims to inspire and engage a young generation that is increasingly spending less time on sports and more time on the Internet and watching television. For the first-ever YOG in 2010, it was expected that 205 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), with close to 5,000 athletes and officials from all over the world, would come together in Singapore to compete and learn about Olympism.

Recognising the excellent opportunity to showcase Singapore to the world while celebrating diversity, friendship, hope and the Olympic ideals, the Republic immediately swung into action. A multi-agency committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), the Singapore Sports Council, the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC) and many other government agencies was convened to prepare the country's bid.

In Ancient Olympia, Greece, theatre actress Ino Menegaki, playing a high priestess, performs an ancient ritual to light the Youth Olympic Flame. An around-the-world journey, spanning five continents and over 30,000km, then begins for the sacred Flame before its arrival in Singapore. There, the Journey of the Youth Olympic Flame takes on remarkable spontaneity when a young boy called Low Wei Jie moves a nation with his two-and-a-half hours, 15km pursuit of the Flame dressed in an orange T-shirt, blue bermudas and flip-flops, undeterred by a heavy downpour. A people's imagination has been fired – and the connection made between a ritual at the sixth-century Temple of Hera in Ancient Olympia and a Compassvale Primary School boy's passionate pursuit of the Flame around Sengkang, Punggol and Hougang in modern Singapore.

▲ The Youth Olympic Flame travelled from Greece to one city in each of the five continents, before arriving in Singapore where the journey continued through five community districts with a traditional round-island torch relay.



“We dare to dream, we work hard to pursue our dream despite the odds and now that dream will become a reality... So let us gear up for 2010. Let us welcome the world to Singapore and deliver an outstanding first edition of the Youth Olympic Games.”

– Singapore Prime Minister **Lee Hsien Loong** affirming Singapore's commitment to deliver a successful Games

► On 21 February 2008, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced Singapore as the host city for the first-ever Youth Olympic Games. The crowd erupted with joy at the Padang, Singapore.

“... the IOC can be assured that the first YOG, if held in Singapore, will be an event the world will be proud of.”

– Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence
Teo Chee Hean

AN EPISODE FROM THE BID

Following an initial review of all the bids, the IOC posed further questions to the short-listed bidding cities and answers had to be submitted by 3 December 2007. One of the more memorable episodes involving Singapore's bid began on the evening of 30 November 2007, when members of the Bid Committee reviewing the final cut of a video discovered a significant error where the graphical rendering of the way the Olympic rings overlapped was wrong. The team worked through the night to change the graphic. Then rushing to the airport, Bid Committee officials were told by the colleague who was to accompany the package to Lausanne that the cardboard box containing the documents could not be brought up as hand-carry baggage as it was too big. “But we couldn't let those documents out of our sight,” said a YOG executive. They detoured to a nearby shopping centre to see if they could buy a suitable luggage but the store was closed. With all options seemingly closing before their eyes, relief finally came when their colleague at the airport called to tell them he had swapped his personal baggage with the precious documents to protect the latter. The documents and video were handed over to the IOC on time and in one piece. Thankfully, such drama would not become a regular feature, and the rest of the YOG story has gone down as an amazing milestone in Singapore and Olympic history.

VISION FOR THE BID

The Bid Committee believed that as a young, small and multi-cultural nation, Singapore would be an ideal gathering point to fulfill the objectives of the YOG as conceptualised by the IOC. Senior Parliamentary Secretary, MCYS, Teo Ser Luck, believed that what sets Singapore apart from its competitors in a bid of this nature is its ability to inspire true sportsmanship among youths and promote understanding among communities. “Singapore is blazing the trail in making deep investments in youth and sports, and we are impassioned and ready to give the world a model inaugural Youth Olympic Games,” he said as part of the bidding process.¹

The bid tagline, which subsequently became the tagline for the Games, was “Blazing the Trail”. It was selected by the Bid Committee to convey the spirit of innovation and the entrepreneurial, can-do-spirit of Singapore.

Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Vivian Balakrishnan believed Singapore's ability to offer first class, right-sized facilities for the YOG within a short time frame was critical to its successful bid. Singapore's compactness made it possible for all the 26 sports, including even sailing and canoeing, to be held within minutes of the city centre. Apart from the venues located in the heart of the city, several other locations within the heartlands of Singapore were also used to bring the Games to the doorsteps of the community. This reinforced the message about how the YOG would be a People's Games, an event bringing Singaporeans and the world together.

Singapore also envisaged that hosting the YOG would ignite the passion for sports and leave enduring legacies in sport, education and culture for Singapore, the region and beyond after the Games have ended. This view was shared by the IOC, which listed Singapore as one of the five short-listed cities in November 2007 and subsequently a finalist with Moscow in January 2008.

WINNING THE BID

From then on, the battle to win the bid intensified. There was great public interest in its outcome, with Singaporeans sensing that a win would boost their country's international standing and change its sporting landscape in more ways than one. Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Teo Chee Hean, who is also President of the SNO, was confident that the Republic could deliver a great Games if given the honour. He said: “Singapore offers a safe and secure environment for the 5,000 athletes and officials who are expected to attend the inaugural YOG. We are also well known for our efficiency and our ability to organise big events given a short lead time. Hence, the IOC can be assured that the first YOG, if held in Singapore, will be an event the world will be proud of.”²

IOC members worldwide voted by postal ballot on which city should have the honour of hosting the first YOG, and Singapore's victory was announced on 21 February 2008. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, government officials and sports leaders gathered with other Singaporeans on the steps of City Hall to watch the official announcement by IOC President Jacques Rogge. There were some anxious moments but the nation cheered as one when they heard Mr Rogge say: “The International Olympic Committee has the honour of announcing, that the first Summer Youth Olympic Games in 2010 are awarded to – the city of Singapore”.

Celebrating the win, Prime Minister Lee said: “I need hardly say how happy we are all to have won this bid; to be chosen to host the first Youth Olympic Games in the world in 2010. It's a great honour and privilege for all of us, for Singapore and for every Singaporean. And for the first time, the Olympic Flame will be in Southeast Asia and in Singapore.”

IOC Vice President Ng Ser Miang, was overjoyed at the news, and was confident that the IOC had made the right decision. “Singapore reflects the Olympic values and shares the hopes that the IOC has for the YOG,” he said. “We are a young, vibrant and cosmopolitan nation; a multi-racial society where people of different ethnicities, cultures and histories live in harmony and respect for one another. We are also internationally recognised for our integrity and commitment to fair play,” he said.³

The IOC could not have chosen a better match between vision and host: Singapore's values in different spheres of life like economy, business, culture and education mirrored those of Olympism.

Affirming Singapore's commitment to deliver a successful Games, Prime Minister Lee said: “We dare to dream, we work hard to pursue our dream despite the odds and now that dream will become a reality. So tonight was a countdown just to the announcement but now the countdown to 2010 begins. We have two-and-a-half years to prepare for the YOG. It is going to be challenging but it is going to be full of excitement and achievement. So let us gear up for 2010. Let us welcome the world to Singapore and deliver an outstanding first edition of the YOG.”



The nation cheered and celebrated as one when International Olympic Committee (IOC) President **Jacques Rogge** declared: "The IOC has the honour of announcing, that the first Summer Youth Olympic Games in 2010 are awarded to - the city of Singapore."

CHALLENGES FOR THE HOST



In March 2008, less than a month after Singapore was awarded the right to host the first-ever YOG, Minister Vivian Balakrishnan appointed Mr Ng Ser Miang as Chairman of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (SYOGOC) Board. The board comprised 25 individuals from the public, private and people sectors, and was entrusted with the heavy responsibility of staging the first-ever YOG in just under two-and-a-half years. SYOGOC was also aided by a panel of advisors comprising Minister Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Education, Ng Eng Hen, Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and Senior Parliamentary Secretary Teo Ser Luck.

The short time frame and the challenge of hosting a major event posed numerous difficulties for SYOGOC, but Minister Vivian Balakrishnan was quietly confident. He said: "This is a big challenge but I am confident that, with the expertise and resources that the board has, coupled with the leadership of Mr Ng Ser Miang, Singapore will give the young athletes participating in the first YOG in 2010 a truly memorable and exciting Games."¹⁴

In April 2008, Brigadier-General (NS) Goh Kee Nguan was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SYOGOC. BG(NS) Goh was a senior commander in the Singapore Armed Forces and had also chaired the executive committee of the 2006 National Day Parade in Singapore.

Entrusted with the challenge of staging an exciting and memorable Games in just two-and-a-half years, SYOGOC set up seven committees to advise it in the areas of Sports; Culture & Education; Youth Engagement; Community Outreach; Business & Marketing; Risk Management and National Olympic Committee Services.

On top of that, an Inter-Ministerial Committee was formed and chaired by the Permanent Secretary, MCYS, Niam Chiang Meng, who was also the Chairman of the Bid Committee. The Singapore 2010 Committee comprising 37 government agencies ensured all the public service agencies worked hand in glove to deliver the first-ever YOG.



INSPIRING YOUTH, SPORTING SINGAPORE

With the leadership team in place, preparations for the world's first YOG kicked into high gear in 2009. Among the various preparatory activities, some of those that attracted the most interest from the public were the launch of the various logos and pictograms which would symbolise different aspects of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games (Singapore 2010). These not only generated colour and buzz for the event, they also became symbols of what the YOG would represent to all participants and audiences.

One of the first things that needed to be established was the Games' logo, which would serve to announce to the world what the YOG stands for and seeks to achieve. The official logo of the Games, unveiled in January 2009, is called "Spirit of Youth". It comprises a red flame that represents the passion to learn and the power of positive thinking, a purple star symbolising excellence and the pride of representing one's country, as well as a crescent that reflects dynamic youth that is full of promise. The blue and green colours of the crescent symbolise a tropical island surrounded by sea, a true reflection of Singapore's uniqueness. In all, the logo evokes a sense of confidence and progress that is truly Singaporean in an adventurous, open and fun way.

SYOGOC Chairman Ng Ser Miang said the launch of the logo marked a major milestone for the YOG. "The logo is an important symbol of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games," he said. "It embodies the vision of Singapore 2010 – Inspiring Youth, Sporting Singapore – and expresses the significance and legacy that we hope Singapore 2010 will have on the lives of Singaporeans and youths around the world before, during and after the Games."⁵ Reflecting the involvement of youth, the launch was put together by students from the Nanyang Technological University, the National University of Singapore, the Singapore Institute of Management and the Singapore Management University.

◀ Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Vivian Balakrishnan unveiled the first Youth Olympic Games emblem on 10 January 2009.

YOUTHFULNESS, ADVENTURE, OPENNESS, FUN

The logo also played an important role in inspiring other features associated with the YOG. In May 2009, the individual pictograms for the 26 YOG sports encompassing Olympic events modified to appeal to younger athletes and audiences were unveiled. Derived from the official “Spirit of Youth” logo, these pictograms show a contemporary graphic style which captures the idea of an “athlete in motion” and represents passion, dedication and sportsmanship in the young. SYOGOC CEO Goh Kee Nguan said: “The sport pictograms as graphic symbols of all the Singapore 2010 sports will provide instant recognition and connection to the YOG. The dynamic graphic style of the pictograms will serve to inspire youthfulness, adventure, openness and fun – virtues embodied in the ‘Spirit of Youth’ emblem.”⁶

One of the highlights of the YOG that set it apart from the Summer and Winter Olympic Games was the equal emphasis placed on the educational and cultural activities for the young participants and athletes. Key to this focus was the Culture and Education Programme (CEP), whose varied activities fell into seven formats: Chat with Champions, Discovery Activity, World Culture Village, Arts and Culture, Community Project, Exploration Journey, and Island Adventure. Seven pictograms for the CEP were unveiled in September 2009 on the island of Pulau Ubin, depicting the formats that Singapore 2010 would offer to the young athletes taking part in the Games.

In November 2009, the YOG mascots Lyo and Merly were launched to much fanfare. Sean Pang and Tung Chi Jun were announced as the winners in a contest to name these two mascots, who were to become some of the most prominent visual ambassadors of the Games. As mascots for Singapore 2010, Lyo, a lion cub, embodied the values of Excellence and Friendship, while Merly, a merlion, personified the values of Excellence and Respect. Through their acts and stories, they would promote the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect.

The names for the two mascots – which must appeal to the international community and youth while having a strong Singapore identity – were selected from 375 entries sent in by members of the public as part of a competition. Lyo is short for “Lion of the Youth Olympics”. His character is fun-loving and hopes to inspire young people to keep fit and enjoy sports for life. Merly’s name comes from “mer” (meaning the sea) and “l-y” which stands for liveliness and youthfulness. A passionate advocate of environment protection, she believes that everyone has a role to play in working towards a sustainable future.

► Singapore 2010 mascots Lyo (right) and Merly on a bus ride to meet the public in Singapore.



COUNTDOWN TO THE BIG DAY

With the unveiling of the symbols and mascots, excitement and anticipation for the YOG began to pick up pace in Singapore and around the world. This was evident at an event to mark the one-year-to-go date. A Countdown Clock was unveiled at the Padang by Singapore's Senior Minister and then Coordinating Minister for National Security, S Jayakumar, at the symbolic time of 2010 hours on 14 August 2009. The One Year Countdown event also celebrated the progress that Singapore had made towards getting ready to host the first YOG. More than 7,000 people – including athletes, volunteers, students and officials representing government agencies, sponsors and National Sports Associations – turned up for the celebration.

Excitement in Singapore rose to a new high in May 2010, when a "99-Day Celebration" event was held at *scape to mark the country's hosting of the YOG. It was attended by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong; Education Minister Ng Eng Hen; Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Vivian Balakrishnan; SYOGOC Chairman Ng Ser Miang; and IOC Coordination Commission for the first Summer YOG Chairman Sergey Bubka. The programme for the 99-Day Celebration included the unveiling of the venue-dressing designs and workforce uniforms for the Games, cultural and musical performances, sports activities and a keynote speech from Prime Minister Lee. The IOC's Coordination Commission had also concluded its fourth and final visit to Singapore that same day, and deemed the final preparations for YOG to be on track.

► Fireworks at the One Year Countdown celebration to the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games at the Padang, Singapore, on 14 August 2009.





Excitement at the One Year Countdown events



Enthusiastic crowds at the 99-Day Celebration event



CONNECTING THE YOUNG

The official YOG theme song lent a touch of glamour to the first-ever Games as it combined the musical talents of five up-and-coming singers from around the world. Premiered world-wide on 30 May 2010, "Everyone" featured Africa's Jody Williams, the Americas' Sean Kingston, Europe's Steve Appleton, Oceania's Jessica Mauboy and Asia's (and Singapore's) Tabitha Nauser. It was written and produced by veteran Singaporean record producer and composer Ken Lim. The singers are from each of the five continents, and Lim believes they are a source of inspiration for youths all over the world who are reaching out for their own dreams.

A global anthem for today's youth, the song reflects the spirit of the Games which brings together over 3,600 young athletes to Singapore for sporting

competition. The music video for the song features the five stars performing at Singapore's prominent landmarks such as The Float@Marina Bay, Marina Barrage, and the Singapore Flyer. The song features a catchy beat and uplifting lyrics. SYOGOC CEO Goh Kee Nguan believes that music and sport share similarities in being able to cut across cultures and geographies to unite youth everywhere. He said: "Everyone' is an inspiring anthem for the youth; it connects them and celebrates their hopes and dreams of success, of making their mark in the world – just like what the Young Olympians hope to do when they compete during the YOG."⁷

▲ The coming together of musical talents (from left) Jody Williams, Steve Appleton, Tabitha Nauser, Sean Kingston and Jessica Mauboy, representing Africa, Europe, Asia, the Americas and Oceania respectively, to sing the Singapore 2010 theme song, "Everyone".



JOURNEY OF THE YOUTH OLYMPIC FLAME

When Singapore swimmer Amanda Lim received the Youth Olympic torch at the ancient Temple of Hera in Greece, she created her own little slice of history. After all, as with any Olympic Games, the journey of the flame from its home at the birthplace of the Olympic Games in Ancient Olympia to the host nation is one filled with excitement, joy and celebration, and also enters into the history books as part of Olympic lore.

Having been lit through the traditional method of reflecting the sunlight with a mirror, the Youth Olympic Flame left Greece for Berlin in Germany. It travelled to Dakar in Senegal, Mexico City in Mexico, Auckland in New Zealand and Seoul in South Korea before arriving in host city Singapore on 5 August 2010. It received its official welcome at the National University of Singapore on 6 August 2010, graced by Singapore President S R Nathan. By then, it had covered one city in each of the five continents.

The Journey of the Youth Olympic Flame was a new concept proposed by Singapore and endorsed by the IOC. After the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games torch relay, the IOC decided that torch relays for future games should be held only in the territories of the host cities. But it made an exception for the YOG as it wanted to engage the world's youth for the inaugural event.

◀ The High Priestess carries the Youth Olympic Flame for the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games. The Flame was lit by reflecting sunlight using a parabolic mirror.

“What a fantastic experience. Loved it! Go YOG!”

– Tony Del Rosar, General Manager, Coca Cola

OLYMPIA



The Journey of the Youth Olympic Flame began with the Flame lighting ceremony in Ancient Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games. Swimmer **Amanda Lim** and hockey player **Silas Abdul Razak** represented Singapore as torchbearers during the ceremony.

BERLIN



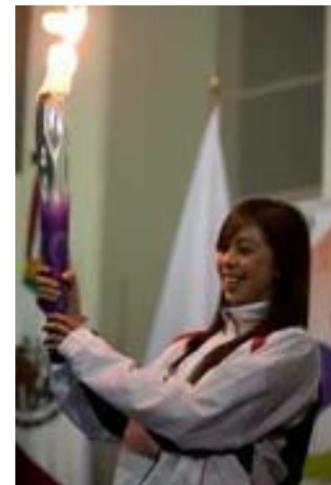
On 24 July 2010, the Youth Olympic Flame travelled to Berlin, Germany, representing the continent of Europe. The Flame visited Siemensstadt, a sports club built in 1984, travelled through the Haus del Kulturen de Welt - one of the leading European centres of contemporary art and culture - and to the Brandenburg Gate at Pariser Platz, where the City Celebration took place.

DAKAR



The Flame made its second stop on the Journey of the Youth Olympic Flame in Dakar, Senegal, representing the continent of Africa. The Flame visited historical sites such as Hotel De Ville and Palais de la Republique, as well as Goree Island, through the 'Door of No Return' at the Masion des Esclaves, where the City Celebration took place on 26 July 2010.

MEXICO CITY



The Flame then travelled to Mexico City in Mexico, representing the Americas. The Flame's journey included a visit to a community centre that caters to the less privileged youth in Iztapalapa, Ecoguarda Centre - a place dedicated to environment protection, and Hidalgo Garden in Coyoacán, a town popular with artists and musicians. To celebrate Mexico's 200 years of independence and 100 years of revolution, the Flame made a brief stop by the Angel of Independence. The City Celebration was held in the Zócalo, the city square in the heart of Mexico City's historic centre, on 29 July 2010.

AUCKLAND



The Flame's next stop was the continent of Oceania. It was greeted by the Powhiri, a traditional Maori ceremony, at the Manukau Civic Centre Gallery in Auckland, New Zealand. The Flame then visited the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club and the Pakuranga Athletics Club, culminating in the City Celebration at the TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre on 2 August 2010. Like other city celebration sites, a Singapore Showcase was put up to present a snapshot of Singaporean life and culture.

SEOUL



The last stop of the international Journey of the Youth Olympic Flame was Seoul, South Korea, representing Asia. The Flame went to iconic sites such as the Olympic Park and Jam-Sil Stadium, the main venue for the 1988 Olympic Games. It also visited Cheonggye Square, flanking Cheonggyecheon, a stream that runs through the heart of Seoul, before it headed towards the City Celebration site, Gwanghwamun Square, on 4 August 2010.



▲ School children welcoming the Youth Olympic Flame as the Flame passed through their neighbourhood in Singapore.

INFECTIOUS SPIRIT

After journeying to five cities around the world, the Youth Olympic Flame traversed Singapore over six days in August. Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said: "The key thing which I want to see is our own Singaporeans also getting infected by this same infectious spirit, that they understand there's something special about the Olympic Flame. That this is the first and possibly the only time in our lifetimes that the flame will be here."⁸

Singaporeans rose enthusiastically to the occasion. Heavy downpours and overcast skies could do nothing to extinguish the excitement and passion

surrounding the Flame's journey around Singapore. Crowds, which numbered as many as 5,000 at times, thronged the streets of the five community districts to catch a glimpse of the Flame. In total, 2,188 torchbearers carried the Youth Olympic Flame during the relay. The Flame's journey around Singapore culminated with the lighting of the cauldron at the Promontory@Marina Bay by Singapore Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew on 13 August 2010, one day before the official opening ceremony of the YOG at The Float@Marina Bay. He received the torch from the final torchbearer, IOC Vice President and SYOGOC Chairman Ng Ser Miang.

06.08.2010



The arrival of the Youth Olympic Flame in Singapore was celebrated with fanfare by a 3,000-strong crowd at the National University of Singapore. After a 15-day journey around the world, Singapore President S R Nathan lit the cauldron for the first time in Singapore under a shower of fireworks, marking the start of the Journey of the Youth Olympic Flame in the host city.

◀ A support runner bearing the Singapore 2010 flag on the tarmac of the Singapore Changi Airport as the Youth Olympic Flame arrived in Singapore on 5 August 2010.

07.08.2010



On the first torch relay day, the Flame journeyed through the northern part of Singapore's central district, passing through the MacRitchie Reservoir along the way. The day began with Singapore Minister for Education **Ng Eng Hen** lighting the torch at CHIJ Toa Payoh Secondary School. Singapore Prime Minister **Lee Hsien Loong** lit the community cauldron at Nanyang Polytechnic in the evening, kicking off Singapore's very first Journey of the Youth Olympic Flame community celebration.

08.08.2010



The second torch relay day took the Flame to the South East district, including East Coast Park where Singaporeans gather to play sports and relax by the beach. The torch was lit in St Andrew's Village by Senior Minister **S Jayakumar**. In the evening, Senior Minister **Goh Chok Tong** lit the cauldron at ITE College (East), where more than 2,000 celebrants attended the community celebration.

10.08.2010



"I was not one of the lucky 2,400 torchbearers, but I am proud to have been a chaperone! The torchbearers were so excited from the moment we picked them up, they were ... well most of them were in a daze. They couldn't believe they had been part of a historic event!"

- Madam Zaleha, teacher, Woodlands Ring Primary School



The Youth Olympic Flame continued its journey on 10 August 2010 after a day's break, through the North East district of Singapore. Greendale Secondary School hosted the morning torch-lighting ceremony officiated by Deputy Prime Minister **Teo Chee Hean**. One of the highlights of the day was a segment across Bedok Reservoir, where the Flame travelled across the water on a dragon boat. Minister for Foreign Affairs **George Yeo** concluded the day's relay when he lit the cauldron at Temasek Polytechnic, in front of a youthful crowd.

11.08.2010



The Journey of the Youth Olympic Flame passed through the Singapore Zoo on its north-western route on the fourth torch relay day. At Hwa Chong Institution, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports **Vivian Balakrishnan** lit the torch. Rounding off the day was Minister in the Prime Minister's Office **Lim Swee Say** at the community celebration in Republic Polytechnic.

12.08.2010



On the fifth torch relay day, the Youth Olympic Flame went to the South West district of Singapore, where at the Chinese Garden, nine South-east Asian delegates carried the torch to show their support for the Youth Olympic Games. The day's torch relay was launched by Minister for Finance **Tharman Shanmugaratnam** at SAFTI Military Institute, and it ended at Singapore Polytechnic, where the cauldron was lit by Minister in the Prime Minister's Office **Lim Boon Heng**.

13.08.2010



"It was an amazing experience! From the bus ride before alighting, fulfilling my 100m run and the lovely support from Singaporeans nation wide! Priceless indeed!"

- Torchbearer **Phyllis Ng**, Hwa Chong Institution



The final day of the Flame's journey saw it travelling through the southern part of Singapore's Central district. Minister for the Environment and Water Resources **Yaacob Ibrahim** launched the torch relay at Nanyang Girls' High in the morning. In the evening, Minister Mentor **Lee Kuan Yew** lit the community cauldron at the Promontory@Marina Bay against the backdrop of the city skyline, which also marked the opening of the Celebration@Marina Bay that ran from 13 to 26 August 2010.

PREPARING THE PLAYING FIELDS

The first-ever YOG featured 26 Summer Olympic sports contested in 18 competition venues around the island of Singapore. The venues were confirmed in April 2009 and included locations which featured the best that Singapore had to offer. These included the scenic East Coast Park, site of the triathlon competitions, and the bustling International Convention Centre which hosted six sports, including fencing and wrestling. Events took place at 11 pre-existing venues, one new venue, and six temporary venues. Twelve other venues were also set aside for training purposes. The venues were determined in consultation with the International Federations of the featured sports and approved by the IOC. They were selected from facilities owned by the Singapore Sports Council and other government agencies, as well as private sector owners.

The YOG differed from the Summer and Winter Olympic Games as one of the considerations was to keep overall costs of hosting the Games down as far as possible. Yet, to meet competition requirements, facilities had to be upgraded with the support of venue owners. The venues were tested for readiness through a series of validation exercises in the form of national, regional and international sports competitions held in the months leading up to the YOG. Examples were the first Asian Youth Games and the Asia-Oceania Youth Olympic Games Qualification Competition for modern pentathlon held at the Singapore Sports School in December 2009. Also, as part of the final validation exercises, over 700 athletes from more than 30 NOCs gathered in Singapore in May and June 2010 to compete in ten sports including archery, athletics, cycling, gymnastics and weightlifting.



▲ Athletes clearing a big jump at the Singapore 2010 junior men's BMX race held at Tampines Bike Park.

COLOURS OF SPORTS

The disciplines chosen for the first-ever YOG were picked for their appeal to the youth. In keeping with the vision of IOC President Jacques Rogge, who dreamed of encouraging young people to become more active in sports, the chosen YOG sports were also given modern updates and fun twists to make them more attractive to young athletes. For example, modern pentathlon was given an update with the use of laser pistols instead of air pistols. Besides being safer, the new pistols added a high-tech element which appealed to the young pentathletes from all over the world.

Another unique element of the YOG was the creation of the mixed NOC team events, which featured athletes from different countries competing on a continental basis. Sports with this format included equestrian-jumping, fencing, judo, modern pentathlon, and triathlon. They were firm favourites among athletes and fans.

► Triathletes leap jumping into the water at East Coast Park for the start of their swim leg in the Singapore 2010 triathlon relay race.



BEYOND SPORTS – CULTURE & EDUCATION

With its aim of being more than just about excellence in sports, one of the key features of the YOG was the CEP. The CEP aimed to encourage young people to take up sports as well as adopt and live by the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect. It gave young athletes the chance to interact with each other and make friends by taking part in a wide range of engaging educational activities outside of the sporting competition.

Athletes could choose to take part in over 50 activities organised according to five themes – Olympism, Skills Development, Well-being and Healthy Lifestyle, Social Responsibility and Expression. There were seven activity formats: Island Adventure, Chat with Champions, Discovery Activity, World Culture Village, Arts and Culture, Community Project, and Exploration Journey. In addition, a key focus of the CEP involved sharing with the youth about green activities and environmental issues.

Another CEP highlight was the Singapore 2010 Friendship Camp which took place in December 2009. Over five days, more than 400 participants from all over the world came together to learn and celebrate the Olympic values. They had a sneak peak of what the actual YOG would be like and got up-close and personal with well-known Olympians like Australia's swimming legend Michael Klim and Jamaica's sprint star Asafa Powell.

One of the most innovative aspects of the CEP's series of activities turned out to be an original idea devised by a handful of youths. It became a year-long movement known as CAN! (Create. Action. Now!). The idea, which was the brainchild of a team from four Singapore universities, aimed to spread fun, cheer and the Olympic spirit through four festivals. These took place once every quarter in various locations ranging from the Singapore Management University to the heartlands in Ang Mo Kio.



CAN! (short for Create. Action. Now!) Discover on 18 April 2009 saw the community, including embassies and international schools coming together to celebrate friendship across cultures. The Singapore 2010 CAN! Festivals was a series of themed quarterly festivals organised by youths and the community in celebration of the Youth Olympic Games.



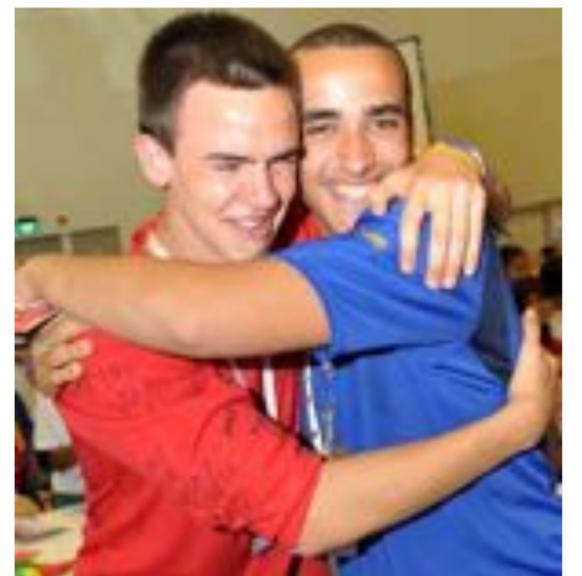
“I learned how to handle pressure. There’s lots of pressure in the finals. All the lights are on that one place and everything else is dark, I got to experience that. It was really great to communicate with everybody. I knew a huge part was going to be meeting new people and experiencing new cultures.”

- Alexandre Lyssov, Canada, Fencing



◀ Four CAN! Festivals ran from April 2009 to March 2010. Following CAN! Discover which focused on culture, CAN! Green, CAN! Click and CAN! Arts carried the theme of environment, technology and the arts respectively. Through the CAN! Festivals, youths and the community showed how they can get together to create action for the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games in their own ways.

▶ The five-day, four-night Singapore 2010 Friendship Camp saw more than 400 international athletes from 130 National Olympic Committees aged between 15 and 17 coming together at the Singapore Sports School. Part of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games programme, the Friendship Camp integrated sport, culture and education to promote the Olympic values among participants.





HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The Youth Olympic Village (YOV) was at the heart of the overall experience of the YOG for the almost 5,000 athletes and officials participating in the Games. Located amidst the lush greenery of the Nanyang Technological University campus, the Village provided athletes and officials with comfortable but not lavish accommodation and services. This was in line with the overall theme of the YOG. The Village was divided into two zones: the Residential Zone and the Village Square. The Residential Zone provided several training facilities for the athletes, and also offered amenities such as a dining hall, a digital media centre (including an Internet centre), a medical clinic and recreational facilities. The Village Square was at the heart of the YOY. It hosted the World Culture Village exhibition featuring the history and cultures of all the participating NOCs, musical performances, concerts, cultural and educational programmes, chats with champions, and various sport-related forums.

For convenience, retail shops were also available at the Village Square, with a bank that provided services such as currency exchange, a general store, a post office and a ticketing office. In short, the YOY was a lively yet relaxed home away from home for the athletes from diverse countries and cultures to learn to live with one another, respect and celebrate differences, and forge valuable friendships during their stay in Singapore.

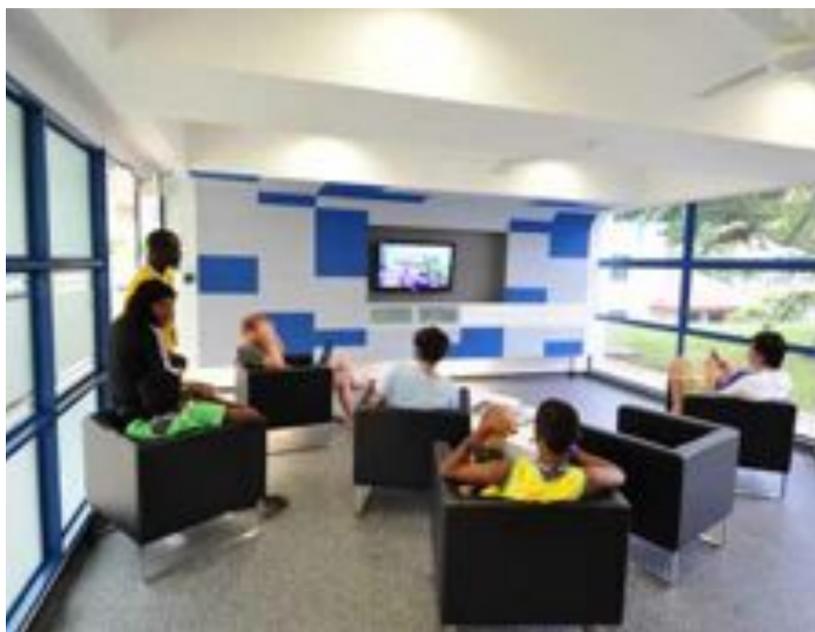
◀ The Youth Olympic Village offered Young Olympians a safe and comfortable place to rest and recharge. It offered training grounds, as well as Culture and Education Programme activities throughout the duration of the Games.



RESIDENTIAL ZONE



The Residential Zone within the Youth Olympic Village provided training facilities, dining halls, a digital media centre, a medical clinic, as well as recreational facilities.



VILLAGE SQUARE



The Village Square was a hive of activities – it hosted the World Culture Village featuring the history and cultures of all the participating National Olympic Committees, performances, concerts, workshops, and Chat with Champions sessions.



02 / BUILDING BONDS

GAMES TIME

The Youth Olympic Games (YOG) brings to the fore some of the world's biggest young stars, many of whom are expected to make an even bigger mark in the years to come. China's swimmer Tang Yi, Ukraine's shooter Serhiy Kulish, Russia's gymnast Viktoria Komova and Poland's shot putter Krzysztof Brzozowski are just some examples of the athletes who have made a big impression at the YOG. Athletes in team sports from countries like Australia (boys' hockey), Cuba (boys' volleyball), Serbia (boys' 3-on-3 basketball), Denmark (girls' handball) and Chile (girls' football) have made their mark too. Yet the story of the Games lies elsewhere as well. It is in the eyes of the football boys from Haiti for whom the YOG represents a "window of hope", a chance to show that life has not stopped despite their country's many problems, made worse by a 7-magnitude earthquake which killed an estimated 300,000 people in January 2010. The story belongs to Pakistan's hockey vice-captain Mohammad Umair and his team mates as well. For them, the YOG marks a chance to put up a performance which will, hopefully, offer an antidote of sorts for a grieving nation hit by its worst natural disaster, with raging floodwaters washing away homes, crops and livestock.

► Haiti footballers celebrate their second goal in the Singapore versus Haiti boys' semi-final football match at Jalan Besar Stadium on 22 August 2010.





COMING TOGETHER

One has just won the boys' 400m race at Bishan Stadium. The other has finished fourth and just missed out on a medal. Yet it is at this very moment that winner Santos Luguelin of the Dominican Republic shows the true spirit of sportsmanship. Noting that Sudan's Elnour Sadam is injured and needs medical attention, he puts on hold his victory celebrations and extends a helping hand.

Over at the Bishan Sports Hall, gymnastics coach Manuel Morales has his arm around the broad shoulders of his young charge, Cuba's Ernesto Vila Sarria, as they, united in hope, wait anxiously for the results of the boys' floor exercise. In the end, there is spontaneous joy as they savour the fact that Ernesto, who has qualified for the eight-boy final only in seventh place, has defied the odds to win gold – and create history as Cuba's first Olympic medallist in gymnastics.

At the Singapore Indoor Stadium, paddlers Gu Yuting of China and Tunisia's Adem Hmam are a fascinating sight as they, bonded by a common will to win despite their linguistic differences, "speak" the universal language of sport. Over at the Kallang Tennis Centre, Russia's Daria Gavrilova and Hungary's Tímea Babos, joined by volunteers, transform centre court into a dance floor for youthful exuberance.

In different ways, these scenes – played out over 12 days and across 26 sports held at 18 venues – pay tribute to the spirit of the first-ever Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Singapore from 14 to 26 August 2010. They show that the YOG is about, as Great Britain's tennis player Oliver Golding puts it aptly, "people coming together". It's about creating "a platform for bringing the values of excellence, friendship and respect to young people", in the words of Singapore's Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Vivian Balakrishnan.

"It's about creating a platform for bringing the values of excellence, friendship and respect to young people."

– Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Vivian Balakrishnan

◀ Athletes from the different National Olympic Committees celebrating at the Singapore 2010 Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

ROUSING OPENING

This message received a dramatic rendering at the rousing Opening Ceremony dedicated to the more than 3,600 athletes from all corners of the world. With the city's skyline at Marina Bay as a backdrop, the two-hour show featuring more than 5,000 performers reflected Singapore's rich history and celebrated the cultural diversity of the participating countries.

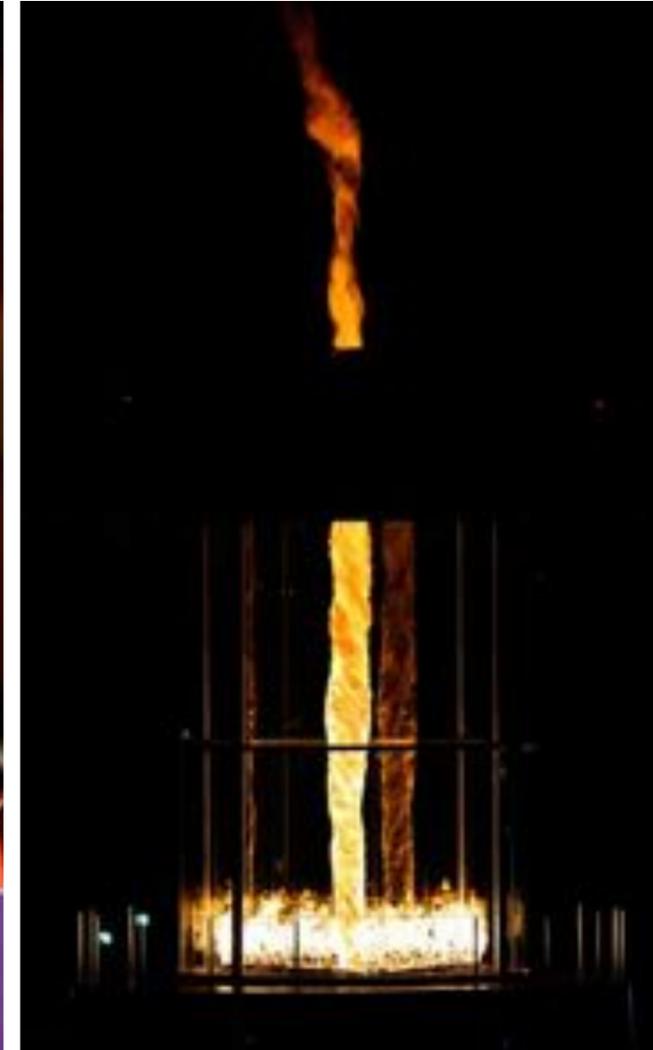
This was an Opening Ceremony for the young athletes. High-tech and youth-centric, it included 54 teen-oriented multimedia videos and athletes making their entrance from both sides of the stage as spectators clapped and cheered. The highlights were breathtaking: fireworks lit the sky, a menacing monster representing our inner fears and struggles cast its spell, Singapore's sailor Darren Choy lighted the cauldron with the Youth Olympic Flame, Olympic swimming legend Michael Phelps told the young athletes via a video address to "do your best but, above all, have fun".

Appropriately, it was left to President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Jacques Rogge, to paint the big picture. He told the athletes at the Opening Ceremony: "This evening marks your entry into the Olympic world. Over the next 12 days, you will compete with the world's best athletes of your generation. You will test the limits of your abilities and push past them. Many of you will compete at future Olympic Games. All of you will benefit from these Youth Games."¹

Yet the YOG was clearly more than just about medals and records. He added: "Your experiences here will help you prepare for life beyond the field of play. You will share the wonderful atmosphere of the Olympic Village. You will gain a deeper appreciation of Olympic values. You will acquire knowledge and life skills through our culture and education programme."

► Singapore's sailor **Darren Choy**, the last torchbearer running to the cauldron.





Opened by Singapore President S R Nathan, the Singapore 2010 Opening Ceremony was high-tech and youth-centric, and it involved the participation of about 5,000 youths, mostly from Singapore schools, who performed for a global audience.





SIZZLING PERFORMANCES

“At the starting line everyone wished each other good luck, it was like one big family.”

– Ayodele Taffe from Trinidad, Athletics

This bold call to go beyond sports did not in any way dilute the quality of the sporting competition at the YOG, judging by the sizzling performances of the athletes. Indeed, the Games have brought to the fore some of the world’s biggest young stars, many of whom are expected to make an even bigger mark in the years to come. China’s swimmer Tang Yi, Ukraine’s shooter Serhiy Kulish, Russia’s gymnast Viktoria Komova and Poland’s shot

putter Krzysztof Brzozowski were but just some examples of the many talents who made a big impression. Others included Australia’s Jessica Fox in canoeing, South Korea’s Kwak Ye Ji in archery, Japan’s Yuya Kamoto in gymnastics, Bolivia’s Jorge Sabja in football, Ethiopia’s Mohammed Geleto in middle distance running, Colombia’s Juan Sebastian Gomez in tennis and Jamaica’s Odane Skeen in sprinting.

▼ Singapore 2010 brought to the fore some of the world’s biggest young stars, including (below, clockwise from top left) Colombian tennis player **Juan Sebastian Gomez**, Japanese gymnast **Yuya Kamoto**, Jamaican sprinter **Odane Skeen**, Australian canoeist **Jessica Fox**, and Chinese swimmer **Tang Yi** (facing page, bottom left).



ADDED SIGNIFICANCE

For some athletes, their success took on added significance. Japan's Yuka Sato, for instance, made history as the YOG's first gold medallist when she clinched the girls' triathlon title – taking her place alongside USA's triple jumper James Conolly who won the modern Summer Olympics' first gold in Athens in 1896. The larger significance of her feat may have eluded young Sato but she sure knew what it meant personally. "This Youth Olympic gold medal means a lot. I know there will be some hard times in my career as an athlete, and I will cope by remembering my achievement here," she said.²

Taekwondo exponent Dana Touran, who won a silver, found instant fame, complete with congratulatory messages from members of the Jordanian royal family. This was no surprise as she had become Jordan's first medallist at any Olympic Games. Singapore's swimmer Rainer Ng, who won a silver in the boys' 50m back, also enjoyed a slice of history as his country's first ever Olympic medallist in the pool. His feat, which was front page news in the local media, vindicated his decision to suspend his studies for a year to focus on training for the YOG. Also doing the host nation proud were paddler Isabelle Li, who clinched silver in the girls' singles event, and the boys' football team who overcame odds to win a much-coveted bronze. Their inspiring performances generated much buzz among Singaporeans and increased public interest in the YOG.

► The inspiring performances of (from left) Japanese triathlete Yuka Sato, Jordanian taekwondo exponent Dana Touran, Singaporean swimmer Rainer Ng, and Singaporean paddler Isabelle Li made a big impression.





SHEER COLOUR & DRAMA



Top performances and historic feats aside, the YOG was also soaked in sheer colour and drama, complete with an upset or two. For example, Lithuanian rower Rolandas Mascinskas created a stir by defeating Germany's two-time world junior champion Felix Bach to win the junior men's single sculls gold. China's fencer Lin Sheng clinched a hard-fought upset win over top seed Alberta Santuccio of Italy to win the cadet female individual epee gold. Italy's track and field athlete Anna Clemente clinched gold in the girls' 5,000m walk after favourite Alina Galchenko of Ukraine collapsed due to exhaustion when victory was in sight, just 200m from the finish line. And Thailand shocked traditional powerhouses such as China and South Korea to sweep both the boys' and girls' badminton titles, courtesy of Pisit Poodchalat and Sapsiree Taerattanachai.

"The competition has opened a way for the future. Through this competition, I have seen my weaknesses and what I need to improve. I will work harder to show the people of Gabon that I am doing my best, and make them proud."

- Gabon athlete [Jessica Oyane Tome Mbouissou](#)



◀ The first-ever Youth Olympic Games was not without drama; lead walker **Alina Galchenko** of Ukraine collapsed just 200m from the finish line in the girls' 5,000m walk, and Thai shuttler **Pisit Poodchalat** took the boys' singles badminton title from traditional powerhouses such as China and South Korea.



▲ Singapore players celebrate at the end of the boys' football bronze medal match between Montenegro and Singapore at Jalan Besar Stadium on 25 August 2010.

WINNER VS CHAMPION

“To be a champion, you have to inspire admiration for your character, as well as for your physical talent.”

– IOC President Jacques Rogge

Yet, for these athletes and the many winners at the YOG, there must be a “distinction between winning and being a champion”, as IOC President Jacques Rogge pointed out. “To win, you merely have to cross the finish line first. To be a champion, you have to inspire admiration for your character, as well as for your physical talent. You have to compete in spirit of fair play, respecting your opponents and the rules – without doping or any other unfair advantage,” he said. “If you can reach that pinnacle, if you are ready to serve as role models for your generation, you will all be champions, irrespective of your rankings,” he added.³

Which was why some of the best stories at the YOG did not involve just winners. For the football boys from Haiti, the YOG represented a “window of hope”, a chance to show that life had not stopped despite their country’s many problems, made worse by a 7–magnitude earthquake which killed an estimated 300,000 people in January 2010. For Pakistan’s hockey team, the YOG marked a chance to put up a performance which would, hopefully, offer an antidote of sorts for a grieving nation hit by its worst natural disaster, with raging floodwaters washing away homes, crops and livestock. By being part of the YOG, archery’s Yasaman Shirian of Tehran was presenting a new breed of female athletes from Iran competing in international meets.



Young athletes at the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games showed physical talent, determination and sportsmanship through the different disciplines on various competition grounds.



PERSONAL TOUCH

“It’s unreal, I’m the best at what I do in the world for my age and there’s nothing better than being the best. It’s a magnificent feeling. I can be a role model... and show the way. Out of nothing I’ve become something. From the wrong side of the tracks, I’m the champion. I want to pass on my message.”

– Australian boxer **Damien Hooper**

Other stories had a more personal tone but were no less inspiring. For Singapore’s shuttler Huang Chao, his journey to the YOG began way back in 2004 when he left Hubei, China, to train in Singapore – a move which meant not seeing his father and former coach Huang Kai for six years. The YOG was extra special as his dad made the trip from China to watch him play. There was much poignance as the elder Huang watched his son beat three players before bowing out in the quarter finals.

For equestrian’s Yara Hanssen of Zimbabwe, the chance to be part of the YOG was itself a miracle. In early 2010, she had a bad fall from her horse during cross country training that left her suffering from amnesia and forced her to spend almost two weeks in hospital. But she recovered in time for the YOG. Yanet Gebremedhin, who comes from Ethiopia, a country famous for its long distance runners but new to swimming, may have finished last in the girls’ 50m backstroke heat. But no one could take away from her the fact that she not only clocked a personal best time of 38.96 seconds but also dipped under the 40-second mark for the first time. As she put it simply but aptly: “To others it (my time) is bad, but to me it is good.”¹⁴

◀ While there can only be one winner in every competition, young athletes gave their all to push the envelope and clock their personal bests.

BEYOND SPORTS

Such “beyond sports” experiences were the perfect starting point for the other major feature of the YOG – its Culture and Education Programme (CEP). The status and visibility of the CEP as an integral part of the YOG was established early when Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (SYOGOC) Chairman Ng Ser Miang said at the Opening Ceremony: “The Young Olympians will compete against each other in sports and they will also come together to take part in the CEP as friends and partners. The IOC has envisaged the CEP as a defining element of the Youth Olympic Games, differentiating it from other Games.”⁵

Giving a broad insight into what the programme entailed, he added: “Through the programme, the Young Olympians will take part in activities and discussions on global and social issues as well as learn how they can make a positive impact in their community. Most importantly, we hope that they will build strong and abiding bonds of friendship, and learn that the power of sports and the ideals of the Olympic values can help us build a more united and peaceful world.”

▼ Athletes making friends and enjoying the Culture and Education Programme activities offered in the Island Adventure and Exploration Journey (facing page).





Outdoor fun in the sun: Island Adventure enabled Young Olympians to embrace and express the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect as they work with fellow athletes from other National Olympic Committees to overcome physical challenges such as the Inverse Tower, paddling and raft building.

INNOVATION AND DIVERSITY

“Some will become role models and have a chance to impact on their community...”

– Patrick Stalder, International Olympic Head of Creative Services, Culture and Education

Comprising over 50 fun and interactive activities along the five educational themes of Olympism, Skills Development, Well-Being and Healthy Lifestyle, Social Responsibility and Expression, the CEP was a hit with the young athletes. They responded well to the innovation and diversity of the seven formats: Discovery Activity, Chat with Champions, World Culture Village, Community Project, Arts and Culture, Island Adventure, and Exploration Journey. Aimed at engaging and inspiring athletes to be true Olympians, to adapt and live by the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect, and to play active roles within their communities, the CEP enabled them to go beyond sporting competition to study environmental issues and water conservation as well as learn from mentors about subjects such as nutrition and health, networking and career planning.

Mr Patrick Stalder, the IOC official in charge of the programme, said: “It is widening their horizon on social responsibility. Some will become role models and have a chance to impact on their community – and share the Olympic spirit.” Noting the diversity of activities, he said: “Each athlete picks up what’s useful to him or her. We don’t intend that everyone comes out with the same understanding of everything on offer; that’s not realistic. This programme offers a set of opportunities and then it’s up to the athletes to choose what will enrich their lives.”⁶

▼ The Culture and Education Programme enabled athletes to go beyond sporting competition to have a better appreciation for arts and culture, as well as learn from mentors about subjects such as nutrition and health.





Topics covered by the various Culture and Education Programme activities were wide-ranging, including environmental awareness, water conservation, as well as the use of computer skills and new media.



LESSONS FROM THE STARS

Many aspects of the CEP appealed to the young. The 'Chat with Champions' sessions, for instance, were a hit. Russian swimmer Alexander Popov and Ukrainian pole vaulter Sergey Bubka shared about how young athletes must cultivate strong discipline and confidence in themselves to win future Olympic medals. "You only have one opportunity and you must use it," said Popov, a four-time Olympian with nine medals. Bubka, a three-time Olympian who took the gold medal in Seoul in 1988, said the most enjoyable time was on the podium, "when the anthem is playing for your country and you feel proud." He told the young athletes: "This is a great moment to enjoy because to be there you have to work really hard."⁷

New Zealand's boardsailer Barbara Kendall and Denmark's runner Wilson Kipketer advised the young athletes to cultivate patience over the long haul and develop the mental and physical concentration that would make them winners. "When you lose, it's very hard. You get really down and think 'I'm a loser', but you have to learn to lose so that you can learn to win," said Kendall. Kipketer, a double Olympian with two medals, noted: "If you lose, accept it. Don't blame. Stay patient and think about the long term. What you do today means tomorrow is going to be better, and the next day it is going to get better again."⁸

SPORTS, CAREERS, FUN

Other top athletes also shared valuable insights. Germany's Lenka Wech, a doctor and three-time Olympic rower who was placed fourth with partner Maren Derlien for the women's coxless pair at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, talked about work-life balance, the need to have interests beyond sports and the importance of fun. "Choose what is important, develop your life beyond your sport, don't give up and have fun," she said, adding: "Don't ever lose the fun from what you are doing. Once you lose the fun from anything, it's gone." Her sharing went down well with the athletes. "Listening to her makes it clear that training and living your life is no walk in the park," said Sri Lankan swimmer Heshan Unamboowe.⁹

Some young athletes who took part in a Game Plan activity were given invaluable advice about how to develop careers beyond competitive sport. Three-time Olympic fencer Claudia Bokel of Germany shared about the harsh reality facing some top athletes. "I knew that I could never earn a lot of money from fencing, even if I was world champion. I wanted to do my sport but I could not live from this," she said. Yet in her case, she managed to become a successful athlete while forging a career as a consultant for a pharmaceutical company.¹⁰

INSPIRING TALES

There were other inspiring tales from the great champions. Moroccan track and field athlete Hicham El Guerrouj shared about how he failed to be Olympic champion first in Atlanta 1996 and then in Sydney 2000 before fulfilling his life-long dream with gold in the men's 5,000m middle distance event in Athens 2004. Namibia's track and field athlete Frankie Fredericks shared about how he, as a young boy growing up in a poor neighbourhood, often had to choose between joining kids nearby in undesirable activities or walking 5km to the stadium to train. He chose the latter and went on to become a four-time Olympic silver medallist in the 100m and 200m sprint events. He also received a good education because of the scholarships that came with his success in sports.

▲ In Chat with Champions, Athlete Role Models Alexander Popov, Sergey Bubka, Wilson Kipketer, Barbara Kendall, Frankie Fredericks, Rania Elwani, Frédéric Magné, Angela Ruggiero, Charmaine Crooks, and Youth Olympic Games Ambassador Yelena Isinbayeva shared their experiences with eager Young Olympians.

"When you drop out of school you have two options. Neither of them are good. You get into drugs or you go to jail. Ben found another way through sports."

– Zambia team manager Yonah Mwale on Ben Muyizo, who dropped out of school and could have ended up on the streets had he not taken up boxing

PRACTICAL BENT

“I only learned later that it was not enough to drink just water, without the essential supplements such as magnesium.”

– Denmark’s badminton star Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen recalled how he could never figure out why he developed leg cramps in a 1989 world championships match

The activities organised for the athletes were not just inspirational but also had a practical bent. For instance, some took part in the ‘Race to the Start Line’ activity at the Youth Olympic Village to learn how to prepare properly for competing abroad. Athletes from different National Olympic Committees (NOCs) formed teams to address challenges at five stations – acclimatisation, diet, hydration, infectious diseases and travel. For athletes like Burundi’s Zabulon Ndikumana and Serbia’s Boris Martinovic, the simulation exercises were useful in offering them concrete tips such as drinking water during a flight, avoiding food which may trigger allergies when overseas and watching out for vaccinations which cause reactions such as fever and rash.

Often, the insights shared came with refreshing anecdotes and concrete tips. For instance, while sharing about hydration, Denmark’s badminton star Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen recalled how he could never figure out why he developed leg cramps in a 1989 world championships match in Indonesia despite drinking large quantities of water to stay hydrated. “It was a three-set match and I drank 1.5 litres of water before the match and another 2.5 litres during the match, but I still got cramps in both legs. I only learned later that it was not enough to drink just water, without the essential supplements such as magnesium,” said Larsen, adding that losing just five percent of fluids from one’s body can result in a 15 percent decrease in performance.¹¹

Also a hit with the young athletes was ‘Athletopoly’ which involved athletes playing a life-sized version of a board game in which they were the markers moving along the board to answer questions on prioritising and balancing studies and sports. Explaining the game, workshop facilitator Kris Ye said: “We never tell the athletes whether their decisions made during the game are right or wrong. We just encourage them to make the ones that benefit them. Some come from countries where sport is more valued than education or vice versa, so we just want to help them find a good balance between both.”¹²



▲ Serbia’s Boris Martinovic (top left) and Burundi’s Zabulon Ndikumana (bottom left) found Discovery Activities such as Race to the Start Line useful in offering them tips on topics such as hydration.



WIDER COMMUNITY

The CEP was not just about the YOG athletes. The wider community also benefited. For example, two-time Olympic fencing gold medallist Pal Schmitt, who took office as Hungary's President in 2010, visited Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School as part of the Friends@YOG NOC-School twinning programme. Mixing well with the students, he shared how many other athletes in Hungary had also gone into politics, and viewed an exhibition on Hungarians who had made a name for themselves in the Olympics.

In fact, the entire CEP helped not only the YOG athletes but also the volunteers and school children. Programme organisers tested ways to webcast events from the Youth Olympic Village, such as the Chat with Champions sessions, to spread the educational experience beyond the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games (Singapore 2010). In short, the idea was to keep the various programmes going to create a "distance learning" experience for young people around the world. In a sign of the CEP's appeal, the host of the next Summer YOG - Nanjing, China - has indicated that it will be expanded.

◀ Athlete Role Models also took part in Culture and Education Programme activities, much to the delight of the young athletes.



CO-CONSTRUCT, CO-CREATE

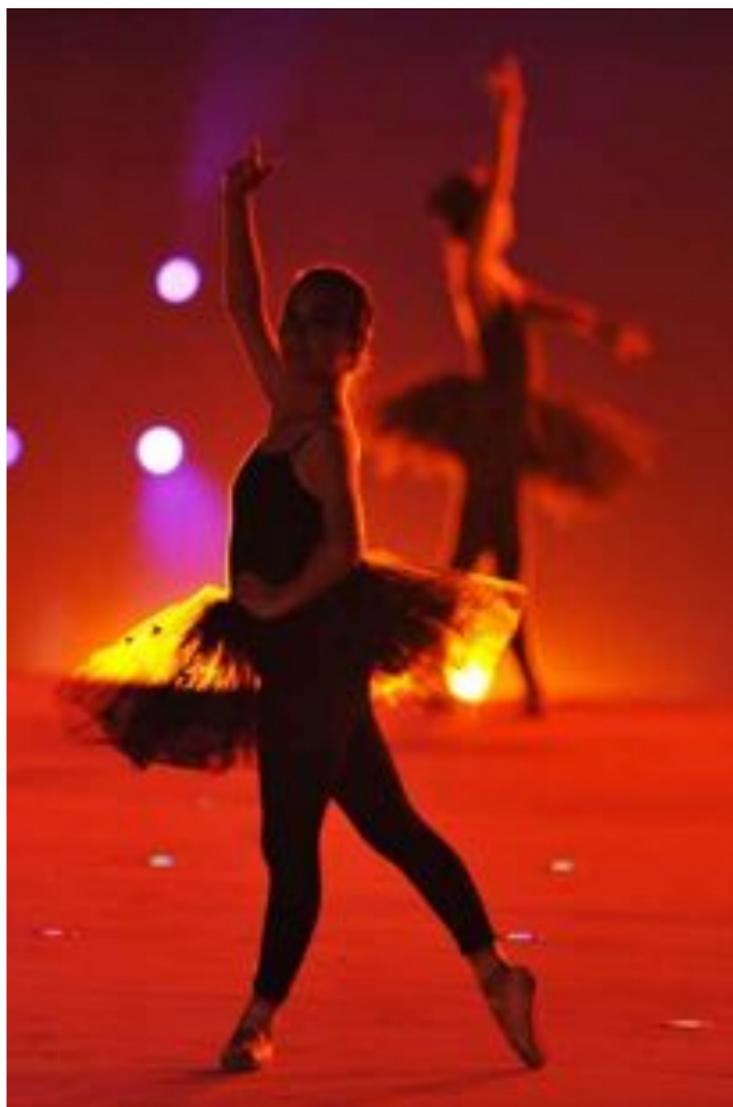
After 14 days of thrilling, non-stop action both on and off the fields of play, Singapore 2010 came to a close on 26 August 2010. Speaking to the Young Olympians at the Closing Ceremony, SYOGOC Chairman Ng Ser Miang said: "You have wowed us and inspired us and we have cheered our hearts out for you. The integration of sports with culture and education and the buzz of these Games have been magical."¹³

Noting that the journey for the last two-and-a-half years had been "exhilarating and fulfilling", he gave credit to friends and colleagues at the IOC, the NOCs and the International Federations (IFs) for working hand in hand with Singapore to "co-construct and co-create" these Games. He also paid tribute to the team at SYOGOC and the media of the world who "worked tirelessly to convey truthfully and beautifully" the spirit of the YOG with their many touching human stories about the triumphs and struggles of the Young Olympians.

The efforts of the 20,000 volunteers were also recognised. On behalf of all the athletes, Singapore's swimmer Rainer Ng paid them a tribute in a speech, saying: "We share your belief that together we can make the world a better place for everyone. Through your selfless dedication, in blazing the trail, you have created a legacy of peace and friendship, and a firm foundation for future generations of athletes." In addition, bouquets of flowers were presented to eight representative volunteers as they enjoyed a well-deserved standing ovation from the crowd.

◀ The Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games is a result of the hard work of athletes, officials, volunteers, partners, sponsors, and members of the Singapore community.





Rousing performances at the Closing Ceremony of the first-ever Youth Olympic Games.



Athletes and audience having a good time as the Singapore 2010 celebrations come to an end at the Closing Ceremony.

“Congratulations and thank you, Singapore, for a job superbly done. You rose brilliantly to the challenge of combining elite sport, modern education and culture. Throughout these 12 days, we all enjoyed the warm hospitality of the public authorities, of the very successful Organising Committee and of the 20,000 wonderful volunteers. These Games will leave a great human legacy in Singapore and around the world. These Games were full of innovation, creativity, joy and a sharing of Olympic values. These were truly inspirational games.”

– IOC President Jacques Rogge

► Fireworks over The Float@Marina Bay on 26 August 2010 as the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games closes.





BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES

For those present, the Closing Ceremony brought back beautiful and touching memories of two very special weeks. There was school boy Low Wei Jie's feat of running 15km in the rain along the Youth Olympic Flame torch route which generated much buzz about the Games even before it started. There was also the image of a girl from South Korea and another from North Korea exploring the Youth Olympic Village together, a poignant demonstration of sport's enduring power to transcend barriers. Memorable too was the story of eager Liberian swimmers who trained only in rivers and only had their first experience of swimming in a pool during the Games. The focus was often on the athletes as they were the performers and took centre stage. But others like the volunteers and fans also had their moments. For example, at the Singapore Indoor Stadium for the badminton events, Thai supporters – armed with an electric banjo, a portable drum set and a giant flag – made their mark as they cheered for their young shuttlers.

◀ Schoolboy **Low Wei Jie** was one of the torchbearers on the final day of the torch relay in Singapore. He moved the hearts of many Singaporeans when he made a two-and-a-half hour, 15km long pursuit of the Youth Olympic Flame on the second torch relay day.

“People thought I was a real torchbearer. They (SYOGOC) saw my determination to chase the flame and invited me to be one of them.”

– Twelve-year-old **Low Wei Jie** on how he won a place as a torchbearer by following the torch relay for 15km



THE END, THE BEGINNING

As the flugelhorn softly serenaded the extinguishing of the Youth Olympic Flame under a cover of dim velvet lights, everyone present at the Closing Ceremony knew that the first YOG had come to an end. Yet, when the performing duet sang "We're On Our Way", it was clear the end was but just another beginning as the honour and responsibility of hosting the next YOG was entrusted to China. IOC President Jacques Rogge handed the symbolic Olympic Flag (with the words "Singapore 2010" embroidered on the bottom right corner in recognition of the Republic's role as the first host) to Mr Ji Jianye, mayor of Nanjing, the 2014 host city. It was then passed to Chinese young shooter Gao Tingjie and raised as the Chinese national anthem filled The Float@Marina Bay. Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Ministry of Transport, Teo Ser Luck and paddler Isabelle Li represented Singapore during the handover protocol. The passing over of flag was followed by the screening of a 90-second video clip featuring Nanjing, a city located along the Yangtze River.

► Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Ministry of Transport, **Teo Ser Luck** (second from right), and paddler **Isabelle Li** (extreme right) represented Singapore during the Olympic Flag handover to Nanjing mayor **Ji Jianye** at the Closing Ceremony.





EXCEEDING HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS

Singapore would be a hard act to follow. In his assessment, IOC President Jacques Rogge said the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games had vastly exceeded his highest expectations. "Hats off to Singapore for what they've done. I now have 22 Olympic Games under my belt and the YOG is ranked at the very top," he said.¹⁴

Special praise was given to the Culture and Education Programme which complemented the various sports competitions. The efforts to reach out to the young through New Media were also highlighted. Indeed, the YOG made its presence felt on YouTube and social networking sites. Media coverage too was encouraging. For instance, 45,000 articles were written by more than 1,700 journalists; the YOG was broadcast in 160 territories; an estimated six million viewers watched online videos of the YOG; and four million people visited the Games' Facebook page.

◀ International Olympic Committee President **Jacques Rogge** addressing spectators at the Closing Ceremony.

"Hats off to Singapore for what they've done. I now have 22 Olympic Games under my belt and the YOG is ranked at the very top."

- IOC President Jacques Rogge



WE HAVE DELIVERED

There was a strong sense that things went smoothly and this was expected from a country like Singapore. Yet, the complexity, scale and scope of delivering the YOG cannot be underestimated. The organisers faced many challenges which they overcame with the contributions and participation from many groups of people – including other government agencies, sponsors and volunteers.

Citing the example of the “whole of government” approach, SYOGOC Deputy CEO Francis Chong noted the level of commitment from the various partners. He explained: “Partnership meant that our partners did not just give to our Games what they could spare from their priorities, but they made the Games their Games as well and so made it their priority too. The partners brought resources

(people, funds, time, ideas, networks and expertise) that vastly exceeded what was available through SYOGOC alone.”

The scale of the YOG, the limited time of just over two-and-a-half years, the introduction of new elements, including the IOC’s concept of a YOG which would differentiate it from the Olympic Games, often meant the project could be delivered only with co-construction with various parties. SYOGOC thus co-organised the Games with the IOC, NOCs, IFs, National Sports Associations and Singapore Sports Council. It also enjoyed strong partnership from the Ministry of Education, schools, and institutes of higher learning as well as youth and community organisations. All played a role to provide and enrich the contents for the various programmes.

For an undertaking of such scale and complexity, the Games of course had its share of glitches. Yet there was overall smoothness observed throughout in areas like delegation registration, accreditation, transport, hospitality services, and arrival and departure. This was not a given. It was the result of new and streamlined processes and procedures the organisers worked out jointly with the IOC and various parties. Yes, a lot of team work involving diverse groups was at play. So while the athletes may be the most visible, there was a strong sense that many others – organisers, officials, volunteers, fans – too, had vital roles to play to ensure that Singapore and the world delivered the first-ever YOG successfully.

▲ Hearts ablaze among the spectators during the Singapore 2010 Closing Ceremony.



03/BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

AFTER THE GAMES



When it's back to life as we each know it in the different corners of the world, what will we – and in particular the young athletes and volunteers from the many different National Olympic Committees – make of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG)? Sure, the thrills and spills of 12 days of sporting action will be revisited for years to come. Chile's 3-2 semi-final win over Turkey in girls' football; Denmark's dramatic last minute 28-26 victory over Russia in the girls' handball final – these are some moments that will be talked about among athletes, coaches and spectators. Yet the YOG's legacy goes way beyond the sporting arena. Lessons about work-life balance and the need to plan for a career beyond sports will be remembered in part because they have been shared by great Olympians during the YOG. For the young footballers from Vanuatu, maybe it's the memories of Singapore – a city vastly different from their tiny South Pacific chain of islands – which will remain most vivid, including the experience of taking escalators in the shopping malls for the first time. Most of all, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, members of the media and spectators will experience anew the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect in the sporting arena as well as in other aspects of life.

◀ Jamaican runner **Shericka Jackson** (left) and Ecuadorian swimmer **Diana Chang** (second from left) cooperate to compete against two Singaporean athletes in a 3-6-3 game at Discovery Activity at the Youth Olympic Village.



YEARS FROM NOW

“Years from now, when you reflect on your sports career, you will be able to say ‘I was in Singapore, where it all began’. You will keep this Singapore Spirit alive in your countries as true role models.”¹ These were the words from International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge to the world’s first Young Olympians at the close of the historic Youth Olympic Games (YOG) held from 14 to 26 August 2010. Some 3,600 young athletes between 14 and 18 years old had gathered in the Republic for the 12-day inaugural event which wrote a new chapter in the history of the Olympic Games. The initiative by the IOC, led by Mr Rogge, while not abandoning the traditional focus on sporting excellence (Citius, Altius, Fortius), also gave equal emphasis to the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect.

The culture and education component of the YOG provided opportunities for the athletes to learn about the host country and each other’s culture to achieve better understanding and lasting friendships. It highlighted the value of appreciating different cultures and societies and of building and sustaining friendships which could flourish across borders. The concept of a combination of sports, culture and education succeeded. Its success and impact can be seen from Mr Rogge’s statement that the IOC would definitely consider introducing elements of the CEP into the Olympic Games.

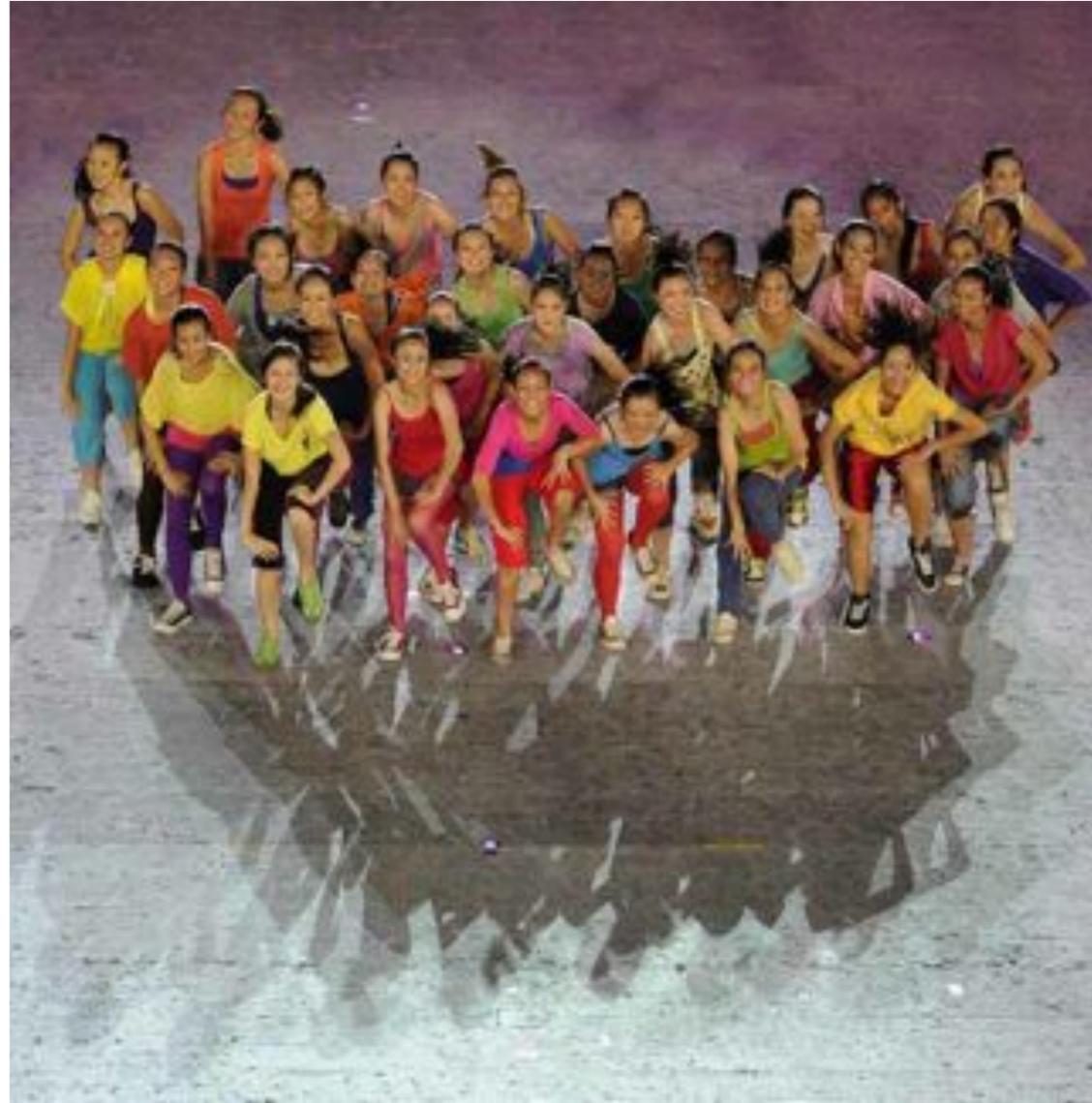
◀ An exuberant Greek athlete enters at the Opening Ceremony of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games.

EXCELLENCE AT ALL LEVELS

The notion of “Excellence” permeated all levels of the YOG – from the organisation of the games to the exemplary attitudes and conduct of the athletes; from the heart-warming participation of the volunteers to the generosity and goodwill so whole-heartedly given by the community. Overseas volunteers, from students to retirees, paid their own way to come to Singapore. Some had to raise funds to do so. Singapore families came forward to provide complimentary accommodation for some of the overseas volunteers. International communities in Singapore played hosts to athletes. Singaporeans from school children to senior citizens came out in full support to cheer and encourage, with an outpouring of goodwill and respect that showed Singapore was one with the YOG.

The YOG testifies to the heights that can be scaled through excellence and commitment, friendship and teamwork, and respect and integrity. It has left an indelible mark on the history of the Olympic Games, and a lasting legacy to the youth of the world. This is a legacy marked by a determination to achieve excellence, a resolve to forge lasting friendships, a focus on respect even in the midst of stiff competition, and a huge dose of the Singapore Spirit. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has defined this spirit in terms of four attributes: determination, trust, competence and confidence. It is based on shared values like multi-racialism, meritocracy, and respect for every talent; shared loyalty and commitment to Singapore; shared responsibility for each other and pride in what we have done together; shared memories as well as dreams and aspirations. It is the competence, quiet pride and discipline that make sure that things go right, like when Singapore hosted the YOG.

► Like the athletes, performers, volunteers and Singaporeans participated whole-heartedly in the first-ever Youth Olympic Games. The Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee, the International Olympic Committee and Singapore leaders pledged to deliver a meaningful and memorable Games at the 99-Day Celebration.





EXHILARATING AND FULFILLING JOURNEY

To Chairman of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (SYOGOC), Ng Ser Miang, the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games (Singapore 2010) was an exhilarating and fulfilling journey that lasted two-and-a-half years. It was a journey that started when Prime Minister Lee gave the nod for Singapore to bid for the YOG. "The world would not have come to Singapore if you had not said 'Yes, let us bid for the Games'. Thank you, Prime Minister," said Mr Ng.² The co-construction and co-creation of the Games - marked by two-and-a-half years of "blazing the trail" that culminated in August 2010 in Singapore - was the fruit of the tremendous effort put in by friends and colleagues at the IOC, the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the International Federations. The Republic wrote history together with the athletes. Saudi Arabia sent a female athlete to the Olympics for the first time ever; Cuba and the US competed together in a mixed team for a relay race; and Vietnam won its first-ever gold medal in an Olympic event.

◀ Saudi Arabia sent its first female athlete, **Dalma Rushdi H Malhas**, to the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games equestrian competition.

▼ (Below left) Cuba and USA sent - **Leydi Laura Moya Lopez** of Cuba and **Nathan Schrimsher** of USA - to take part in the modern pentathlon mixed relay. (Below right) Weightlifter **Thach Kim Tuan's** win at the men's 56kg weightlifting finals saw Vietnam winning its first-ever gold medal in an Olympic event.





From left: Israel's Fanny Beisaron, Portugal's Miguel Valente Fernandes, Hungary's Eszter Dudas, and Austria's Alois Knabl of team Europe 1 posed for the media after winning the 4x mixed team relay triathlon at East Coast Park, Singapore, on 19 August 2010.



COLOUR, PASSION, SURPRISES

Reflecting the focus on youths with their desire for breakthroughs, the YOG introduced a number of innovations. New formats like 3-on-3 basketball and mixed-team events in triathlon and swimming were introduced. The world witnessed a diving event held in the open at night and the use of laser shooting in the modern pentathlon for the first time. In a healthy sign of increased universality instead of domination by a few traditional powerhouses, out of the 205 NOCs that were represented at the YOG, 98 returned home with at least one medal. This was 12 more than at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Just as significantly, the spread of countries in the different sports was encouraging. For example, at the YOG, swimming was not just for the Americans or Australians. Ethiopia and Liberia fielded swimmers too. Gymnastics was not confined to the likes of Russia and China. Cuba and Singapore had representatives as well. They all added to a competition filled with colour, passion and surprises. It was no wonder that, at the Closing Ceremony, SYOGOC Chairman Ng Ser Miang, told the athletes: "For the last 12 days, you have breathed life into this very first Youth Olympic Games. You have wowed us and inspired us and we have cheered our hearts out for you. The integration of sports with culture and education and the buzz of these Games have been magical."

◀ USA's Brandon Kearney shooting a basket in the Central African Republic vs. USA boys' preliminary basketball match at *scape, Singapore, on 19 August 2010.

The Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games saw the introduction of a number of innovations, such as 3-on-3 basketball, mixed-team events in triathlon and swimming. The world also witnessed a diving event held in the open at night, and the use of laser shooting in modern pentathlon for the first time.





CALL TO ACTION

For SYOGOC CEO Goh Kee Nguan, the YOG was also a call to action for Singaporeans. Everything was done with smiles, willingly, with everyone rising to the occasion, giving their effort, time and money to make sure visitors enjoyed their stay in Singapore. He attributed the whole-hearted support to what he termed “stewardship of the YOG”. The participating youths, partners, local and global corporate sponsors, community and grassroots organisations, government agencies, ministries, schools, polytechnics and universities all had a sense of pride in ensuring that the YOG succeeded. In all of them, the Singapore Spirit manifested itself and flourished. The power of youth was also clearly demonstrated. Throughout the Games, they displayed the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect. Clearly evident was the wide-spread respect for fellow athletes, colleagues, volunteers and the environment.

◀ Volunteers cleaning the volleyball court at the Toa Payoh Sports Hall in Singapore.



Volunteers and staff hard at work to ensure operations were smooth running at the Youth Olympic Village, the Opening Ceremony and the various sport competition venues across Singapore.





BEHIND THE SCENES

While the spotlight was on the athletes, many others were working tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure the YOG moved along smoothly. The final verdict on Singapore as host city goes beyond hard numbers, the cleanliness of its facilities or the efficiency of its transport system. Taking top honours must be the 20,000 volunteers, including some 400 from overseas, who gave their time, money and effort to “blaze the trail” in Singapore. There are numerous stories of volunteers, officials and ordinary Singaporeans who went beyond the call of duty to ensure that the 5,000 athletes and officials left the Games with a positive experience.

Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Vivian Balakrishnan, singled out the YOG volunteers for praise. “In their own quiet and effective ways, they wanted to do their bit to put Singapore on the map,” he said, citing them as a true example of the Singapore Spirit.⁴ Local volunteers – students from primary to tertiary levels, working professionals and retirees – put in long hours under the sun, went without sleep and were away from their families and friends because they wanted to do their bit as Singaporeans.

The dedication of the volunteers could be glimpsed from the many stories about them. Two friendly elderly female volunteers in Toa Payoh guided foreigners from the train station to the sports complex and back. A middle-aged mother, whose children were somewhat embarrassed when they heard she was “just a volunteer”, won them over with her selfless contribution. Students and teachers from schools, junior colleges, polytechnics and universities did Singapore proud with their megawatt smiles and friendliness. It was no surprise that they earned much praise. Speaking of the hospitality he experienced, Haiti’s football coach Pierre Sonche, for instance, said: “The smiles of the Singapore people – they lit up my heart”.⁵

◀ A volunteer on duty at a hockey match at the Sengkang Hockey Stadium, Singapore.

MEDIA SUPPORT

There was also the strong support from the mainstream, online and social media. If not for them, all the thrills and spills of the YOG would not be shared with the rest of the world – the moments when records were broken, the occasional despair when targets were not met, the hundredths of a second that made the difference between winning gold and missing a medal. Indeed, the media brought many exciting moments to the world through diverse images and stories. They told of the triumphs and struggles of the Young Olympians, and of the many touching human stories. A report headlined “Youth Games Big Success” by the Dutch daily De Telegraaf on 28 August 2010 summed things up succinctly: “People from all over the world watched 12 days of top-class sport by a new generation.”³



Performers drumming up pulsating beats to entertain spectators.

TO SERVE AND TO MAKE FRIENDS



The volunteers were not all Singaporeans, reinforcing the point about how the YOG united people from all over the world. Overseas volunteers – over 400 of them, including students and retirees – helped in areas like languages and media operations. They came from countries such as Canada, China and the United Kingdom. They had flown in on their own time and money because they wanted to participate in the enduring story of sports: to serve, make friends and be part of the human connection. For example, Milan Fischer, a 68-year-old civil engineer from Canada, signed up with his wife for no other reason than to uphold the Olympic spirit. To him, the YOG is an even more important idea than the Olympic Games because it offers a greater chance to educate and influence young athletes in a positive way about friendship, excellence and respect.

For many, the opportunity to volunteer was a privilege to be vied for. Some 30 student volunteers from Southwark and Lambeth in

London were hand-picked from 130 schools through interviews and their track record as volunteers. During their two-and-a-half weeks here, they stayed with local families who offered lodging and breakfast. Aisha Naibe-wey, 17, missed out on a slot for the British YOG track and field team. But the 400m hurdler, determined to realise her dream to be part of the YOG, marched over 160km to raise money for her trip to Singapore as a volunteer. “It means so much to come here and meet people of my age competing at this level. It really motivates me and gives me the mindset to train, train and train, when I get home,” she said.⁶

The international communities in Singapore also came on board to support the athletes from their countries. For example, some 30 athletes and officials from the Armenian contingent were hosted by the Armenian community in Singapore to a food and cultural exchange to build friendships and foster bonds. Fourteen Canadian families had a home away from home

in Singapore, part of a home stay programme initiated by the High Commission of Canada in Singapore for families of Canadian athletes. Other international communities similarly welcomed their countrymen to gather while the Games were on, hosting meals or attending events to cheer for the athletes.

The list of heart-warming stories about YOG volunteers alone could fill a book. In a sense, they were more than volunteers, they were champions. “As IOC President Jacques Rogge noted: ‘Being a champion is much more than just winning’. It is about values like serving the community, being gracious hosts, and being able to give without requiring an immediate return.”⁷ Paying tribute to the thousands of volunteers, SYOGOC CEO Goh Kee Nguan, said: “Your commitment, your passion, your smile – you made it a memorable experience for all at Singapore 2010. You have created history and left a legacy for the world. It was an honour to have blazed the trail with you.”

“Your commitment, your passion, your smile – you made it a memorable experience for all at Singapore 2010. You have created history and left a legacy for the world. It was an honour to have blazed the trail with you.”

– SYOGOC CEO Goh Kee Nguan

▲ Always ready to smile and serve, the Youth Olympic Games volunteers left an indelible mark on athletes, officials and even members of the public, who were part of the Singapore 2010 journey.



NANJING 2014

Singapore passed the YOG baton to the 2014 host city, Nanjing, at the Closing Ceremony when IOC President Jacques Rogge handed the Singapore Flag⁸ to Nanjing Mayor Ji Jianye. In one simple gesture, the honour and responsibility of hosting the next YOG was entrusted to China. Representing Singapore during the handover were Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Ministry of Transport, Teo Ser Luck and YOG table tennis silver medallist Isabelle Li. The 2014 Summer Youth Olympic Games will be held from 16 to 28 August in Nanjing, a city in eastern China with a population of more than 7.5 million. SYOGOC Chairman Ng Ser Miang, extended his best wishes to Nanjing with these words: "Good luck to you and we will be there always to support you. May the Flame of the Youth Olympic Games burn ever brighter at your Games."⁹

◀ Members from the Nanjing 2014 team held up fans inscribed with the words, "Excellence, Friendship, Respect, Charming Nanjing, Youth of Tomorrow" at the Closing Ceremony of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games on 26 August 2010.

THUMBS UP FOR YOG

The initial hesitation about the Games' novel approach in integrating culture and education with sports soon turned into 'thumbs up' approval – an endorsement that is likely to result in the inclusion of elements of the programme in the Olympic Games. "We are most definitely considering introducing a limited Culture and Education Programme (CEP) into the traditional Olympic Games. There is definitely a place for it. We have to see how we can adapt it for the different age category," said IOC President Jacques Rogge. The Straits Times, "YOG only going to get bigger and better: Rogge", 26 August 2010. He admitted there had been initial concerns that the CEP – which concentrated more on culture, fun, education and fair play than the 'normal' Games – would not be well received as the athletes would be more focused on competition. But it turned out to be a big success, considering the enthusiasm of many of the 3,600 athletes. "Now I don't have to prove it (the value of the CEP) to them anymore," he said.

The CEP comprised over 50 fun and interactive activities for the athletes crafted along the five educational themes of Olympism, Skills Development, Well-Being and Healthy Lifestyle, Social Responsibility and Expression. Set in seven formats, these activities aimed to engage and inspire athletes to be true Olympians, to adopt and live by the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect, and to play active roles within their communities. The seven formats were Discovery Activity, Chat with Champions, World Culture Village, Community Project, Arts and Culture, Island Adventure, and Exploration Journey.

All young athletes took part in at least one CEP activity. About 2,000 of them completed all the seven CEP formats, participating in a range of activities which developed teamwork, mutual respect and friendship, and 80 percent rated their experience as "awesome". The young athletes had the opportunity to get up close with Athlete Role Models to find out what made the champions tick. They also engaged and interacted with global leaders who shared personal and inspirational stories about the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect.

◀ The Culture and Education Programme, which offered seven different formats centred on five themes with over 50 activities, was a hit with the young athletes at the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games.



Also part of the YOG was the Singapore 2010 Friendship Camp. Held in December 2009, it aimed to promote Olympic values among the Camp's participants, provide them with a unique experience, and give them the opportunity to form life-long friendships. There was also the Friends@YOG NOC-School twinning programme which started in January 2009. Under this programme, each Singapore school was paired up with a school from each of the 205 NOC's home country. Such an arrangement offered a platform for young people of the world to come together to connect to the Olympic Movement, learn about each other's cultures and build lasting friendships.

Another initiative to connect students in Singapore to the Olympic Movement was the Olympic Education Programme (OEP). This programme provided platforms for students to, among other things, learn more about the Olympic Movement; and embody, embrace and live out the spirit of Olympism and the Olympic values prior to, during and beyond Singapore 2010. For student athletes in Singapore, the programme also increased their awareness of various issues related to sports such as careers in sports, anti-doping, personal well-being and healthy lifestyle. To meet the programme's goals, SYOGOC collaborated with the Ministry of Education to produce OEP Resource Packs for students aged between 7 and 19 years old. All these various initiatives meant the YOG would not just be a mega sports event generating buzz only during the two weeks of sporting competition. Instead, what happened before and after the YOG would matter as much. And even during the YOG itself, the focus was not just on medals, records and star athletes. Minister for Education, Ng Eng Hen, said: "We made the most of teachable moments that the YOG offered. The Olympic Education Resource Package, launched in December 2008, enabled students to embrace the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect. These were not mere incantations but put to practice as they welcomed and played hosts to youths from around the globe."¹¹

► From terrarium-making workshops to outdoor concerts, the Culture and Education Programme gave athletes the opportunity to form life-long friendships with fellow athletes from other National Olympic Committees.





Life in the Youth Olympic Village was never dull. Packed with workshops and hands-on activities, young athletes could pick up drumming skills, learn the importance of networking, and befriend Singapore students manning World Culture Village booths in the Village Square.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Indeed, there were concerted efforts to make the YOG relevant to the larger community. It was not just a sporting extravaganza meant only for sports fans. Instead, the YOG, with its emphasis on the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect, was as much about appreciating the environment, creative arts, music and drama, and healthy living in general. This focus was clear from the range of activities. There was “Noise Singapore” house, a living space furnished entirely by art and design, photography, and music – all created by youth. Also in the limelight was Singapore Soka Association’s environmental exhibition with 20 panels of high-impact visuals and thought-provoking text by world-renowned thinkers, environmentalists and leaders. The message: Get inspired by the Earth’s beauty, and be empowered to make a difference!

Other highlights to engage the public from all walks of life included One-Community Walk, where 84,000 residents participated in brisk-walking all over Singapore in support of the Games; Blazing The Trail, an exhibition featuring stories of Excellence, Friendship and Respect; a Healthy Living exhibition by the Health Promotion Board; and daily performances by artists from Singapore Street Festival, Singapore HeritageFest, Singapore Youth Festival and Noise Singapore. Also a hit were special appearances by Olympians such as Jackson Richardson and Domenico Valentino, and sports initiations for people to try out sports like boxing, fencing, handball, judo, taekwondo, and wrestling.

◀ The community gathered to cheer on the Youth Olympic Flame on the first day of the Singapore torch relay.



The community in Singapore responded enthusiastically to celebration parties, as well as sport try-outs and exhibitions – before and during the Youth Olympic Games.

YOG LEGACY

“Everyone, before this, knew that we are a safe... and efficient city. But now everyone knows we are a beautiful, vibrant, dynamic, exciting, creative global city that people from all over the world will want to visit, live, work, play and invest in.”

– Singapore’s Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, **Vivian Balakrishnan**

When all is said and done, what is the Singapore 2010 legacy for Singaporeans? It is one that promises wide-reaching impact within the island Republic and abroad. There is no doubt that the Games have boosted Singapore’s sporting culture. Indeed, the YOG not only placed Singapore on a new growth trajectory for pursuing sports excellence, but also strengthened the sporting culture – especially in spectatorship, community involvement and volunteer engagement – and grew the sports industry.

The ‘permanent legacy’ of being the Games’ first host city would ensure that “we will remain on the international community’s radar screens”.¹² The Summer Youth Olympic Games Handover Flag that will be transferred from one host city to the next will have the words ‘Singapore 2010’ embroidered. The YOG also helped Singapore market itself internationally as a fun and attractive city. This was largely because the Games were watched by more than 247 million viewers worldwide, according to the IOC.

Videos on the IOC’s YOG YouTube channel were viewed more than 6.3 million times. It was also the third most-watched YouTube channel worldwide at one point. “Everyone, before this, knew that we are a safe... and efficient city. But now everyone knows we are a beautiful, vibrant, dynamic, exciting, creative global city that people from all over the world will want to visit, live, work, play and invest in,” said Singapore’s Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Vivian Balakrishnan.¹³ The Singapore story was also told to the world through

its clean and green environment, water management, safe environment, technology, New Media, and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

The success of the YOG and the enthusiasm it generated nationwide has prompted the development of a new sports initiative. The Singapore Games will be held once every two years, with the launch of the first edition in 2012. It will offer between 10 and 15 Olympic sports and be open to Singaporeans of all ages. These games will help develop a “sports for life” culture in youngsters and keep seniors active. They will also promote community bonding, bringing together Singaporeans from all walks of life and of different ages.

Singaporeans will also benefit from the infrastructure and ‘spiritual legacy’ of the YOG: 26 satellite sports centres – one for each YOG sport – are to be set up here over the next few years. These will allow young people aged six to 16 to learn new sports in a fun and safe environment. Already, five centres have been launched this year. Another benefit will come in the form of the facilities that were upgraded or built for the YOG. These include a new roof and railings at Toa Payoh Sports Hall, a 10m air pistol range at the Singapore Sports School, and the new Tampines Bike Park. The people who helped run the Games, including SYOGOC and the National Sports Associations, can draw on their YOG experience when hosting or preparing athletes for future international sporting events.

◀ Cyclists **Daniel Vesely** (centre) of Czech Republic carefully inching his way down the trail, followed closely by Slovenia’s **Urban Ferencak** (right) and Colombia’s **Jhonnatan Botero** (left) in junior men’s cross country competition at the Tampines Bike Park in Singapore.



Clockwise from top left: The Toa Payoh Sports Hall, Tampines Bike Park, Bishan Sports Hall and Kallang Tennis Centre are some of the sport venues which had benefited from upgrading for the Youth Olympic Games.



BEYOND SINGAPORE

Yet the notion of legacy must not be just confined to the hosts. That Singapore and Singaporeans had successfully organised the first-ever YOG also ensured the continuity of future editions – where other smaller cities could also organise an Olympic event of a similar scale; where it will be possible to have a competitive games with equal emphasis on Culture and Education. Summing up this Beyond Singapore perspective, SYOGOC Deputy CEO Francis Chong, said: “When we chose ‘Blazing the Trail’ as a tag for Singapore 2010, we saw it as breaking new ground. But, equally important, we were always conscious that we were breaking new ground for others to follow. It was never just for ourselves or even just for Singapore, but for the Olympic Movement. It was the sense of being part of the creation of something that was bigger than our individual lives, or even our country, something that could touch people all over the world, that was a source of our motivation and strength.”

◀ Fireworks over the Marina Bay at the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games Opening Ceremony.

For Matthew Lim, a sports senior producer who takes leave from his work to help out as a media operations supervisor at the Youth Olympic Games (YOG), being a volunteer is, to put it simply, “my duty as a Singaporean”. Civil servant Logapreyan Renganathan may have to sacrifice time with his family during the hectic YOG but he is hoping “to see the YOG here one more time in my life”.¹⁴ Singapore Polytechnic student Kelvin Low and others like him spend countless hours as volunteers manning the many victory ceremonies which typically need medal and mascot bearers, athlete and presenter escorts, flag-bearers, podium assistants and chaperons. It is all a lot of hard work behind the scenes as the tasks are demanding and require meticulous attention to details. For instance, Kelvin and his fellow flag-bearers begin their day four to six hours before a ceremony. Among other things, they must steam iron the various country flags and check a flag manual to ensure that they are raised in the correct orientation.¹⁵ Yet for Lim, Renganathan, Low and the some 20,000 volunteers, the whole YOG experience is not one to be missed, whether they are students from primary to tertiary levels, working professionals or retirees. It is little wonder that the organisers take pains to honour them in a special presentation at the Closing Ceremony of the YOG.

► Young volunteers taking a group shot after a day's work.



EPILOGUE

Looking back at the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games, it will be said often that it reflected how a tiny nation dared to dream. It will be said too that the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) united Singaporeans in a common goal to turn a dream into a reality.

And what was the dream, really? On one level, the dream was about making Singapore into a sporting nation, to put the city state on the map of world events. But the dream was also to believe that it was possible to create something on the scale and wonder of the YOG by always treating everyone involved, staff, volunteers, partners, participants, youths, etc with respect and by encouraging a sense of shared ownership. The dream was to believe that great things can be achieved in a multitude of ways and small steps. It was to believe that complaining does not make things better, but acting in however small ways does. “The dream, in a nutshell, is to believe that it is possible to unite ‘ordinary’ people to come together to create a thing of extraordinary beauty,” said Francis Chong, Deputy CEO of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee.

The dream produced a hugely successful sports experience which was also about culture and education. Together, these elements had one central goal, during the YOG but also long after it: To inspire youths of the world to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect in all spheres of life.



The Youth Olympic Games is a living and colourful lab for some of life's most enduring lessons. Britain's gymnast Sam Oldham shows what it means to bounce back from disappointment in the nick of time, winning gold at his very last chance after fumbling as a favourite earlier in the competition. The likes of Singapore's Rainer Ng and Jordan's Dana Touran (both silver medallists, in swimming and taekwondo respectively) show those from places which are least expected to shine can make an impression too. Athletes like Great Britain's Oliver Golding and Czech Republic's Jiri Vesely (who teamed up in tennis) and China's Gu Yuting and Tunisia's Adem Hmam (partners in table tennis) learnt what it meant to work across cultures. England's volunteer Aisha Naibe-wey's march over 160km to raise funds for her trip to Singapore won her praise, and 82-year-old Ajit Singh, Singapore's oldest torchbearer and Olympian, learnt there is a role for everyone as long as one chooses to be involved.

► Representing Intercontinental 1, **Gu Yuting** of China and **Adem Hmam** of Tunisia teamed up during the table tennis mixed teams semi-finals against Japan on 25 August 2010.

Singapore's shooter Carol Lee is all tears after finishing seventh in the girls' 10-metre air rifle event. She has expected more of herself since she has trained for six years and put her A-level examination on hold for the first Youth Olympic Games. Her coach Zhang Manzheng consoles her, and then puts things in perspective: "There will be other chances in the future. She will learn from this (experience), train harder and bounce back stronger." Zimbabwe's Boyd Littleford and Bermuda's Ryan Gunn may have finished way behind the winners in the boys' triathlon race. Yet they are worthy models, serving as coaches in their respective countries as part of efforts to promote their sport among the young. Russian tennis player Daria Gavrilova shows why she can be dubbed the Comeback Princess, bouncing back after losing the first set in both the semi-finals and final of the girls' singles event to overcome her opponents in impressive style. The athletes may be most visible but their inspiring tales of passion and hope are echoed in the stories of coaches, officials, volunteers and many others involved in the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games. Often, they take us all back to the famous Olympic Flame symbolic of "the warmth of the human hearts, beating together and reaching across boundaries" – in sports and beyond sports.

► Athletes' inspiring tales of passion and hope at the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games will leave a lasting impression – in the hearts of coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators and many others involved in the Games.





KEY STATISTICS

FACTS AND FIGURES

(A) GAMES PARTICIPATION

1. ACCREDITATION

The Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games (Singapore 2010) were held over 12 days from 14 to 26 August 2010. A total 7,588 athletes and officials, and 50,688 volunteers, working staff and contractors were accredited for the Games.

6,130

No. of National Olympic Committee delegates accredited

977

No. of International Federation delegates accredited

481

No. of International Olympic Committee officials accredited (including 67 observers)

3,530

athletes

1,897

team officials

205

Chefs de Mission

77

NOC Presidents

421

others

503

Africa

737

Americas

774

Asia

1,257

Europe

259

Oceania

50,688

No. of volunteers and working staff, contractors, service providers, technical officials accredited

22,601

volunteers & working staff

16,572

contractors

1,767

venue tenants

1,248

National Technical Officials

8,062

security personnel

438

guests

2. PARTICIPATION IN CULTURE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME



ARTS & CULTURE

1,600

attended the Evening Festival over three nights



CHAT WITH CHAMPIONS

1,444

athletes attended the Chat with Champions sessions



COMMUNITY PROJECT

2,140

tiles were created by athletes

1,294

origami pieces were folded by athletes

603

athletes took part in the booth activities from balloon sculpting, Paint a Clog, Community Circus Arts and Community Drumming



DISCOVERY ACTIVITY

17,800

athletes joined in the various Discovery Activity sessions



EXPLORATION JOURNEY

1,077

athletes embarked on a green experience in half-day Exploration Journeys to HortPark and Marina Barrage



ISLAND ADVENTURE

1,046

athletes went on the one-day adventure



WORLD CULTURE VILLAGE

14,100

visitorship

1,100+

athletes visited the Singapore booth

ATHLETES CHALLENGE

3,530

athletes participated in the Culture and Education Programme

IOC YOUTH SESSION

147

athletes representatives from National Olympic Committees

29

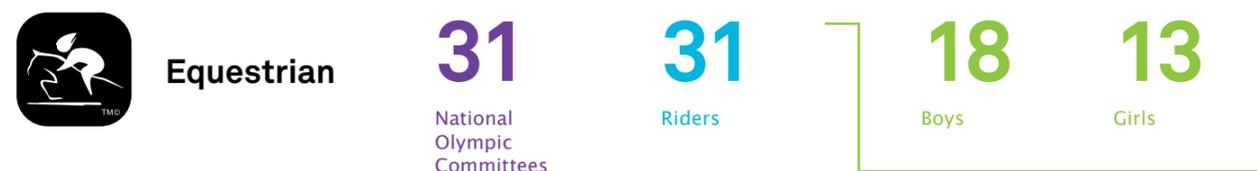
Young Ambassadors attended the session

23

Singapore 2010 youth volunteers attended the session

3. PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS PROGRAMME

During the Youth Olympic Games (YOG), young athletes – aged between 14 and 18 years – competed in 26 sports and took part in a Culture and Education Programme.





4. SPORTS AND VENUES

The 26 sports competitions were held at 18 venues. No new venues were purpose-built for the Games. To meet competition requirements, existing community sports facilities were upgraded, while some scheduled projects were fast-forwarded. These facilities form part of the legacy of the Games.

SPORTS	COMPETITION VENUES	TRAINING VENUES
Aquatics • Diving • Swimming	Toa Payoh Swimming Complex Singapore Sports School	Toa Payoh Swimming Complex Jurong West Swimming Complex Nanyang Technological University Swimming Pool
Archery	Kallang Field	Kallang Field
Athletics	Bishan Stadium	Nanyang Technological University Track & Field
Badminton	Singapore Indoor Stadium	Singapore Polytechnic
Basketball	*scape Youth Space	Nanyang Technological University Basketball Courts Youth Olympic Village Basketball Courts
Boxing	International Convention Centre	Youth Olympic Village Boxing Halls
Canoe-Kayak	Marina Reservoir	Marina Reservoir
Cycling • BMX and Mountain Bike • Road Race and Time Trial	Tampines Bike Park The Float@Marina Bay	Tampines Bike Park The Float@Marina Bay
Equestrian	Singapore Turf Club	Singapore Turf Club
Fencing	International Convention Centre	International Convention Centre
Football	Jalan Besar Stadium	Choa Chu Kang Stadium Jurong East Stadium Jurong West Stadium Ngee Ann Polytechnic Republic Polytechnic Singapore Polytechnic

SPORTS	COMPETITION VENUES	TRAINING VENUES
Gymnastics	Bishan Sports Hall	Catholic High School (Rhythmic) Raffles Institution (Artistic) Raffles Junior College (Trampoline)
Handball	International Convention Centre	Jurong West Sports Hall Youth Olympic Village Handball Hall
Hockey	Sengkang Hockey Stadium	Sengkang Hockey Stadium Youth Olympic Village Hockey Pitch
Judo	International Convention Centre	Nanyang Technological University Judo Hall
Modern Pentathlon	Singapore Sports School	Nanyang Technological University Swimming Pool Singapore Sports School
Rowing	Marina Reservoir	Marina Reservoir
Sailing	National Sailing Centre	National Sailing Centre
Shooting	Singapore Sports School	Singapore Sports School
Table Tennis	Singapore Indoor Stadium	National University of Singapore
Taekwondo	International Convention Centre	Nanyang Technological University Taekwondo Hall
Tennis	Kallang Tennis Centre	Kallang Tennis Centre Nanyang Technological University Tennis Courts
Triathlon	East Coast Park	East Coast Park Jurong West Swimming Complex
Volleyball	Toa Payoh Sports Hall	Jurong East Sports Hall
Weightlifting	Toa Payoh Sports Hall	Nanyang Technological University Weightlifting Hall
Wrestling	International Convention Centre	National University of Singapore

5. GAMES ATTENDANCE

283,788

Total number of tickets issued

243,168

Games

18,523

Opening Ceremony

22,097

Closing Ceremony

238,063

Singapore spectators

45,725

International spectators

6. VICTORY CEREMONIES

201

No. of Victory Ceremonies

98

No. of National Olympic Committees with at least one medal

373

No. of Gold medals awarded

374

No. of Silver medals awarded

406

No. of Bronze medals awarded

7. DOPING CONTROL

1,174

No. of urine samples collected and tested

118

No. of blood samples collected and tested



▲ Gold medallist Kim Jin Hak of South Korea bites his gold medal during the Victory Ceremony of the men's 73kg Taekwondo final.

(B) YOUTH OLYMPIC VILLAGE

Located amidst lush greenery of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) campus, the Youth Olympic Village (YOV) was a lively yet relaxed home away from home for residents where they could concentrate on sporting excellence, learn to live in respect of one another, and bring back fond memories of valuable friendships formed during their stay in Singapore.

1. RESIDENTS STAYING AT THE YOY	2. YOY SERVICES AND FACILITIES	3. USAGE OF YOY RETAIL FACILITIES	4. USAGE OF YOY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
5,401 No. of athletes and team officials	14 No. of training facilities	8,963 Merchandise outlets	5,661 Pin trading centre
29 No. of Young Reporters	8 No. of recreation facilities	6,139 General store	5,395 Pool room
2 No. of Young Reporters Educators	6 No. of retail outlets	4,813 Bank	5,167 Swimming pool
8 No. of International Olympic Committee administrative staff	4 No. of dining facilities	739 Post office	3,505 Dance club
5,440 Total no. of residents	4 No. of transport facilities	643 Haircut	2,711 Console room
		266 Ticket box office	1,653 Table tennis room
		116 Travel agent	920 Board games room
			590 Outdoor movie
			400 Indoor movie

5. DINING AT THE YOY

264,469

Total number of meals served from 8 to 29 August

AVERAGE NO. OF MEALS SERVED PER DAY

5,092

Breakfast

4,377

Lunch

4,777

Dinner

575,616

Total number of bottled drinks consumed from 8 to 29 August

AVERAGE AMOUNT OF FOOD SERVED PER DAY

7,375 KG

Breakfast

12,185 KG

Lunch

14,655 KG

Dinner

2,409 KG

Recovery snacks

23,984

Total cartons of bottled drinks consumed from 8 to 29 August

AVERAGE MEAL CONSUMED BY EACH PERSON PER DAY

1.24 KG

Breakfast

2.06 KG

Lunch

2.49 KG

Dinner

0.43 KG

Recovery snacks

6. LAUNDRY SERVICES

799

Average no. of laundry bags issued per day

938

Highest no. of laundry bags issued (16 August)

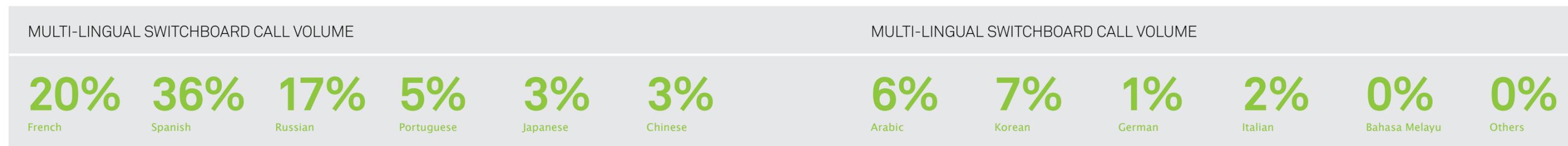
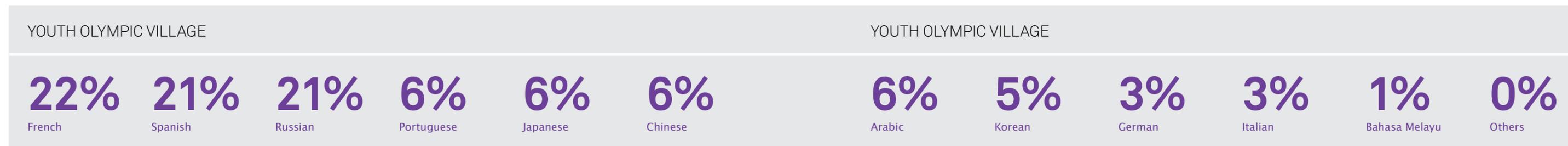
10,802

Total no. of laundry bags issued

(C) LANGUAGE SERVICES

7. DEMANDS FOR LANGUAGE SERVICES

Athletes and officials taking part in the first-ever YOG came from around the world speaking more than 60 languages. To bridge the language gap, the Organising Committee offered interpretation and translation services for 11 languages.



(D) GAMES OPERATIONS

1. AIRPORT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OPERATIONS

7,639

Recorded arrivals

1,876

Peak arrival days
(4 days to Opening)

1,530

Peak arrival days
(3 days to Opening)

1,502

Peak arrival days
(2 days to Opening)

5,363

Recorded departures

2,525

Peak departure days
(1 day after Closing)

2,117

Peak departure days
(2 days after Closing)

565

Peak departure days
(3 days after Closing)

2. FOOD AND BEVERAGE OPERATIONS

QUANTITY OF FOOD FOR ATHLETES AND TEAM OFFICIALS

264,469

Buffet meals at YOY

12,498

Sandwich meals at competition venues

5,036

Whole day meals at competition venues

420

Hot pasta meals at competition venues

282,423

Total

PERCENTAGE OF FOOD FOR ATHLETES AND TEAM OFFICIALS

93.64

Buffet meals at YOY

4.43

Sandwich meals at competition venues

1.78

Whole day meals at competition venues

0.15

Hot pasta meals at competition venues

100.00

Total

QUANTITY OF ADDITIONAL FOOD FOR ATHLETES AND TEAM OFFICIALS

546

Cartons of fruit for recovery

91,529

Recovery meals

36

Break fast packs

QUANTITY OF FOOD FOR THE WORKFORCE

405,175

Buffet meals at YOY and venues

49,440

Boxed meals at venues

37,089

Meal vouchers

491,704

Total

PERCENTAGE OF FOOD FOR THE WORKFORCE

82.40

Buffet meals at YOY and venues

10.06

Boxed meals at venues

7.54

Meal vouchers

100.00

Total

QUANTITY OF ADDITIONAL FOOD FOR THE WORKFORCE

20,337

Tins of light snacks

171,489

Motivation packs

112,726

Break Fast packs

BOTTLED DRINKS CONSUMED

2,144,832

Total number of bottled drinks consumed during Games Time

40.92%

at Competition Venues

40.89%

at Youth Olympic Village

18.19%

at Non-Competition Venues

SATISFACTION LEVEL

A series of surveys on food and beverage services was conducted at selected competition venues during the Games. The areas surveyed were food quality, food portion and dining environment.

The following were found to be "Very Good" and "Good"

68.52%

Food quality

73.69%

Food portion

90.03%

Dining environment

3. TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

The Singapore 2010 transport operation was executed through an integrated transport system, using common shuttle services, pre-planned transport services and supported by pooled vehicle services.

2

No. of transport malls
 - Youth Olympic Village (YOV) Transport Mall
 - City Transport Mall (CTM)

3,000

Average daily outbound ridership from YOV

1,000

Average daily outbound ridership from CTM

46

No. of official venues

43

No. of transport desks

400

No. of buses

20,454

No. of bus trips

48

No. of bus routes

350

No. of buses utilised at peak period

380

Pooled vehicles

17,000

Pooled vehicle trips

520

Contracted drivers

105

Sponsored vehicles

98.6%

Trips which took place within the planned travel time

13%

Average percentage of travel time faster than planned travel time

1,228,000

No. of complimentary public transport trips

675,000

By rail

530,000

By bus

4. TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

HARDWARE EQUIPMENT

2,257

PC/Notebook

632

Printers

44

Scanners

142

Fax machines

1,750

Fixed telephone sets

235

Barcode scanners

102

Copiers

4,174

Radio sets

BACKEND EQUIPMENT

1,800

Server CPU

264

Server

1,600

Cable (length in km)

84

Storage (capacity in terabyte)

SERVICES

341

Wi-Fi spots

215

GIS2010 terminals

MOBILE SERVICES

4,419

SIM cards issued

4,224

Mobile phones issued

5,713

Digital Concierge (DC) handsets

5. WASTE MANAGEMENT

296

Number of temporary toilets utilised

174

Amount of waste disposed (weight in tonnes)

164

General waste (weight in tonnes)

10

Recyclable waste (weight in tonnes)

6. LOGISTICS OPERATIONS

The Youth Olympic Games Logistics Hub coordinated and managed the freight of resources and equipment from multiple parties such as the National Olympic Committees, International Federations, sponsors and suppliers to and from the venues.

400,000 SQM

Youth Olympic Games Logistic Hub

932,329 KG

Freight Volume Managed

AIRFREIGHT INBOUND

130,638 KG

31.06%

Timing & scoring equipment

0.17%

Opening Ceremony props

9.06%

Olympic Broadcasting Services equipment

9.30%

Sports equipment

49.76%

Horses

0.65%

Doping

AIRFREIGHT OUTBOUND

54,286 KG

74.75%

Timing & scoring equipment

0.41%

Opening Ceremony props

21.80%

Olympic Broadcasting Services equipment

3.04%

Sports equipment

SEAFREIGHT INBOUND

576,349 KG

6.59%

Timing & scoring equipment

3.85%

Opening Ceremony props

7.73%

Olympic Broadcasting Services equipment

49.61%

Sports equipment

10.69%

Kitchen equipment

0.14%

Waste bins

21.09%

Tentage

0.30%

Journey of the Youth Olympic Flame equipment

SEAFREIGHT OUTBOUND

164,253 KG

22.83%

Timing & scoring equipment

13.33%

Opening Ceremony props

26.79%

Olympic Broadcasting Services equipment

37.05%

Kitchen equipment

(E) ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVES

Recognising the importance of environmental protection and conservation, the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee implemented measures to promote an environmentally-friendly Games.

10,921

Energy and water-saving devices installed

130,945 KWH

of electricity saved, enough to power 350 four-room apartments for a month

48,000,000 LITRES

of water saved, enough to fill almost two Olympic-sized pools

2,444

No. of participants for environment-related initiatives and programmes

15,745

No. of pledges for the environment

(F) MEDIA INTEREST AND COVERAGE

1. ACCREDITED MEDIA

1,764

No. of media representatives accredited

845

Press and non-rights-holding broadcasters

66%

International media accredited

315

No. of media organisations

512

Rights-holding broadcasters

34%

Singapore media accredited

407

Host Broadcaster

2. BROADCAST COVERAGE

The first-ever YOG in Singapore had multi-platform coverage across the globe.

400+

hours of live coverage

16

sports together with Opening and Closing Ceremonies covered live

4,400,000

video views on live and video-on-demand webcast (www.youtholympicgames.org)

8

live feeds

10

sports together with CEP activities covered via Electronic News Gathering

341,773

unique visitors to live and video-on-demand webcast (www.youtholympicgames.org)

336

hours of coverage via the Youth Olympics News Channel

29

rights-holding broadcasters

6,300,000

video views on IOC's YOG YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/olympicsingapore2010)

15

days of continuous broadcast

160

territories carried the broadcast on TV

799,038

peak unique visitors to IOC's YOG YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/olympicsingapore2010)

20 - 30

daily highlights clips on YouTube

9

rights holders that operated from the International Broadcast Centre

247,000,000

estimated TV audience reach

3. NEWS AND PHOTO SERVICE

1,800+

items within the news category of Youth Olympic News Service

10,657

official images published by Youth Olympic Photo Service

1,800

athlete overviews published by Youth Olympic News Service

106,533

downloads by the media from Youth Olympic Photo Service

4. INTERNET AND DIGITAL MEDIA CONNECTION

SINGAPORE 2010

5,900,000

visits

3,500,000

unique visitors

19,100,000

page views

530

articles published

WHYOHGEE MICROSITE

1,300,000

visits

1,000,000

unique visitors

2,500,000

page views

320

articles published

SINGAPORE 2010 ODYSSEY VIRTUAL WORLD

334,995

visits

302,421

registrations

91,831

repeat users

403,072

hours spent in-world

GAMES INFORMATION SYSTEM

13,000,000

page views

DIGITAL CONCIERGE

505,356

page views

MOBSITE

1,170,000

page views

YOUTUBE VIDEOS*

1,400,000

views

1,152

subscriptions

442

videos uploaded

FLICKR PHOTOS

2,898,384

views

14,488

images uploaded

TWITTER UPDATES

5,982

followers

4,042

tweets

FACEBOOK UPDATES

82,745

likes

BLOG ENTRIES

64,050

views

297

posts

*Videos produced by SYOGOC

5. MEDIA COVERAGE ANALYSIS FOR AUGUST 2010

61,381

Mention

266,379,343

Reach

US\$45,105,814

Editorial marketing value

6. PUBLICATIONS

123

No. of Singapore 2010 publications produced

34

No. of Singapore 2010 e-newsletters (from 30 April 2009 to 5 August 2010)

13

No. of Young Olympian Daily* (from 14 to 26 August 2010)

*Daily paper produced for residents in Youth Olympic Village



▲ Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Vivian Balakrishnan gives a media interview at the pool side at the Singapore Sports School.

(G) PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

1. SPONSORSHIP

75

No. of sponsors

9

No. of Worldwide Olympic Partners

9

No. of Official Partners

19

No. of Official Sponsors

38

No. of Official Supporters

2. ADVISORS AND PARTNER AGENCIES

4

No. of ministerial advisors

16

No. of Inter-Ministry Committee members

23

No. of Singapore 2010 Board members

7

No. of Advisory Committees

37

No. of Singapore 2010 Committee agencies

15

No. of Singapore 2010 Working Groups

(H) YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1. PRE-GAMES INITIATIVES

669,160

YOG Learning Centre visitors (from November 2008 to August 2010)

Covering 600 square metres, the two-storey YOG Learning Centre was a space for youth to discover and experience the spirit of Olympism and trace Singapore's journey in hosting the first YOG

369

Singapore schools participated in the Friends@YOG programme

251 Singapore schools under the Ministry of Education were successfully twinned with 256 schools from 136 NOCs

409

international athletes between the ages of 15 and 17 from 130 NOCs took part in the Singapore 2010 Friendship Camp from 8-12 December 2009 which also involved 129 participants from Singapore schools

Celebrating Singapore hosting the YOG, four Create Action Now! (CAN!) festivals, each with a different theme, ran for three months from April 2009 to March 2010. Each festival was spearheaded by youth and community organisations and opened with a marquee event followed by a series of youth- and community-initiated activities.

4

No. of CAN! Festivals

CAN! Discover, CAN! Click, CAN! Green, CAN! Arts

204

No. of initiatives created by youth and community

143,000

No. of CAN! participants

2. GAMES TIME ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY

14,700

visitors to the Culture and Education Programme activities at the International Convention Centre (ICC)

The Learn to Play initiatives held at ICC, which featured six Learn to Play sports, i.e. Boxing, Fencing, Handball, Judo, Taekwondo, and Wrestling, attracted the interest of 5,251 participants

9,385

visitors to the Singapore 2010 Friendship Fabric Exhibition

The exhibition featured 334 individual fabric art pieces created by Singapore school students as part of the Friends@YOG Programme

2,400

visitors to the CEP activities at *scape with nine days of exhibitions and performances

CELEBRATION@MARINA BAY

84

performances

14

days

4

live concerts

6,000

pre-primary and primary school children attended Kids Sports Challenge over the 12-day period

3,000 - 6,000

people attended the weekend concerts that featured international artistes

3. JOURNEY OF THE YOUTH OLYMPIC FLAME

To connect youth around the world to the YOG and the Olympic Movement, the Youth Olympic Flame travelled to one city in each of the five continents after it was lit in Ancient Olympia, Greece on 23 July 2010. The Youth Olympic Flame then travelled to Singapore, where the journey continued through the five community districts with a traditional round-island torch relay from 7 - 14 August 2010.

INTERNATIONAL LEG

5

No. of Celebration Cities

- Berlin, 24 July 2010
- Dakar, 25 July 2010
- Mexico City, 28 July 2010
- Auckland, 2 August 2010
- Seoul, 4 August 2010

13

No. of days travelled

42,938 KM

Distance covered

13,186 KM

Furthest point between two cities (from Mexico City to Auckland)

SINGAPORE LEG

328 KM

Distance covered

2,188

No. of torchbearers

19

No. of education institutions that hosted the Flame

208,000

Estimated no. of spectators who cheered the torchbearers

65.6 KM

Longest distance covered on a single day (Day 5 - 12 August)

26

No. of support runners

250

No. of education institutions that participated in Cheer the Flame activities

564

Highest number torchbearers on a relay day (Day 6 - 13 August)

8 KMH

Average speed of torch movement along the torch relay route

350

No. of torches

168

No. of grassroots organisations that participated in the torch relay

11

Youngest torchbearer

82

Oldest torchbearer

END NOTES

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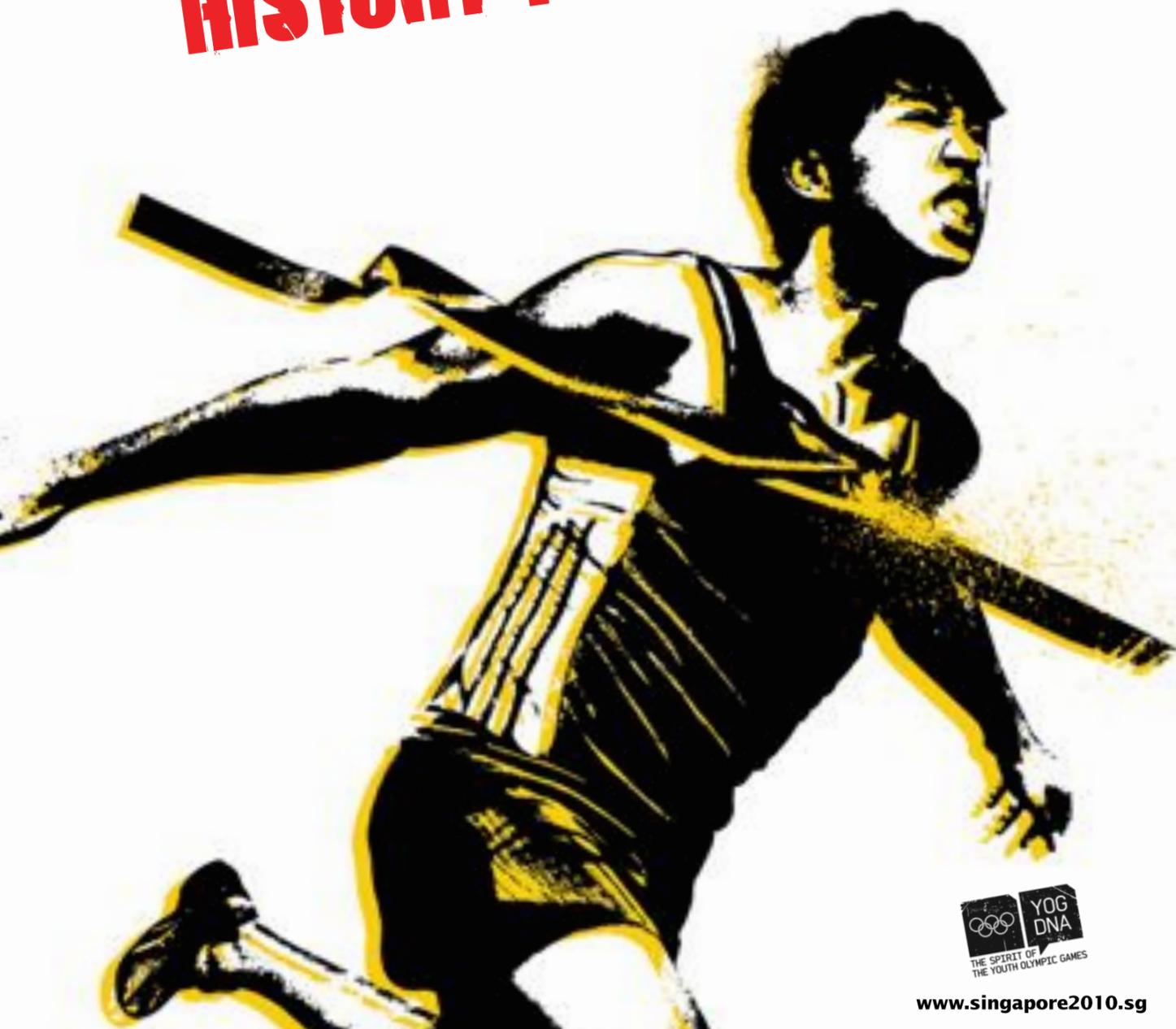
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