



MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore Voice at World Youth Congress

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Singapore was represented at the recently concluded World Youth Congress (WYC) in Stirling, Scotland, by delegates Bernise Ang and Mahesh Rai.

The WYC Policy Document – a primary outcome of the Congress – was drafted by a drafting committee, on which Singaporean delegate Bernise Ang served as a representative for Asia and the Pacific.

The WYC policy document will be presented at the upcoming UN World Summit in New York next month, reviewing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Ms Ang emphasises, “The policy document represents a voice of today’s global youth and addresses how youth can and *should* be a major force in both developed and developing countries’ strategies for development.”

“As such, this document needs to be referred to in Singapore’s position as well as MDG progress report, when our country delegation addresses the UN Summit next month,” urges Ms Ang.

“In Singapore, many of us have the luxury of economic privilege, relative to many of our neighbours. Let us use that privilege – to join in the struggle to eliminate abject poverty in other parts of the world.”

Poverty reduction is the first of 8 goals, as outlined by the MDGs.

Ms Ang remarks on Singapore youth: “Our youth is the largest untapped resource that has so much potential just waiting to be unleashed. Programs such as the Youth Expedition Project of the Singapore International Foundation have demonstrated the capability of our youth to shine as leaders in meaningful development work in areas where it is most needed.”

“Back home, the sheer volunteer strength in CDC initiatives such as the recent Taman Jurong Painting Competition reveals the energy and desire of our youth, to make a difference in our communities.”

“The concept of *youth participation* can be so much more meaningfully realised in spaces and structures where youth can be more effectively involved not just in implementation (as volunteers) or consultation (in youth consultation exercises), but *also* in significant decision-making capacities.”

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