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Media Release

First MDG workshops organised in Singapore

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Young Singaporeans have organised a mini-series of community workshops on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and broader development issues, for the first time in Singapore.

Bernise Ang, 25, founder of the Singapore International Youth Council, and Jonathan Koh, 26, founder of The Young Global Citizen, joined forces to organise the workshops, which concluded today, as a pilot project for Youth-Led Development (YLD) and global citizenship.

Topics covered included global issues such as Trade & Globalisation, HIV/AIDS, Gender equality, Environment, Human Rights and Peacebuilding. Participants were post-secondary students from Junior Colleges (JCs) and university, ranging from 16 to 24 years of age.

Ms Ang commented on the workshops: "It's great to see young Singaporeans eager to learn about development and how they can play their part as citizens of a donor country. With the Millennium Campaign emphasising citizens holding their governments accountable, a key message of the workshops was: As young Singaporeans, we have been born into a lot of privilege. Let's use that privilege."

Various IGOs, NGOs and young individuals presented at the workshops, including Environmental Challenge Organisation - Singapore, UNIFEM Singapore, Think Centre, among others.

An outcome of the workshops will see an action project on Fair Trade. This includes a proposed online portal on ethical consumerism targeted at young Singaporeans, and will aim to inform and encourage fairer consumer choices for the developing world.

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