



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 December 2013

**MENDAKI CLUB'S YOUNG MINDS CLUB
SECOND OVERSEAS COMMUNITY PROJECT AT JOGJAKARTA**

Singapore, 11 December 2013 - On 14 December 2013, twenty participants from MENDAKI Club's Young Minds' Club (MClub YMC), will be making their second visit to Jogjakarta, Indonesia, for an Overseas Community Project (OCP). The Club hopes that this eight day OCP will further engage the heads, hearts and hands of its young volunteers while providing them the opportunity to learn about the rich central Javanese culture.

2 The uniqueness of this year's programme lies in the service learning component where participants will teach a selected group of women to prepare cuisines that are generally unfamiliar to the local community such as handmade pasta, meringues and churros. This is to help with the initiation of the women's cooperative for the community and also aims to empower the young participants in bringing them out of their comfort zone as they are expected to teach in Bahasa Indonesia, a language that they are not familiar with.

3 The participants had attended 6 planning sessions for the purpose of understanding the culture, language and geography of Indonesia with particular focus on Jogjakarta, Central Java. Besides teaching women to cook, participants will also deliver lesson plans on English Literacy in a local primary school as to allow further interaction and empowerment of the local community. MClub YMC had sent a similar group of young volunteers aged fifteen to eighteen for the inaugural batch of the OCP in December 2011 to aid the victims of the 2010 Mount Merapi eruptions.

4 The project this year is led by Ms Indah Putri Andayani Rafeah, Mr Muhammad Bin Kamit, Ms Nadiyah Bte Mohammad Yusoff and Mr Muhammad Hilmi Bin Abu Bakar who are all volunteers of MClub.

5 Ms Indah Putri, who is also a member of MClub's Executive Committee says, "We had hoped for an element of sustainability when we planned for the first OCP trip in 2011. With the knowledge of the present condition of the resettled villagers there, we are even more convinced that help will be welcome. Another feature of the OCP this year is that participants who had gone on the inaugural trip will be empowered as junior facilitators, guiding the first-time participants. Based on this principle, we hope that our participants will swiftly ease to the next phase of their volunteering journey to lead the younger ones, thus creating a pool of volunteers who are connected and dedicated to serve the community."

6 Ms Sharifah Nur'Aisyah Bte Syed Iskandar, a participant of the trip in 2011 and now returning as a junior facilitator says, "The first trip was extremely memorable and I am very thankful to be able to be part of a team who was very committed and selfless in providing aid to the victims of the eruption. Interaction with the villagers really opened my eyes and heart. That is the reason why I reapplied for the OCP this year. As a junior facilitator, I hope to be able to serve not just the victims but also other participants. I hope to be able to make a difference, no matter how simple, in the lives of the victims there."

7 We appreciate if you can kindly include the event details as above in your media coverage.



ABOUT MENDAKI CLUB

MENDAKI Club, or MClub, is a community of Malay/Muslim young professionals and students who are engaged in affairs concerning the community, Singapore and the world. We engage in strategic youth development initiatives and participate actively in discussions on current developments in the local and global arena. We also strive to build bridges within the Malay/Muslim community, and between our community and other communities, to promote mutual understanding and cooperation.

MClub was launched in 2000 by then-DPM Lee Hsien Loong and constantly seeks new and interested individuals to be part of its community. As a registered society and affiliated to the Malay/Muslim Self-Help Group Yayasan MENDAKI, the activities and programmes of MClub are largely organised and run by volunteers from a wide range of professions and backgrounds.

VISION

A dynamic and progressive young generation of Malay/Muslim Singaporeans with a strong commitment to society and plugged into the global community.

MISSION

Our mission is to engage young Malay/Muslim Singaporeans through Thought and Action. We do this by fostering a community of young Malay/Muslim professionals which:

- *Build bridges within the Malay/Muslim community, and between our community and other communities, to promote mutual understanding and cooperation*
- *Participate actively in discussions on current developments in the local and global arena.*
- *Engage in strategic youth development initiatives to act as positive agents of change in the community and nation*



ABOUT YOUNG MINDS' CLUB

The Young Minds' Club is the youngest wing among MClub's efforts. The YMC programmes are catered for the Malay/Muslim secondary school students, and centre on events to nurture holistic life skills, capacity building and personal development. YMC is an entity that has, over the last decade, proven to be a successful blueprint for a self-reliant volunteer effort. The curriculum is developed and delivered by young Malay/Muslim professionals and undergraduates, many of whom evolve to become mentors and role models for members of YMC. This year we have our first batch of YMC graduates returning as members of the YMC subcommittee.

The programmes in YMC focus on the current life context of the students, and look ahead to the projected needs as young Malay/Muslim professional so that they can contribute positively to society. The recent revamp of YMC introduced a refreshed curriculum along the lines of enriching the 'Mind, Body & Soul' of our students.

Highlights of some of these programmes include experiential learning opportunities at the various workshops conducted. Seminars and dialogue sessions like the Career Awareness seminar, Personal Development and Leadership seminar aim to equip the Minds of our students. Through our Sports Fiesta, Youth Expedition and Community Service Projects, we strengthen our students' Bodies with the values of a contributing Malay/Muslim member of society. This year we are planning an inaugural overseas community service expedition to expand the horizons of our members. In the month of Ramadhan we will have an iftar with the students, where issues of the Soul relating to the significance of Ramadhan will be shared among the students.

YMC is a very vibrant programme that is heavily reliant on volunteer facilitators. Recently we've seen a trend of YMC graduates returning to offer their time and experience to mentor the younger members. Through our Facilitator Training & Development Programme and the various bonding sessions, we've built a formidable network of facilitators we can always count on.

At the core of YMC is the message that every Malay/Muslim youth should give back to its own community, and society at large. YMC provides those tools, and the skills to use those tools. All while having fun.

**MENDAKI Club's Young Minds Club
Overseas Community Trip to Jogjakarta
14 to 21 December 2013
Factsheet**

1. Background

MENDAKI Club's Young Minds Club (YMC) Overseas Community Project (OCP) was initiated in December 2011 for its members as part of Educational and Enrichment programmes for Malay/Muslim youths.

MENDAKI Club (MClub) Executive Committee has identified Jogjakarta, Central Java as the specific geographical area of interest to carry out the OCP. Central Java provides a good opportunity for our student members to initiate a sustainable project for the resettled communities that were affected by recent natural disasters.

This project will take over duration of one week, from 14 to 21 December 2013.

2. Project Objectives

The objectives of the OCP are as follows:

- a) Engaging the Heads, Hands & Heart of MClub members through experiential learning.
- b) Providing a service and leadership platform for MClub members.
- c) To understand and appreciate regional cultures.
- d) Pioneering a sustainable community involvement project.

3. Participants of Project

Student Participants

Students who are 15-18 years of age are invited to apply for the programme. These students will be drawn from the Young Minds Club (YMC) and Talent Development Programme (TDP) and have been active participants of MClub's youth programmes.

15 to 20 student participants will be interviewed chosen for the OCP.

Adult Participants

4 adult participants (2 male & 2 female) who are currently mentors and facilitators volunteering with MClub will also accompany the team of students.

4. Programme

This will be the 2nd batch of students from MClub for the Community Project. They will have to reassess the needs of the resettled population around the Gunung Merapi area, specifically the Glaga Harjo and Balanrante disaster sites.

Areas they can look into include (and is not restricted to) are as follows:

- a) Construction and Rebuilding efforts - Implementation of simple repair or upgrading works.
- b) Basic Educational Support - English Literacy, IT literacy, Basic Hygiene
- c) Entrepreneurship and Poverty Alleviation
- d) Raising Awareness and Community Involvement from Singapore to support the project
- e) Historical/Archeological restoration in the Prambanan and Brobudur areas.

Please refer to Annex A for programme itinerary.

Planning Sessions

Prior to the project proper, the participants will attend planning sessions for the purpose of understanding the culture, language and geography of Indonesia with particular focus on Jogjakarta, Central Java. The dates for the sessions are scheduled on 23, 28 & 30 November and 2, 4, 9 & 12 December 2013.

Costs & Funding

The participation cost of the project is SGD 300 per student, a heavily subsidized sum after taking into consideration estimation of cost to be covered by MENDAKI Club for the project. The participation cost will include ALL manner of travel and accommodation throughout the duration of the trip.

Annex A

MENDAKI Club's Young Minds Club Overseas Community Trip to Jogjakarta 14 to 21 December 2013 Programme Itinerary

Date	Programme
14 Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flight from Singapore to Jogjakarta via Jakarta• Check into accommodation at <i>Kepurun Farm</i>• Visit to <i>Glaga Harjo Shelter & 1 Balarante Elementary School</i> to assess needs at the makeshift bamboo shelter and school compound respectively• Planning of Community Involvement Project (CIP) – Group allocation and Task distribution
15 Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural Visit to <i>Kepurun Market</i>• Full day at <i>Glaga Harjo Shelter</i> for CIP activities
16 Dec 2013	
17 Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full day service at <i>1 Balarante Elementary School</i> for CIP activities
18 Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Half day service at <i>1 Balarante Elementary School</i> for CIP activities• Proceed to <i>Kalirung</i>, visit <i>Mt Merapi Museum</i>, then to Mt. Merapi Observation Deck to understand purpose of the centre & roles of the centre officers
19 Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Half day service at <i>1 Balarante Elementary School</i> for CIP activities• Check out from <i>Kepurun Farm</i>• Visit to “<i>Salak</i>” plantation to understand and appreciate <i>Salak Pondoh</i> and <i>Salak Bali</i> (<i>Salak Pondoh</i> is an important fruit in Yogyakarta province.)• Tour at Borobudur Temple for cultural appreciation and understanding of historical preservation• Check in at <i>Pondok Tingal</i>, in Borobudur area
20 Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit to <i>Punthuk Setumbu</i> to appreciate scenery and infrastructure of Borobudur• Visit to <i>Desa Wisata Tanjung</i> for cultural sessions (Learn about the Gamelan, a local traditional musical ensemble, and the traditional dance.)• Visit a famous home industry in Jogjakarta – baking of famous local delicacy, <i>Bakpia</i>• Check out of <i>Pondok Tingal</i> and check in at Edu Hostel
21 Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural visit to <i>Malioboro</i> for souvenirs and horse carriage ‘<i>Andong ride</i>’ in the area• Visit to <i>Keraton</i> (The Sultanate Palace built by Hamengku Buwono 1 in AD 1756) for understanding of historical preservation• Visit to Silver Factory at <i>Kota Gede</i> to observe the manual process of silver smith

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flight from Jogjakarta to Singapore via Jakarta |
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