



MEDIA INVITATION

Wednesday, 20 May 2014

9th YMCA Mandarin Speaking Awards 2015 Prize Presentation

第九届 YMCA 华语演讲比赛颁奖典礼

YMCA of Singapore will be hosting the 9th YMCA Mandarin Speaking Awards (MSA) 2015 Prize Presentation on Friday, 22 May 2015 at Woodlands Regional Library Auditorium from 6pm-9pm. Guest-of-Honour, Ms Sim Ann, Minister of State, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Communications and Information, will address the audience and present the prizes.

The annual YMCA MSA is a national level public speaking competition supported by the Ministry of Education and the Promote Mandarin Council. To inspire students to greater heights, contestants in the Open and Secondary categories had to make impromptu speeches in both English and Mandarin in the semi-finals.

Ms Sim said, "Back when our country's resources were relatively meagre, the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew had ensured that a good part of our National budget went into education. He created the Prime Minister's Book Prize to encourage students who did well in both English and their mother tongue languages."

This year's competition attracted a total of 212 participants, of which more than a quarter comprised pre-schoolers. This is the first time the event was open to children aged four to six years old.

Another notable change was the use of technology for the preliminary rounds where students submitted videos of their speeches, instead of speaking live in front of judges.

Mr Stephen Loh, President, YMCA of Singapore, said, "YMCA of Singapore seeks to impact lives and nurture community champions among youth, who are the future leaders of our society. The YMCA Mandarin Speaking Awards is a part of this effort, and designed to help to develop thinking and speaking skills among our youth."

Chairman YMCA Speaking Awards & YMCA Mandarin Speaking Awards, Mr Kenneth Tan said, "The YMCA Mandarin Speaking Awards also aims to sharpen our students' Mandarin speaking skills. Language skills are part of what it takes to shine in this competition. However, we look for other performance traits which enable contestants to stand out from the rest as well, including speech content, delivery, body language and audience engagement."

The YMCA MSA was held over six weeks (from 23 March to 30 April 2015) with the aim of sharpening Mandarin speaking skills and building self-confidence among the youths. Students competed in Pre-school, Lower Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary CL1, Secondary CL2, and Open (for JC/ CI/ ITE/ Poly & youths 15 to 35 years) categories, and were judged on speech content, language, manner of delivery and expression.

We cordially invite your journalists and photographers / cameramen to attend the event:

Date: Friday, 22 May 2015
Time: 5.30pm – 8.30pm
Location: Woodlands Regional Library Auditorium
Guest of Honour: Ms Sim Ann,
Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Communications and Information

Programme:

5.30pm: Registration of participants and guests
6.20pm: Arrival of GOH; GOH to mingle with winners
6.50pm: Opening Speech by Contestant
7.35pm: Address by GOH
7.45pm: Presentation of Awards by GOH
8.15pm: End of programme; GOH to mingle with attendees
8.30pm: Departure of GOH

Kindly RSVP by 21 May 2015.

For RSVP and media enquiries, please contact:

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About YMCA of Singapore

YMCA of Singapore is a volunteer-based Christian organisation that seeks to serve and impact all members of the community, regardless of race, language or religion, through programmes, services and enterprises to develop the body, mind and spirit. YMCA organises 16 structured and sustained YMCA-Tan Chin Tuan Community Service Programmes to enrich the lives of the beneficiaries from 32 partnering voluntary welfare organisations and self-help groups. The beneficiaries include the intellectually and physically challenged, out-of-school youth and youth-at-risk, abused and underprivileged children, the visually and hearing impaired, the elderly and the poor. Some of the other programmes include the YMCA-Lim Kim San Volunteers Programme, overseas community service programmes, rebuilding programmes for disaster-hit communities and YMCA Financial Assistance & Capability for Employment Scheme. YMCA was conferred the 2008 Outstanding Non-Profit Organisation Award by the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre on 13 November 2008; and won the Charity Governance Award (CGA) in the Large Charities category on 25 October 2013. The organisation also runs social enterprises, such as the YMCA International House, YMCA Child Development Centres and Student Care Centres, YMCA School and YMCA Tertiary education programmes.