

12 October 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

To New Editors

SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE DRAWS RECORD NUMBER OF NSMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY

All five SAFRA clubs were abuzz today as a record 1,500 NSmen and their families kicked off their shoes to swim for a good cause.

Participants swam a total of over 72,049 laps. Each lap swam contributed \$1 to the fund raising effort, raising a total of \$72,049 to help needy NSmen and underprivileged children through three beneficiaries – SAF Care Fund, Singapore Children’s Society and Aquatics Heart & Hope.

This marked an almost four-time increase in participation and the amount of funds raised as compared to last year.

Organised by SAFRA Tampines for the fourth year, the charity swim was extended to all five SAFRA clubs island-wide for the very first time. This allowed more NSmen and their families to participate and contribute to a worthy cause.

The event drew strong support from various groups such as the Naval Diving Unit and the Singapore Swimming Association, bringing NSmen from all walks for life together to do their part for charity. About 200 naval divers and 50 national athletes, comprising swimmers, water polo players, divers and synchronised swimmers swam alongside other participating NSmen and their families.

The support of national Paralympic swimmers such as Theresa Goh and Yip Pin Xiu also inspired many other participants to go the extra lap. Mr Chan Chun Sing, Second Minister for Defence and President of SAFRA, graced the event at SAFRA Tampines and presented the cheque to the three beneficiaries. He also presented prizes to the individual and team champions who contributed the most number of laps.

Last year, the event raised a total of \$20,000 for charity and earned itself a new record in the Singapore Book of Records for the ‘most number of laps swam in six hours’ at one location. More than 402 NSmen and swimming enthusiasts helped to clock a total of 22,637 laps then.

Kindly refer to the following for your reference and usage:

- Annex A - Factsheet
- Annex B - Transcript of Media Doorstop Interview with Mr Chan Chun Sing

SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2014
SUN, 12 OCT

FACT SHEET

Background

SAFRA Swim for Hope is an annual charity swim event organised by SAFRA Tampines. Introduced in 2011, the event provides an opportunity for NSmen and their families to contribute to charitable causes, while promoting fitness and bonding through swimming. The event adopts various charities each year to raise funds to help the needy.

Year	No. of Participants	No. of Laps	Funds Raised	Beneficiaries	Remarks
2011	300	5,000	\$5,000	'Live That Dream' fund managed by SDSC	
2012	320	21,898	\$20,000	Children's Cancer Foundation	Set Singapore Record for 'Most number of laps swam in 6 hours' at one location.
2013	402	22,637	\$20,000	Community Chest	

Beneficiaries

SAF Care Fund

The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Care Fund is set up to provide additional support to SAF servicemen who are severely disabled due to military service, over and above MINDEF's existing compensation and welfare frameworks. The Fund enables members of the public to make contributions and show their support to injured servicemen.

Singapore Children's Society

Singapore Children's Society protects and nurtures children and youth of all races and religions. In 2013, the Society reached out to 72,640 children, youth and families in need. Established in 1952, its services have evolved to meet the changing needs of children.

Today, Children's Society operates 10 service centres islandwide, offering services in the six categories of: Caregiving, Community, Developmental, Preventive, Public Education and Remedial.

Aquatics Heart & Hope

The Aquatics Heart and Hope programme includes several thrusts that involve the participation of national athletes from the Singapore Swimming Association (SSA) in giving back to society. Funds raised under the programme will be used to sponsor learn to swim programmes for the underprivileged and participants will also undergo SSA's Singapore Swimming Proficiency Award program. The fund will also enable those who are talented to be given the opportunity to participate in the high performance athlete development pathway programme.

SSA is also exploring having national athletes conduct inspirational clinics and talks for underprivileged kids and youths-at-risk to impart sporting values and encourage them to achieve their life goals as part of the Aquatics Heart & Hope programme.

Winners

Swim for Hope 2014 Winners				
2011	Team	Laps	Individual	Laps
1st	Manta Ray Ang Sze Ern Chong Cheng Yew Ray Ang Yee Kiang Chong Yew Keong Peh Ping Ping	748	Koh Chaik Chuan	342
2nd	#Passiondrawsustogether Ang Rui Mei Tan Qi Zhi Khai Leng Chua Sufiyah Hadi Bin Armita Tay Hui Min	491	Tan Jun Ming	327
3 rd	NTU LGs Ong Chu Wen Poh Alison Tan Chermel Tan Grace Vishal Rajesh Lakhiami	485	Lim Beng Leong	272

SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2014

**TRANSCRIPT OF MEDIA DOORSTOP INTERVIEW WITH MR CHAN CHUN SING,
SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE AND PRESIDENT OF SAFRA**

This is the fourth time in the series that we have organised this event. We at SAFRA have actually aimed for a couple of things. One would be that this event be a form of bonding activity for NSmen, NSFs and also families of SAFRA members. The other thing would be that this would be a key corporate social responsibility activity for SAFRA to help raise funds for various charities. This year, they would get a 1-for-1 matching fund from the Care and Share movement, so it's all good things in one event.

We are very happy with the increase in participation. Last year and the previous, we only held it at SAFRA Tampines. But this year we have opened it up to all the SAFRA clubs across the island, allowing more people to come and join us. In fact, this year we have exceeded our target and more than 70,000 laps have been clocked. This is beyond what we had set for ourselves. So next year, we will look at how we can continue to improve the event to attract more participants and also raise more funds for charity.

We have not discussed the targets for next year, but the committee is already thinking of how to make it more interesting. Some of the ideas include extending the hours to allow more swimmers to come and join because this year we had to turn away some people who wanted to participate due to safety reasons and capacity constraints. So next year we hope to look into extending the hours and maybe we can also extend the event beyond SAFRA clubs if we can find some suitable partners.

I don't think the haze has affected the programme and the organisers had already factored in all possibilities into the planning of the event. I think all in all, it has been a good programme despite the possible weather conditions.