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MEDIA RELEASE

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING MARKS FIRST YEAR:
BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATION FOR CHALLENGES AHEAD**

1. The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) marks its first anniversary with the launch of an inaugural annual report and the commencement of problem gambling help services by two pilot counselling centres.

Key achievement: Laying a strong foundation

2. The annual report highlighted the achievements of the NCPG over the past year. The key achievement of the Council was building a strong foundation to tackle problem gambling in Singapore. The Council implemented significant programmes such as raising public awareness on the risks and warning signs of problem gambling; putting in place counselling and support services to help those in need; and engaging proactively with government, industry and key stakeholders to tackle problem gambling.
3. To help families and persons affected by problem gambling, the Council has developed a comprehensive three-tiered service framework. The first tier involves training workers in the community and social service sector to identify individuals or families facing problem gambling issues and motivate them to seek specialised help. The second tier of help is provided by specialised community-based centres. At the third tier, the Institute of Mental Health's Community Addictions Management Programme (CAMP) provides medical treatment to persons with multiple addictions and psychiatric issues.

Two pilot counselling centres to provide problem gambling help services

4. To bring help services to the community, the Council has been involved in the development of two pilot counselling centres, run by Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society and Care Corner Counselling Centre, to provide specialised help for problem gamblers and their families.
5. These centres have started providing services to those who seek counselling, information and assistance on gambling problems. They are staffed by professional counsellors and social workers who have undergone training on problem gambling intervention specially designed by the Community

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Addictions Management Programme at the Institute of Mental Health and the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

Year-round media campaigns and community programmes on problem gambling

6. In the past year, the Council has launched several national media campaigns, including the launch of 'Bet Your Life', an info-educational TV series featuring real life case studies; as well as a problem gambling awareness campaign via print and radio advertising, educational editorials and a public forum during the June 2006 World Cup. In addition, the Council supported ground efforts by non profit organisations to hold talks, drama and exhibitions in the community. These efforts demonstrate a preventive and proactive approach to inform Singaporeans on the potential risks of gambling, the signs of problem gambling and community help resources available to those affected by problem gambling.

NCPG will continue to engage stakeholders

7. The Council has also engaged key stakeholders in the community on the implementation of the casino exclusion measures, which is a key social safeguard. To date, it has held dialogues with over 80 representatives from various social service, religious, community, grassroots organisations as well as professionals. Some suggestions made include making the process for exclusion simple and accessible, as well as involving social work professionals in the family exclusion process. The Council will wrap up its consultations with key stakeholder groups by October 2006, and will follow-up to invite the public to submit views on a draft set of procedures for exclusion.
8. Mr Lim Hock San, Chairman of NCPG said: "This has been a milestone year for the Council. While our initiatives have just begun, we believe that we have laid a strong foundation for future efforts. There is still much work to be done. I am optimistic that with the continued support of stakeholders and the public, the collective efforts to tackle problem gambling will make a significant difference to the community and our society."

Issued by:
National Council on Problem Gambling

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Care Corner Counselling Centre

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Attachments:

- [NCPG Annual Report 2005/2006](#)
- English-Chinese Glossary

About the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG):

The NCPG was appointed in August 2005 as part of Singapore's national framework to address problem gambling. It is a council comprising 15 members with expertise and experience in public communications, psychiatry and psychology, social work, counselling and rehabilitative services. The Council's main roles are to provide advice and feedback to the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) on public education programmes to promote public awareness on problem gambling; to decide on funding applications for preventive and rehabilitative programmes; to assess and advise the Government on the effectiveness of treatment, counselling and rehabilitative programmes; and to decide on the applications for exclusion of persons from casinos. For more information, please see www.ncpg.org.sg.

APPENDIX: ENGLISH-CHINESE GLOSSARY

National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG)	全国预防嗜赌理事会
Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS)	社会发展, 青年及体育部
Community Addictions Management Programme, Institute of Mental Health	社区戒瘾护理计划 , 心理卫生学院
Care Corner Counselling Centre	关怀辅导中心
Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society	德教太和观
'Bet Your Life'	'生命赌注'
Mr Lim Hock San, Chairman	林福山先生, 主席
Casino Exclusion Measures	赌场隔离措施
Problem Gambling	嗜赌
Gamblers	赌徒
Pathological/ Problem Gambler (PPG)	病态赌徒
Gambling Addiction	赌瘾
Addiction	癖瘾症