



Media Release

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MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING AND SOUTH EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL LAUNCH YOUTH INITIATIVES

Short film produced by youths for youths kicks off problem gambling prevention and education programme

The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), in collaboration with South East Community Development Council (SE CDC) today launched the short film, RISK, produced by youths for youths. The project is part of NCPG's efforts to help raise awareness of problem gambling and the dangers of gambling among young people.

The 15-minute short film was produced by the Southeast CDC's Youth2Youth Network and depicts the story of a young man, Milton, who unwittingly falls into gambling through his favourite sport – soccer. Touching on the psychology and attitudes of youth gamblers, „RISK“ examines the issues related to teen problem gambling, and is a realistic, entertaining and at times light hearted look at the issue. To reach as many young people as possible, „RISK“ will be streamed on the Teenage website (www.teenage.com.sg) for 3 months as well as on the NCPG website (www.ncpg.org.sg), Youth.SG (<http://youth.sg/>) and Youtube (<http://www.youtube.com>).

In phase two of the project with South East CDC, RISK will be screened, followed by discussions in schools in the South East District. These will be led by trained facilitators to highlight the issues surrounding youth problem gambling and challenge students to provide suggestions on how to tackle it. The project will also survey students to find out how aware they are on the issues of problem gambling, the signs of problem gambling, and their awareness of where to seek help.

Mayor Matthias Yao said: "I am happy to see that our youths themselves have come up with a project like RISK to create awareness and warn about the dangers of gambling among people of their age group. The message will be better received than if we took a top down approach."

In conjunction with the film project, SE CDC's Y2Y Network has organised a competition for the best "Star Teen" idea on how to promote problem gambling

prevention messages among young people. Three short-listed youths will be invited to present their concepts to a panel of judges. The winner of the competition will be announced at a private closed-door „RISK“ cast party held at DXO, Colours by the Bay Esplanade Mall on 16 March 2007 from 3 to 7pm. The winner will receive support from the NCPG and SE CDC to implement the idea. The panel of judges and the judging criteria for the competition are attached in Annex 1.

Ms. Debra Soon, Chairman of the NCPG Youth sub-committee said: “We have worked for several months on this project and are very pleased that the South East CDC Y2Y Network has come up with such an accessible and relevant film project which conveys the issues in an entertaining manner. Because it was spearheaded by young people themselves, we are confident this film will resonate and have an impact among them. We hope that beyond generating awareness, the discussions which follow will generate more ideas on how to tackle problem gambling among youth.

We hope that other organisations will come forward with their ideas on how to reach young people and deal with the issue of youth problem gambling.”

Principals and teachers who are interested in the programme may wish to contact NCPG Secretariat at 6354-8154.

Issued by:
National Council on Problem Gambling and South East CDC

Attachments:

Annex 1 provides the panel of judges and the judging criteria for the youth competition

Annex 2 provides a synopsis of RISK

Annex 3 provides an overview of NCPG’s youth initiatives

Annex 4 provides an English-Chinese glossary of relevant terms and names

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 .

About South East CDC Y2Y Network (SE Y2Y Network)

The creation of the Y2Y Network aims to develop a framework to continually develop and engage youths beyond the school curriculum. Youths are empowered with skills, knowledge and resources to reach out to other youths.

Working on the premise of “from youths to youths”, young talents from all walks of life in Singapore are given the opportunity to get to know one another and share learning points. The Y2Y Network has also been an avenue for youths to express their ideas and realise their dreams. For more information, please see www.y2ynetwork.com.

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ANNEX 1

Panel of Judges and Judging Criteria for Youth Competition

The panel of judges for the youth competition comprise of the following representatives:

- Ms Debra Soon, Chairperson, NCPG Youth sub-committee
- Ms Jan Tan, Senior Manager (Projects), South East CDC
- Ms Foo Mei Siah, Publisher, Key Edition (Teenage Magazine) The

panel will judge the proposals based on the following criteria:

- Relevance (40%)
- Originality (20%)
- Creativity (20%)
- Presentation (20%)

RISK

A youth to youth short film on problem gambling

SYNOPSIS

RISK tells the story of a young man who falls into the trap of gambling through his favourite sport – soccer. Because of peer pressure and wanting to gain popularity among the girls, Milton starts to dabble into the world of illegal soccer betting. From curiosity, he quickly spirals into the illegal soccer bookie circuit, until he reaches a point past his own limits.

Touching on the psychology and attitudes of youth gamblers, RISK is an original, witty, and at times quirky look into the world of problem gambling among youths and its implications.

Delving on the thrill and excitement associated with high players, fast money, pretty girls and the high life, RISK is a down-to-earth look at the ups and downs of problem gambling.

NCPG Youth Initiatives at a Glance

“Handling Underaged Gambling” (HUG) Programme

- Conceptualised by the St Andrews” Lifestreams in collaboration with WE Foundation, which specialises in addiction recovery and education, the aim of the programme is to build resilience in youths and inculcate the right mindset and values to resist the temptations of gambling through hands-on interactive activities.
- “HUG” was piloted in 6 schools between August to November 2006, including St. Hilda's Primary School, St. Margaret's Primary School St. Andrew's Secondary School, St. Margaret's Secondary School, St. Hilda's Secondary School and St. Andrew's Junior College. A total of 2055 students have participated in the programme.

Methodist Children and Youth Centre (MCYC) Roadshow

- MCYC will embark on a Youth Gambling Addiction Prevention Roadshow entitled “Win Big, Don’t Gamble” in 10 schools in April this year.
- The roadshow will introduce the issue of gambling addiction to students and also raise awareness of the realities and dangers of gambling. It will feature a locally produced docudrama, exhibition and interactive IT games.

ENGLISH-CHINESE GLOSSARY

National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG)	<全国预防嗜赌理事会>
Sub-Committee on Youth	青少年嗜赌问题小组
South East CDC	东南社理会
South East CDC Youth to Youth Network	东南社理会 青少年组织 “Y2Y 联络网”
Ms Debra Soon	孙舒珊小姐
Mr. Lim Hock San	林福山先生
Mr. Matthias Yao	社理会东南区市长姚智
Problem Gambling	嗜赌
Gamblers	赌徒
Problem Gambler	病态赌徒
Gambling Addiction	赌瘾
Addiction	瘾癖症