



World Bank Youth Open Space Dialogue:

“How do we create a better future - the issues and opportunities”

I was part of a process which allowed me to set my own
agenda to discuss the issues that matter to me!

Saturday and Sunday- 9 and 10 September 2006
The Plaza, National Library

Facilitator:
Nigel Seys-Phillips
<nigel@fulcrum.com.sg>

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In conjunction with



Complete List of Topics Raised

DAY 1: 9th September 2006

Session 1	1100-1230
Ian Tan	Free Trade
Zong Huan	Entrepreneurship Spirit & Education in Singapore
Kenrick Chew	SIFE Barriers to Entry and Exit
Alicia Ang	The Role of Newly Industrialized Countries in Helping Third World Countries Cope With Globalization
Richard	Third World Poverty & Its Consequences Dealing with the Widening Income Gap
Amutha	AIDS Sweatshops
Alson	Money Is/ Being the Root of All Evil
Jared	Child Rights
Ong Joon Fai	Environment Terrorism
Moana	Peace: Idealistic or Realistic
Roy	Situation of Maids in Singapore
Lim Chin Chean	Quality of Education
Rachel	The Problem of Corruption
Joel	A Better Future With or Without Third World Countries
Bernise	Youth & MGDs (Poverty, Environment, HIV, etc) in Southeast Asia
Azie	Our Interests Should Be Taken Into Consideration in the Singapore Education System
Wong Yong	Race & Religion (How Its Conflicts Will Affect the World)
Su Yuen	Poverty in India
Session 2	1330-1500
Shawn	How and Why Corporations and Youths Should Engage Each Other
Saskia	Empowerment of Women
Ha Dini	Inter-culture Communication and Development of China'
Charles Xavier Patrick	Mission and Humanitarian Work Overseas -Overcoming Materialism -Eye Opener for Youths -Learning of Their Cultures and Thus Respect for Others and Their Beliefs
Shauna Lo	Effects of Globalizations on Singapore's National Identity
Natalie	Whether There Will be a Shift in Global Power in the Future
Ritika Chandra	Outsourcing Work to India: Is it Helpful or Harmful for Developed and Developing Countries
Melvin	Environmental Conservation
Natalya	Representing the Asian Youth Voice
Christine	Child Prostitution: Save the Children
Gwen	Cloning, Genetic Modification & a Future "Gattaca"
Nicholas	Degrading Moral Values
Choi Jin Kook	Alternative Sources of Fossil Fuels For Our Next Generation
David Chan	Development of China and India and Its Implications For the Future
Uba Llahmood	How Do We Make Our Dreams Come True Youths: Nonchalant or Unaware?
Kevin Tan	Getting Rid of Opium Farming
Ibnur	Debts and Interest Rates on 3 rd World Countries

Session 3	1500-1630
Doan Thi Thuy Pung	Education for Children from Ethnic Minority Groups
Henry Chong	Globalization and Protectionism
Putu	Welfare of the People in a Country
Vishnu	Work Life Balance in Developed Countries
Irnizah	Natural Disaster
Christine	Racism: What Can We Do to Promote Greater Tolerance?
Weixian	Elitism in Education
Kenny Tan	Economic Policies in the 3 rd World
Toon Hwee	Dilemmas in Science and Technology
Gwendoline	Elitism in Singapore
Roy	Child Labor
Ying Hao	Rebranding Education in Singapore
Bernise	Youth Voice at World Bank/ IMF Meetings
Uhoa Uahmood	Energy Crisis

Day 2: 10th September 2006

Session 4	0930-1100
Steve	Bridging the generation gap
Jyotsna	Microcredit
Karfik	Creating stable democratic institutions
Annie	Third world debt collection
Yaowen	World Bodies- UN, World Bank, IMF
Thuy Dung	Usage of pesticide in agriculture in developing countries
Natalie Morris	Designing creative platforms for youth advocacy
Colin	IT society : Influence of the computer age and youth development
Bhupinder	Equity in developing countries
Ibnur	Mission & Humanitarian Work Overseas The global Agora: Building social trusts and securities
Ismail	Astronomy: Will humans be able to colonise other planets in the distant future
Joseph	Stability VS freedom

Session 5	1100-1230
Kailin	Racial Harmony
Ulba ahmood	Issue of sexuality (everything)
Alson	Money makes the world go round
Mary Fernandez	Will anyone from Singapore win an oscar?
Kenneth	Why the heck are we just sitting around? Building initiative to deal with global issues
Jemima	Terrorists or freedom fighter
Zong Haan	Make and Create An Identity for Our Citizens to Show to the World
Ibnur	Sports Media Environment: Discourses on Global Citizenship
Steve	Rising Youths Problems In The Society: How Are We Going to Tackle Them?
Kenneth Sin	Higher Living Standards: Tangible or Non-tangibles?
Ismail	Terrorism in the World
Jonathan and Kaleni	Fairtrade
	Organ Donation: Do Something Nice With Your Body
David Chan	Regionalism vs Globalisation: Which is More Important?
Xin Yi	Youth Activism

Asri
Yi Dian
Max
Amisha
Sarah

Aviation
How to Minimize Poverty in 3rd World Countries
Issues Facing the Disabled
Volunteerism
Issues Facing Child Labor at a Young Age

SESSION OUTCOME 1

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : third world poverty and consequences

SESSION INITIATOR : all 7 of us

CO-WORKERS :

Qinzhen, Richard, SMU	Shaw, NS
Charles, RP	KaiLin, SP
SuYuen, NUS	PooiYean, NUS
Irnica, SP	

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

* Problems: misresource, political barrier, African, south asia, regions, corruption, heavy load on poor people. No idea on solution. Cheap labour in poor countries

* solution: fair trading, lift restrictions, clear corruption, bring up economy, tailored solutions for countries, education on young children. Help on trade. Volunteerism, manpower, on-going process follow up, better mgmt of resources

* differential diagnostics: to develop countries specific economic strategies. (CPF eg) help the countries on regular basis. Publicize strongly on public popular media. Protect investors' interest. Hand-in-hand publicize and regulations safety. Improve anti-corruption education.

SESSION OUTCOME 2

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : A BETTER FUTURE – with or without 3rd world nations?

SESSION INITIATOR : Joel

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- * lack of infrastructure in Africa – no incentive to help/invest in 3rd world nations
- * call for volunteers to help the continent
- * are we just pacifying them while we exploit them?
- * ex-colonial masters – do they have a duty to help
- * by-pass corrupt governments

SESSION OUTCOME 3

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Environment

SESSION INITIATOR : Ong Joon Fai

CO-WORKERS : Priyanka Chadan, Yap Yaowen, Tang Wey Lin, Jiaoxi (Rainbow), Liyan, Peter Lee, Wong Chong Wai, Kenneth, Aw Kin Ee, Ken Eldhose K Abraham

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- Role of the UN and IMF in protecting the environment (which don't separate animals and the environment as separate issues; should promote funding for annual environmental meets)
- Ecological – “Footprints” (how to reduce it)
- Engagement of NGOs and corporations
 - Emphasize environmental value of companies – run audits and award companies for being green
 - “Green Employee of the Month”
 - Tax breaks and other incentives to promote companies that specialize exclusively in recycling
 - Corporates must be less profit-oriented (e.g. NTUC to make people buy their shopping bags)
 - Find a way to convert recycling into profits
 - E.g. MacDonald's Germany (wrappers are recyclable)
- Eco-tourism (raising awareness)
- Green Architecture

SESSION OUTCOME 4

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : widening income gap

SESSION INITIATOR : Terence Chia

CO-WORKERS :

Tan Ying Wei, Liang Yanruo, Alison Lee, Melvin Tan, Xie Jia Yan, Sheena Chang, Farhana, Bailinhlan, Phillip Maximillan Karl Straw, Bhupinder, Nicholas Eng, Ashu, Sikri, Poh Jianyu, Bruce Tong, Ken Ong

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

Main Issues

* income gap within a country

- between countries - rich country need poor country → allowing the rich to enjoy and benefit from the work/labour provided by the poor.

* rich get richer, poor get poorer-a vicious cycle

→ passive income

TAXATION – rich = tax more

- rich = tax less but attract more rich people to come. NET → more money

* wages & expenses/higher education costs

* education → upgrade – machine - productivity

→ social responsibility to lower income countries

→ work place safety – world bank recommend/promote

→ social environment upgrade mentality

→ productivity – teach America/world. Program for developing teachers

- problem definition – can/need to be done – level up skills, financial advice, property, minimum wages

Key Recommendations

1. World Bank to provide a fund to allow youths (e.g. university age) to teach in rural areas of poorer countries. Teachers can come from within the same country or from other countries. Advantages- empower students from developing countries with skills and knowledge to break out of poverty and low income; expose the better-off to the plight of the lower income
2. World Bank to encourage governments and companies around the world to provide reasonable minimum employment standards (including workplace safety) and benefits to their workers.
3. World bank to encourage governments to channel more funding to assist the lower income people in upgrading their skills, supporting their families, providing for their basic needs(housing, medical care, etc.)

SESSION OUTCOME 5

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : AIDS

SESSION INITIATOR : Amutha Meyyappan

CO-WORKERS : Lim Xin Yi, Kristel, Vishnu, Lim Si Rong, Lim Yong Long, Ryan Tng Qi Hong, Colin Lim Youxiang, LingeSwani, Chin RuiLing, Lee Zhi Xin, Celine, Robyu, Christopher Sim, Wee Yeong Wei, Wan Xiangyun, Ufba

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

*SCOPE

- 1) Prevention of AIDs conception and proliferation/spread
- 2) Acceptance of AIDs patients in society- let “hidden victims surface”

*EDUCATION

- multifacet: Age group/ Education Background/ sexuality
- start young – maybe primary school
- Public awareness
 - mass-media(MTV Advertisement)
 - Books (eg: comicbooks by HDB for kids)
- Promote:
 - family values
 - Fidelity (among heterosexual and homosexual)
 - Responsibility (“Abstinence Diary”)
 - Virginity is “cool” : auction-shop concept
 - 2nd virginity for those who already have had sex

Programmes

- 1) Screening for sexually active
 - make it free-of-charge
- 2) Youth Dialogues
 - *TEACH parents how to talk about SEX and AIDs (educate conservative parents harsh truth that kids KNOW a lot about sex”
- 3) Community Involvement Programme(CIP)
 - allow youth exposure to AIDs patients
 - in terms of materials, state the facts , don’t exaggerate
 - stomp AIDs programme
 - AFA
- 4) Work employment schemes
 - don’t discriminate AIDs patients =>ACCEPTANCE of AIDs victims ->Allow hiding AIDs patients to surface

-Role of Government

*Change branding

*More Funding

SESSION OUTCOME 6

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Helping Third World Countries cope with globalization

SESSION INITIATOR : Alicia Ang

CO-WORKERS : Lee Weixian, Shauna Lo, Yao Wen, David Chan, Louis, Toon Hwee, Qi Yi, Phea Ktra

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

Key Understandings

- Is aid from Newly Industrialized countries (NICs) justified? Many of these countries are facing problems themselves. E.g. Taiwan helping other countries even though they face their own domestic problems.
- Newly Industrialized countries had received help from the developed countries so the NICs should move on and help the Third World countries (TWCs)
- Globalization should be viewed as a gradient
 - Countries at the lowest rung include Zimbabwe etc.
 - Countries at a slightly higher rung include Sri Lanka, which have sweatshops etc.
 - The issue is how to bring the former up to the 1st rung so that they can move on from there.
- Countries are in a worsening cycle when bad conditions are present.
 - Even when job opportunities are present, the root problem is not solved.
- Another problem is that some countries do not want help/intervention in domestic policies – infringe sovereignty

Case studies

- Republics in Africa
 - They are receiving aid but there is little improvement
 - Could be due to new conditions that they face today that are different.
 - There are many domestic conditions that these countries face.
- China helping countries that have bad policies like work regimes
 - Western powers may be unhappy when the NICs help and try to intervene.
 - Yet, help from such countries may be helpful (e.g. China giving education to African state and allow their citizens to go back to their own countries.)
- Singapore funds foreign students to come in and study and they stay in Singapore (is this morally right?)
 - At the same time, there are many Singaporeans moving out.
 - This tends to be a natural process in globalization.
 - Are we stealing good ASEAN countries and robbing themselves of resources to develop?

Action Items

- On a superficial level, the main way to help Third World Countries is not to force globalization/liberalization on them, but to recognize the key industries they have that still have protectionism, and work with these countries with the key emphasis on reducing protectionism gradually, such that liberalization and fiscal policies of the country would not affect them to an extent of devastation
- Newly Industrialized countries need not provide large amounts of financial aid to Third World

Countries as their economies may not be mature enough. However, they should provide aid in terms of technical assistance etc.

- Could encourage other countries to invest these TWCs
 - BUT trade may not be the best thing to do, as the countries can't handle the influx of imports
 - YET there are examples where corporations had helped to market products from TWCs
 - BUT businesses work for their own interest
- NICs can contribute by:
 - Promote growth triangle --e.g. Growth "triangle" among Singapore, Riau, Batam, Suzhou, and even Vietnam – Singapore is even considering including Khata
 - Provide guidance and expertise to these countries
 - Should help countries out of altruistic aims, but not look at the incentives given (often, however, most of these countries are not developed enough.)
 - We should aim to look for win-win situations
 - BUT countries that have almost nothing to offer would never be able to develop.
- Altruism
 - Being altruistic may not be realistic as the country's people may feel the pinch.
 - Some countries are "forced" into altruism.
 - E.g. Scandinavian states, Nordic states have large proportion of GDP devoted to developing countries
 - BUT the governments have the people's support.
- NICs shouldn't help countries in a one trace kind of old package
 - More holistic help
 - But all these need a lot of funds: perhaps that's where altruism on the part of Western powers come in.
- Need to move developing countries upwards.
 - Provide market in the future
 - E.g. US seems to be choosing to develop infrastructure in very specific countries
- Exploiting labor force
 - Both sides benefit
 - Sweatshops provide comparatively better working conditions (although industries in the countries might suffer.)
- Start with certain states in Africa first that have potential that can then help others.
- Use tourism (perhaps only in South Africa)
 - Landlocked countries are often restricted from trade
- Countries like Africa have main economy in agriculture, but if major powers have agricultural subsidies, then it's restricted
 - BUT Africa can't feed the world.
 - Perhaps EU/US can use some of the money from subsidies to help technological advances in these countries.
 - We could try to create new industries.
- :Promote fair trade
 - Doesn't matter why it's done, as long as it works.
 - There's a question of how effective it is.
 - Countries should encourage such measures
- Prescribe more specialized methods for each country
 - Help countries in their own specific way and develop them in that way.
- Find the area in each country that it is good at
 - Corruption is an inherent problem
 - Aid not effectively given
- Developing countries could try to improve on education
 - E.g. sweat shops constantly exploit cheap unskilled labor

- But if we can lift countries to a certain extent, they can develop
- We could start small
 - But have the intention to go big
 - It's good to intent to go big, but it may nto be very practical.
 - It may be more practical to have an aim in mind and work in small steps
 - We should consider how committed we are to working to the end.
 - Some goals proposed are too impossible to achieve
- Work with many aspects at a time.
- Big companies donating large amounts of money to charity
 - People like Bill gates providing financial aid directly, to things like aid and RnD.
 - Rich people should follow in their steps

Analysis of current plans

- Pegging conditions with loans
 - Good as countries that need help have major problems with corruption so they do need the guidance that is given
 - E.g. Argentina – they did look at cultural aspects.
 - Bad as the solutions/conditions they prescribe are not relevant/useful
 - One size fits all approach
 - Often under the dictates of Western powers
 - Too generic at times
- Not solving the root problem
 - It is hard to find the root problem
 - We should instead work to make conditions more favorable in these TWCs
 - E.g. in Ghana, original plan is to fund a lot of AIDs patients, but the Western Powers chose to scale down the plan to the extent that the help became ineffective
- World Trade may hinder the process
 - E.g. EU and US are protecting their own market despite advocating free trade – they do not practice what they preach.
- Why didn't developed countries choose to enter countries like Africa many years ago before problems surfaced?
 - Lack of political stability do not facilitate involvement.

SESSION OUTCOME 7

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Money Is the Root of All Evil

SESSION INITIATOR : Tang Poh Loong

CO-WORKERS : Annie Fang Moana, Liu yi, Bobbie Jen, Doan Thi Thuy Dung, Mary Geraldine, Gwendroline, Robyn, Luh Putu Ko, Yeo Ying Hao, Fernadez

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

*Disagree that money is the root of all evil. Paper is a medium and its love of well being and lack of money . Material Wealth.

Communists are not progressing that fast, because of all equality. It's the greed that in a way motivates people to work harder.

*Education has a part to play to ensure no evil. Corruption is not the way. Society has a part to play.

*Indonesia

90% of population are taking 10% Wealth.

10% of population are taking 90% wealth

Still boils down to education and family values.

President is corrupted. Police too.

Same for Malaysia

It was reported that only a small fraction of tsunami funds were donated to the needy people.

How can they make themselves rich?

Ans: Education

Short term plan to poverty is money

Long term plan to poverty is education

To build sustainable wealth, skill is needed. We should develop adults as well, not only children.

Adults need education, which will have immediate effect on families.

Entrepreneur/ Technopreneur

How to earn money

Economist Cycle

Rich become richer, poor continue becoming poorer.

A leader may be needed to change the whole system, in which no person can be bribed.

To the drastic extent of cutting people's hand if they steal.

America is dominating the worldwide decisions, to the extent of neglecting UN's views

Other big houses can combine to counter America, its not happening though.

Russia never cared about the world.

There is a loophole in moral education.

How do we get people to follow everything?

If everyone follows law by law, there is no need for police anymore!

If everyone is saint, there is no god!

Stanford Wise(movie)

A country which did everything right, but eventually actually done everything wrong.

We Cannot prevent corruption, but can only reduce.

In Malaysia, Police can be bribed \$100-\$2000(example) If they bribe more than \$2000, they will be charged for bribery. But if doesn't exceed, they are not charged.

It is so easy to do bad things, but much harder to do good stuffs.

Chinese Quote- 3 Years to turn good, but only 3 days to turn bad.

Suggests on giving free financial planning advice.

Small organisations are already doing it.

IMF can help to make it a bigger scale.

But will people take it?

Can offer luxury item.

Can do door to door

But does the benefits really outweigh?

Is it feasible?

Corruption for rich, stealing for poor! Its happening!

The way to tackle it is to work. Top-Down. Stop the rich from corrupting 1st.

The poor might eventually follow and stop stealing.

SESSION OUTCOME 8

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Education

SESSION INITIATOR : Lim Chin Chean

CO-WORKERS : Max, Pricillia, Duan Yi

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

*Africa

- Are local volunteers better in teaching the population compared to professionals instructor?
 - Should we focus on survival skills instead of basic education like math? A balance should be achieved with welfare in mind.
 - Education should adapt to lifestyle, to show that there is a purpose behind education and letting go some immediate gam.
 - Companies could sponsor education and work as well(win-win)
 - Scholarships, loan, healthcare, subsidises, central schooling system rather than local system

*Accessibility of education

- a) developed countries
 - shortage of vocational technicians
 - mindset should change regarding job status
 - allow foreign talent to develop certain fields while helping locals to improve lives.
 - wages go according to demand, not status.
 - universities and vocational schools CANNOT be compared. They serve different purposes.
- b) Underdeveloped countries
 - effective intervention
 - i) spreading the importance of knowledge
 - ii) provide education and let children/parents work in their spare time.

*Equality of standard

- central tests for classification
 - i) provides a way to compare quality of education between schools
 - ii) however, it gives a false perception that education is only about grades(rote learning)
 - iii) teachers go to better schools, leaving behind people who have innate talent.
- different economic situation gives different quality of schooling(private, public...)
 - grouping should be balanced between ability and interests.
 - Central education system is better IF there is ample funding.

*Grouping of students

- SAT scores, A-level, O-level could only screen according to present ability, not TALENT.
 - mindset regarding vocational talents should change.
 - Students from poor rural schools are not “taught” properly in the usual way. However, this cannot conclude that they are less intelligent.

*Personal satisfaction or National interests

- universities and schools should be more liberal in what they teach.
- students could pursue their dreams after learning the basics.
- Dogmas regarding vocational students should be removed.

*Rote learning

- the basics should be taught well by educators firstm which requires some degree of spoonfeeding
- subsequently, students should be given the chance to learn themselves with guidance from teachers.
- school teachers are MENTORS, not tuition teachers.

SESSION OUTCOME 9

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : How and why corporations and youths can and should work together.

SESSION INITIATOR : Shawn

CO-WORKERS : Shawn, Bruce, Steve

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

***Why young people work with businesses**

-Funding

-Images

-Experiences

***Why businesses want to work with young people**

-New ideas/energetic/eager to learn

-good publicity (77th street)

-getting students to do the job(cheaper)

-clientele(youths will understand youths best)

How?

- 1) set up fund/guide youths to start projects/idea generation**
- 2) internships (gain the experience)**
- 3) short-term opportunities(encourage small firms to use young people for short-term jobs)**
- 4) young people to help large firms that want to fulfil their corporate social responsibility (use youths as force multiplier to achieve certain projects)**
- 5) mentor potential entrepreneurs (companies to grow)**

***create a centralized portal online to link youths and businesses
cheaper, almost to same qualities**

***businesses to tie up with NGOs and schools (usually proper management)**

SESSION OUTCOME 10

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Entrepreneurship, education and Singapore identity

SESSION INITIATOR : Mr Terence Ryan Hoe Zong Huan

CO-WORKERS : Tan Wey Lin, Liyan, Poh Jian Yu, Ying Zheng, Choi Jin Kook

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

*The Singlish (language). The Kiasu-ism spirit, high technology and good people in Singapore. Food, sense of security, efficiency (government- not corrupted, clean, safe) Singapore is the cleanest country. Network and re-establish- They give dialogue for community get togetherness in Singapore.

Parents giving them negative thoughts, not many people dare to take risk, good and successful entrepreneurs went through many failures.

Need to find a good mentor. Cause they have been through ups and downs. Ask those who have been through the business (Find the wrong teacher and you wont succeed)

Need to do market surveys.

Very good marketing to succeed in business.

Network marketing is the next move.

Education, encourage failure, be creative in whatever we do. Being Daring.

Attracting national education.

Singapore education is good. Need for entrepreneurship.

Singapore teachers have not changed.

Now NIE teachers have changed their teaching concepts.

Some say national education is not really effective.

Discussions: bring them up to see different things.

Bring them to see different countries and historical sites.

Start with one shop, get 1 group of shop owners to taste my kaya.

SESSION OUTCOME 11

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : The Effects of globalization on Singapore's National Identity

SESSION INITIATOR : Shauna Lo

CO-WORKERS : Weixian, Alicia Tu, Robyn, Max, Daniel Loh, Khalid Hassan, Farhanah Yasit, Lim Xin Yi, Amin@stitchinitiative.org, dahmesh, Danielle, Dickson, Eldhose, Cheryl Sim, Kwo Yi Duan, Prem, Prashant, Fong Ze.

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

*What is the definition of a cultural identity?

Language- Singapore is a multi racial country, very difficult to figure out one's unique cultural identity. Government has tried to introduce high culture and popular culture.

Community's practices and beliefs. There is no common Singapore identity. Singapore's identity is a melting pot, a mix. Something only Singaporeans can identify, foreigners cant.

Identity is who you are, not who you want to be.

Are we proud of our identity?

Eg. S'nglish and 'Kiasu-ism' are they good or bad.? Identity is meant for you to identify your fellow Singaporeans and also how others look at you.

But the ways others view you can be stereotypical.

Singaporean identity is always changing, with globalization our identity will grow stronger. Singapore is still young, that's why it has problems with identity. National pride is more important than national identity.

Is identity important? Who defines it?

If it is defined by a board, it is stagnant and does not change. Then it wont be counted as an identity anymore.

We have a say in our identity. Its partly how we want to be viewed and how others view us. Are we happy with our current cultural identity or do we want something owe can be proud of? Is our cultural identity something we create or something that is natural?

Government trying to drill an identity into us, but is it who we really are?

But we don't really have a choice, because we are so tourism-based, we have to present a view that others want to see?

We think of ourselves as Kiasu and food-loving, but we don't know what kind of identity the government had created for us.

Singapore is very pragmatic, our survival comes first. We nee dot be flexible; our identity is also affected by our economy and politics.

Eg. Singapore has a transparent economy to be good for business but cultural identity is something that is deeply rooted, historical

Singlish, part of our “identity”, is actually affected by our many cultures. But singlish does distinguish us from the rest- we can identify ourselves that way. It is important to us but at the same time the government is trying to curb it to present a cultured image. Then again, the government is right in the speak good English campaign because they are to push us out of our comfort zone so we can be better understood. The government’s focus is on us to continually progress.

Singlish should be an intimate thing, just for Singaporeans. But there are foreigners who enjoy our Singlish too. It’s like how we adapt to others when we go abroad to study, so we should be proud of our singlish. Should we be able to switch between singlish and English? Singlish is good only when you know proper English and you can use both fluently. Our government is being pragmatic- they want us to be able to function well. Singlish may create communication barriers.

Vietnamese cultural identity is about patriotism

Eg. They call ‘The Vietnam War’, ‘The American War’. The Americans were defeated by the Vietnamese because of the patriotism of the Vietnamese.

France has Eiffel Tower, America has the Statue of Liberty, Vietnam doesn’t have a physical symbol. Does Singapore have a symbol? Most of us do not consider the Merlion, Esplanade, Changi Airport tower as a national symbol. When we try to create an identity for ourselves, it doesn’t really work. Our identity is created usually by accident. (eg. Singlish)

Do Singaporeans have national pride?

National pride and identity should be separated.

Western culture is coming to Singapore, would this affect Singaporean culture?

Korean dramas and Japanese mangas are coming to Singapore and are very popular.

- Mindsets of the people: We see foreigners as better off.
- Eg. Stefanie Sun must go to Taiwan and make it big there before coming to Singapore.

With globalization, others have accents that we may not be able to understand it either. In this case, shouldn’t we be proud of our singlish? It’s our Slang!

However, singlish has word from other languages. It is like a dialect unlike accents. Which just change the tone of English, but not the language itself.

Even with globalization so far, we can still identify our fellow Singaporeans. Singapore has a lot of fusion things and culture, so our identity will grow and we will still be able to identify with it. Singapore identity is built up from globalization, our identity will just grow stronger. In the beginning, our culture was also made up from our immigrant nature. In a way, we “agree to disagree”, we make our identity and culture one of a mixture, a melting pot.

In Vietnam, globalization is causing increased individualization. However, they still retain their sense of identity (hierarchy) → They respect their elders.

Singapore is said by foreigners to be very individualistic and selfish. (eg. Not giving their seats on the bus to the elderly)

We, as Singaporeans, agree that we are individualistic and selfish, and we find it worrying.

Maybe it is the western influence that has somehow changed our society- students study for long hours, parents work for long hours, there is a lack of family time, let alone a sense of community, eg. Not knowing your neighbours, not being close to your neighbours.

But there are exceptions. This is just a general case. Eg. Our being here at the world bank- IMF conference shows that we care about a larger community than just ourselves. There are also a lot of NGOs, charity organizations, and people involved in community service. Eg. The tsunami aid. Perhaps we are just being too judgemental and we view the negative aspects more easily.

Is Singapore an apathetic nation?

From World Bank's perspective

They are having an orchard road exhibition and many Singaporeans have volunteered to help.

Is the individualistic characteristic unique to Singapore? No, it can happen anywhere.

What are the stereotypes we have? How do we counter them/ add to them?

Individualism may be prevalent in developed countries and not in developing countries because people in developed countries have less time for community.

Individualism can be used in a good way. Makes us competitive. (eg. Education) But we shouldn't carry it overboard.

At the end of the day, we decide who we want to be. We may want to be the best, but we don't want to do it an evil way.

Globalization could be an identity for us because we have so many cultures. The way our society is built is such that our identity is a globalized one.

But there are many other countries who are promoting this as well.

It is our people who make us different. Malaysia is a Malay Malaysia, but Singapore is a democratic test and equal country.

Will Singapore accept all the foreign talents? The foreign talent will create jobs, but will the jobs be for us? Should the government regulate? What about expats?

Some companies have expats (eg. MNCs) and pay them more although there are equally talented Singaporeans.

Singaporeans aim very high. We don't want to do "dirty work" and "hard work" like construction workers. So there is an influx of foreign workers because no one wants to do those jobs. Those foreign low wage workers are also focused and hardworking.

Singaporeans are never contented, we are always striving for more and more.

But not just low wage people are affected. Highly-educated ones can be unemployed too because they are too qualified for low wage jobs.

But there is more of an exception because there are usually more lowly-educated ones there is also a problem of older workers.

Companies do not want to employ those who are too old.

But this is a part of life: Companies are pragmatic and they just go for profits

The government should help, but it shouldn't be a welfare state. CPF is helping. Government has made some plans and policies to help.

Singaporeans are quite disciplined, the nation is quite controlled.

Freedom of speech - blogging, new forms of media.

We need to protect our racial and religious harmony, and our fragile society balance.

The coverage regarding politics is still very skewed and highly controlled.

SESSION OUTCOME 12

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : The problem with corruption

SESSION INITIATOR : Rachel Hmar

CO-WORKERS : Malvin chua, Wai Zaw, Rachel Hmar, Ismail, Dhanesh Chainani, Collin HO, Danielle Ho, Diickson Li, Khalid Hassan, Daniel Loh, Ryna Mahindapala, Farhana, Lynn, Audrey Ng

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

Definition: Abuse of authority for own benefit, form of exploitation (political agenda/rested self-interest) on a group and individual level.

Qn: Is Singapore corrupt?
Transparency vs Corruption

Transparency

- key in preventing corruption
- knowledge of information

Corruption

- an effect of ignorance, deteriorating system
- eg bureaucracy

Case Study 1- Africa

Aid=complacency?

Inefficient system of distribution

Need for voice in government decisions?

Effects:

- extreme poverty
- lack of resources for a solution
- because some types of corruption are ingrained in culture/embedded in legal systems
- hinders economic progression (lack of national identity/decrease reputation)

Solutions: AID

- an incentive to tackle corruption

eg: IMF-World Bank (fund management programme)

problem: difficulty in allocating resources/wastage/degree of willingness/ability to change their situation

Solution: A legal incentive to encourage efficiency (eg. Incentives for good work done in the service/retail industry or performance-based salaries)

Problem: increases disparity between rich and poor.

Causes: systemic problem(governmental system)

Eg: authoritarian vs check& balance system

Solution : education- to make the right choices. Reduce but not eliminate

Qn) will corruption be stopped by Globalisation?

-influx/movement/fluidity

-greater need for end to corruption since the world becomes more interdependent

conclusion(proposal)

pyramid hierarchy with government at the top followed by officials/societ and government at the base too.

Therefore, eradicate corruption from the top authority downwards. Though the impact of corruption is differentiated between developing and developed countries, it depends on the priority of each individual government to take the necessary steps (ie: the more pressing the effects. The more attention it should get)

Outcome:

-increase value of country (reputation)

-viability for trade/economic progress

SESSION OUTCOME 13

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Environment Conservation

SESSION INITIATOR : Malvin Chua Kim Han

CO-WORKERS : Ryna Mahindapala, Rachel Hmar, Arathi Philips Roy, Lynn, Jason Pan, Amisha Kama, Audrey Ng, Kenneth Kang

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- Definition of Environmental Conversation: Preservation Of Nature/ Wildlife, for sustainable development
- Pollution – Who Is to Blame? Developed Countries or Third World Countries? Both play an important part in pollution. Environmental problems have been compromised for economic pursuit, whether past or present.
- Individual Effort vs. International Collaboration, which is more important? Individual effort should be recognized or a collective effort. Education is insufficient not in quantity, not in quality. Environmental education should be reconfigured to be more effective than textbook learning, but first hand experiences, it should be second nature to us. E.g. global excursions to survey the plight of the environment.
- Pollution and progress is a cycle. Humans need to see progression, esp. economically causes more pollution.
- The concept of environmental conservation is not so much of a physical condition, but a mental condition in humans. For it to be a global effort it first to be an individual effort, which then equates to a concerted effort. Pollution is a hindrance to conservation efforts which are have to overcome. Education is the key. Environmental conservation should become second nature of the human condition.

SESSION OUTCOME 14

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC :

Service industry in Singapore

SESSION INITIATOR :

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- *Singaporeans concept of service
 - What should we expect?
 - How should we behave?
- *Across countries – France, USA, US, Singapore
 - tipping, service charge
- *Treating the customer well → definite that you must tip?
- *Social norms
- *Enforce tipping → No
 - Act of goodwill
 - Culture
- *Change 15% service charge to tipping.
 - convince govt to get the companies.
- *\$ expression of appreciation
- *Attitudes of Singaporeans
- *Older generation → teach the youth to be selfish
- *Singaporeans expect you to do things for them?
 - Service becoming a right.
 - Taking things for granted.
- *Primary schools
- ***Elder generations**
- *Element of choice
- *One-person for one person.
- *Basis for comparison

*Service

- attitudes
- culture
- context

*Solutions?

- Brainwashing vs. Individual Effort

SESSION OUTCOME 15

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : The Development of India & China and its Implications for the Future

SESSION INITIATOR : David Chan Tar Wei

CO-WORKERS : Lewis Tan Jun Jie, Ong Toon Hwee

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- The Development of India and China refers to the changes in its political structures and relationships with other nations, the growth of its economy and the changes of its social make-up
- Implications for the future in terms of its effect on the region (Asia) and in international relations, in particular their relationships with other superpowers such as the USA
- Key Discussion Points:
 - Overview of China/India
 - General exponential growth, China more than India
 - China receives greater FDI than India
 - Different political structures: one party state in China under the Chinese Communist Party and a multiparty democracy in India
 - Economic structures – generally market based economy: China’s slow move towards greater trade and market liberalization
 - China’s reliance on FDI and MNCs as compared to India’s growing number of local enterprises (e.g. Wipro)
 - China being the “factory of the world” with low cost of labour and manufacturing powerhouse, India as the outsourcing hub of the world heavily reliant on its service sector
 - Existent income inequality (based on Gini coefficient) greater in China than India but both suffer from inequitable development – greater development in the coastal regions than the rural regions.
- Implications of its Growth
 - Changes to the international political regime
 - Potential rise as a superpower precipitating shifts of power in global politics (India-China-US)
 - Antagonism between India/China and the US
 - China support certain rogue states that undermine US authority and at times the UN’s jurisdictional (e.g. China’s support for Venezuela and their protection of oil interests in Sudan that prop up states which have been traditional American opponents)
- Energy Issues
 - China’s need for energy resources/ commodities that pose a challenge to America’s own needs
 - China’s increasing demand for oil may have pushed oil prices up
 - China’s pursuit for energy may antagonize the Americans (eg: Trade ties with Iran/

Venezuela. Deals with Canada(oil) which suggest an encroachment of us strategic interest

- **India/China's relationship with other countries which puts the US on a spot(eg: India/Pakistan, China/Japan, China/Taiwan)**
- **Aggrandizement of power creates discontent in the White House: China's permeation in Africa which gains support for them in global institutions like in the United Nations**

- **Environmental Issues**
 - **The increase of economic activity increases pollution levels, which results due to market failure**
 - **Given the "developing nation" status of India and China, it is not mandated by the Kyoto Protocol to adhere to emission standards. Even if it is the next highest emitter of greenhouse gases after the USA. Therefore USA also refuses to ratify treaty resulting in the failure of a global tradable credits regime**
 - **Yet governments(India/China) recognize that the environment is important and are taking measures, which are regarded by the developed nations as insufficient. The argument is that India/China should prioritize economic growth over environmental concerns given that this was the way the developed nations progressed.**
 - **Hence, a dichotomy between developed and developing countries**

- **Imperative to engage with India and China**
 - **Need for cultural understanding**
 - **Language barrier exist between the West and India/China**
 - **Need for both parties to learn the languages of the other party (more to bilingualism)**
 - **Move to protect indigenous cultures in light of globalization and increasing Western influence**
 - **Chinese Traditions/India Culture**
 - **Role of ASEAN**
 - **More to engage India/China via ASEAN-India FTA and proposed ASEAN-China FTA(substantial benefits)**
 - **Considerations:**
 - **Should ASEAN engage India/China collectively as a bloc or should it engage these two countries as individual states?**
 - **Greater lobbying power in 560million ASEAN compared to 4million in Singapore**
 - **Larger market , greater value to India/china**
 - **Collaboration of ASEAN and India/China may act as a unifying force for ASEAN (potential threats, hence engage them collectively)**
 - **Problems associated with ASEAN**
 - **Zone of peace freedom and Neutrality(ZOPFAN) advocates non interference**
 - **Factional nature of ASEAN:**
 - **Different political structures/ideologies/priorities**
 - **Different cultures**
 - **May hinder a collective effort to engage India/China**
 - **Therefore, ASEAN must get its act together to tap into the potential of India/China collectively.**

- **Economic opportunities for other countries as a results of engagement**
 - **developed countries**
 - **India/China open new markets**
 - **Opportunities to develop infrastructure of countries**

- **Developing countries**
- **Trickle down effect of India/China's growth due to India/China increasing demands for goods**
- **Gain from their expertise and advice to rise out of the cycle of poverty.**

SESSION OUTCOME 16

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Rebranding of Singapore's education

SESSION INITIATOR : Yeo Ying Hao

CO-WORKERS : Perhana, Jia Yau, Max, Priscilla, Bhupidner Singh

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- Fatalistic students
- Students do not want to learn
- fight in school, smoke;
- part-time jobs at night
- Teachers do not teach
- Racial riots involving police
- Parents play a part
- Online learning instead of in school
- Interactive learning is important yet it shouldn't occupy most time.
- Students choose what he wants to learn;
- European style / American style;
- reviving starts from the top
- innovative teaching (show & tell)
- problem based learning / explanatory learning;
- train teachers to do interactive learning
- teacher poaching / better teachers in better school?
- GEP teacher training (good) – students find answers on their own
- Discussion based learning. Teacher from privates sector.
- Singapore has no faith in the ability of students
- No homework policy
- Reflection journal
- In-class discussion
- Everyone will learn in their own way
- How to break from education hierarchy
- Marking problems?
- Teachers to assess students
- To give test
- Current society judges on marks
- Students must have personal responsibility
- Current system is good enough

- Suggestions

Teacher training / add value to students' learning make learning meaningful;

Problem / discussion based basis for teacher pay rise

Student feedback system.

Primary school teachers are most fundamental

Level salary fro primary / secondary teachers

Transparent feedback board (survey/random interview)

External auditing or student leaders, carefully structured questions

Check popularity & effectiveness. Annual Personality tests for teachers

Post teachers to different classes, according to personality.

Also decide level of teaching according to personality.

SESSION OUTCOME 17

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Globalization and protectionism

SESSION INITIATOR : Henry Chong

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

*Effect on developing countries:

- Exploitation of local populace
- Can help “young” industries.

*Effect on developed countries

- Want to protect national industries
- Government reluctant to effect change for fear of alternating voters.

*Role of IMF/ WTO / World Bank

- Propellent for free trade.
- Hard to effect change; no legitimate power.
- Largely influenced by ‘western countries’ both in leadership and monetary concerns.

*Protectionism is detrimental to local consumers.

*Difference between protectionism and ethical- trading laws. Free trade allows market to find equilibrium.

SESSION OUTCOME 18

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Natural Disaster

SESSION INITIATOR : Irnizah bte Khusaini

CO-WORKERS : Chua Kai Lin

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- Educate youngsters in natural disaster prone countries on emergency skills such as basic first skills, survival skills and aspects of natural disasters so that they can be mentally and physically prepared
- natural disasters are broadcast across all kinds of media but there isn't a channel for individuals to exercise their volunteerism
- individuals may not have sufficient travel expenses. This may be setback for both the needy country and the individuals who have reluctant and valuable skills to give. The government should set aside some fund for the volunteers.
- developed technology allows detecting of natural disaster such as flood. however, such technologies is not shared among natural disaster prone countries.
- transparency of organizations that are raising fund to the affected areas.

SESSION OUTCOME 19

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Racism

SESSION INITIATOR : Su Yuen

CO-WORKERS : Pooi Yean, Emir, Melvin, Ryna, Rachel, Kenneth, Jason

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- legal racism in Malaysia being practiced. Those affected don't complain due to action might be taken against them. Educating the people on racism, raising it's awareness. Culture and upbringing plays a part. Tolerance is key. Emotion plays a big part.
- Racial groups starting groups to reach out and educate their people on racism, respect for others and its consequences. Governments plan a big part in tackling racism. Transparency, public education with tolerance on other races, play a big part in solving racism. Though it will take time.
- Government must be firm in its stand and should do all it can, for example, if one is found guilty of racism, he should be placed in that race's culture, made to work with them, so as to slowly but eventually grow to accept that race.
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SESSION OUTCOME 20

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Elitism in Education

SESSION INITIATOR : Lee Wei Xian

CO-WORKERS : Alicia Ang, Shauan Lo, Koh Xuan Qi, Ethel Sng, Kenneth Sin, Claressa Wong, Melvin tan, Khalid Hassan, Aw Sze Min, Francisca Widjaja, Saskia, Collin Ho, Joshua Oeij, Dickson Li, Cheryl Sim, Daniel loh, Jennifer, joel, kaleni, joon paii, malun, Rina, Kenneth, Kastik, Vishnu, Prem, Prashant, Dhanuesh, Weiling, Zangyin, jonathan, Yao Long, Selina.

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- *Point of elite is to put the smart people together
 - give them extra funding from government.
 - a lot of money from alumni.
- * Non elite school don't receive sufficient funding.
- * Elitism is still very rampant or is it just a stereotype?
- * Elitism is being selective, about national ranking
abit of pragmatism
- * DSA
 - elite in sports, etc.
 - reduce elitism because they pull down the school's overall academic standards.
- * IP
 - RGS + RI → RJ
 - PSLE is not an accurate gauge of intelligence.
 - What about the late developers?
- *Independent Vs Neighbourhood.
 - Schools can become independent because they have money (elitism)
 - Education may be about the same, but branding
 - The brand of being from an elite school allows one to get scholarships more easily.
- FOR
 - More intelligent deserve more funding.
 - Develop the potential of the smart → benefit society
 - Specialized education for each group.
 - Schools like Harvard develop the elite. → funded by private companies.

Against

- Late developers? Unfair for them. Even if they have other opportunities for “promotion”, there are other problems like peer pressure of being mugged, less funding, less focus from the government.
- So can we have schools like privately funded Harvard and allow the government to focus on public schools.
- Wealth (where you’re born into) plays a big role.
- If good scorers clump bad scorers clump, a certain environment is created and it is very bad for bad scorers and hard for them to promote. Hard to find motivation.

Importance of funding in development of students.

- Qualification of teachers.
- But how can the government regulate the funding from private companies.

Gifted Education Programme

- Screening at primary 3 is too early
- Better education- smaller classes, better teachers. Can other students benefit from such an education? But there aren’t enough resources. Isn’t it better to focus on those select few? Backfires, ostracises students, segregation between students, stereotypes, snobbish, bookish, rich.

Opportunities for late bloomers are these

- Businessmen who do well despite not being in the elite schools.

Good at music and the arts

- government focuses more on academics than music and arts.
- MEP, AEP, but only offered in elite schools, maybe because art and music is considered high class.

DSA makes schools more elite.

- they accept a small % of students who do well in sports to boost their sporting achievements in order to make themselves look more well-rounded and boost their image.
- Sports depends on their wealth. → eg. Golf, air rifle, water polo, sailing, archery are expensive sports. Problem is with facilities (government). Sports school has very expensive school fees.
- But is it realistic to expect everyone to have the same opportunity to try out sports. Test ability at sports, just like GEP screening. But our focus is not on sports. Is it realistic in the form of resources?

Talent is found and nurtured.

- unrealistic to expect the government to offer equal opportunities to all.
- If it’s the individual’s responsibility to do his/her best to strive to achieve what he/she wants to.
- But we are just trying to shrink the disparity/gap Government needs to readjust their focus. It shouldn’t be money + brain + brain that will succeed.

Natural selection

- strongest survive
- too bad if you die

Untapped/ Unfulfilled potential

- idealistic or realistic?
- Are we making full use of our human resources?

Family background affects the studying environment and motivation

- self motivation is hard at 12

Definition of elitism/ elite

- Being selective
- The one selected
- See it as a push for people to go further.
- Top JCs/ Schools
- Meritocracy
- Elite students have more resources/ opportunities, not good definition: ITE also have a lot if resources
- Segregation
- Natural definition that is good
- Proven to have the potential to be better
- Elitism defined by social stigma. Society decides what is elite or otherwise.

Selection Mechanism

- Choosing the elite at a young age
- Self esteem would suffer if you are pruned out too early.

Good or Bad

- Without elitism, we would be socialist
- Elitism helps to allow the nation to progress – it is an important part of society
- Streaming throughout our school is efficient.
- What happens to those that falls through
- You need elitism to be a democracy
- Because of elitism, the elite tends to be less compassionate.
- Meritocratic societies are good since you will have people/ leader with the ability → it is evident in all political systems.

Selection Mechanism

- you should try to work on helping those who fall through
- who should be deciding who is elite and who is not
- people have different ideas of what an elite is considered?
- The “non-elite” also have the power to decide who becomes an elite through voting/ electing government
- Selection mechanism is very fair – people all have equal opportunities to enter only one programme eg. NUS scholars’ programme.
- Is there really equal opportunity? We enter different schools and we start from different grounds. 2 kinds of opportunities. – genes/ family background – system opportunity
- People are willing to fund the elite since they would serve the country. People want ot invest in the smart ones, the best ones. Current system, criteria is a good thing.
- Question is that while we give everyone the same opportunities for people top enter a certain school/ GEP stream, you are allowing everyone to try out.
- Special programs appear to be4 extra, but they are natural and part of education system- smart people.

Is it fair?

- Resources go to the smarter schools to make the already smart people even smarter.
- People have to fight and push themselves to move forward and advance themselves.
- ITEs and polytechnics get more funding. But money does not equate to opportunities. While they have more funding, they have lesser opportunities.

- The whole point is for people to push themselves, wherever they are.

Good or Bad

- You need elitism to select the poor
- While you have more resources for the non-elite, do you channel it to them?
- Low self esteem may be a problem

Selection mechanism

- should always leave room for late bloomers.
- While academics get you to a scholarship, character gets you through.
- Criticising the system- that there is a lot of emphasis on academics.

Good or Bad

- Everyone plays their own role in different fields. They can be considered elites.
- Elitism may not be about excluding others, but about grooming the good ones.
- Elitism system stifles people's voice. But there are opportunities present, whether or not they know it is a dif case. Hence, it is the role of the elites to try to strike a balance – come up with programme to halp make things more equal.
- Survival of the fittest- strong helping the weak.
- Elitism pushes the world forward.- benefit economies.

Out of MOE system – VWC

- Essays and interviews, make sure everyone can cope. Not elite in the sense, as it is alright if you're not good academically, you have a lot of other opportunities.

Other non elite system.

- Academics are not everything
- It is important to develop holistically

Selection mechanism

- While the government is proposing a more holistic selection and development, it does not go that way.
- Schools have DSA who go into schools
- The people are not changing, there is mindset that the academics are more important
- It all boils down to what the economy needs.

Good or Bad

- It's a trade off. You probably have to sacrifice certain things (some academic areas, some non-academic areas) for each development.
- The people also have to show the government that compassion / extra academic areas are more important.

Role of elites

- It is their role to come up with new opportunities to develop people.
- Ultimately, we have to meet certain needs first.

Change in the future

- Select the sports/ arts etc. at an earlier stage

- Since we little background, we need to first fulfill the basic before developing.
- Government is too pragmatic, but we ignore other spiritual aspects.
- We first look at the majority and fulfill their needs first.
- Provide the governments with so much that there is no need to be corrupt.

SESSION OUTCOME 21

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Getting rid of the Death penalty for Drug Trafficking and Open Farming

SESSION INITIATOR : Kevin Tan

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- Demand side educate people to not take drugs
- Supply chain
- Farmers have to farm option, no others have provided at secret of in comp (teach other)
- Killing drug traffickers reappoint, = males
- Eradicating drug abuse
- When are money matters
- How to eradicate disoperation
- In every poor people
- How to sentence them then

SESSION OUTCOME 22

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Money is the root of all evil

SESSION INITIATOR : Alson

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- corrupted leaders – at the expense of the country
- Move to human nature. (greed) one's love of money
- means of transition
- in order to have a well-being of one
- longing for maternal wealth
- More money will people and country is able to move on to a better level?
- Money can be a source of reservation
- Education is also a factor of avoiding people to steal corruption and etc.
- People do not care about themselves for food and etc.

SESSION OUTCOME 23

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Debts and Interest rates in third world countries

SESSION INITIATOR : Muhd Ibnur Rashad

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

-Sustain by themselves. World Bank/IMF should engage in more projects to allow the poorer communities to be self-sustaining, not just giving out loans, interest rates are a hindrance as they create unsustainable debts. If they lack expertise, they should gain more networks to mining industries, agricultural firms, construction companies. Do projects for mutual profit/incentives, relationships not passive accumulation of interest.

-Scholarships, provision of skills, knowledge and expertise to the poorer students to learn about wealth management and economies overseas and implement the better systems/models here. Bring NGOs in a more proactive manner into projects. These are better ways to help the people direct without going through political red tape and negotiations.

-Incentives, instead of interests. We discussed about Le Grameen banking system: its history and system. We drew lessons about it. There are social incentives. Eg: exclusion from development project teams, moral incentives. Eg: good repayment

->good credibility and economic incentives eg: gain loans without collateral, share the profits gained. If interests are “necessary” to spur repayment, use the “balloon” system; repayment low at first, increase in later years.

-Legalities of the issue. Corruption and poor fund management are rampant in poorer countries. However, accumulation of interest far outweighs the above mentioned in creating poverty. The African strategy was unsuccessful as compared to Vietnam, as in Vietnam, NGOs are helping out to increase responsibility not just loans. They started as small projects and later develop into larger ones. Unlike in Africa, large chunks of loans are passed to the govt. America has 17% of votes or decisional power in World Bank/IMF. Restructuring voting system will be advantageous. Discussed about multilateralism/bilateralism in actions. We say that it is most advantageous when countries take mutual benefits/responsibilities to the projects.

- Debt relief, reduction, cancellation. Eliminate the debts accumulated by interest. Fix the loan repayment value. Use inflation rate, not interest rate for repayment. Time value of money is fussy and disturbing. We talked about gold, silver and commodities as medium or currency of exchange. We mentioned oil for food programme and barter trades amongst nations. Eliminate debt totally will not be helpful but we can fix it, because even if we eliminate/cancel/reduce debt, increment for interest is unjustified, unsustainable. We talked about Islamic banking systems too.

SESSION OUTCOME 24

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Racism

SESSION INITIATOR : Christine Huang

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- Racial understanding starts on a personal level
- Tokenism: racial quotas in schools, universities, political groups.
- Language is the currency of idea exchange

SESSION OUTCOME 25

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC :

Whether there will be a balance or shift in global power in the future (from the West to the rest of the world)

SESSION INITIATOR : Natalia Yek

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- *Possible not in the near future. But low possibility.
- *Linked to the economy, shares in UN, World Bank, etc, because it is.
- *China and India have potential. But learning to capitalize. But still developing, slowly gaining power. More labour=more power.
- *Size matters → domestic economy.
- Singapore is small → developed, but it cannot afford to offend someone. Globalization makes size less important.
- *China and India rising economy ∴ Gaining political power. But economy not everything. Middle East is rich, but US stopping it.
- Agreement → not to have one country like US controlling everything.
- *Colonization mindset. It should shift → counter-balance.
- *China and India work with the West.
- *US economically wants China, but politically wants the final say. US power weakening but trying to hold on to it.
- *Asia needs to raise living standards to gain power.
- *China can control US economy with all the US currency it has.
- *Terrorism due to overwhelming power.
- *US citizens don't understand global opinions and cultures,
- *Providing a unified front e.g. from Iran and Israel supporting Hizbollah. Middle East are puppets.
- *What goes up must come down.
- *How will people learn from history?
- *Security Council controlled by West, cannot change power. Situation is stuck. 5 permanent members abolished → is outdated, has not evolved with change. Middle East and Asia not represented. 150+ members in UN but not represented. Russian power going down but still has veto. *Mindset that Western countries are superior. Yet they have so made so many mistakes in the past, e.g. World Wars.
- *Hurdle: Until countries are westernized, they will not get power.
- *Western Europe not open to change. Asians are catching up in terms of longer working hours, etc. Europe will lose out.
- *WB, UN, US, Europe looking to impose their own systems of power on others. Do not realize the cultural differences.

SESSION OUTCOME 26

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : How do you make your dreams come true?

SESSION INITIATOR : Ufla

CO-WORKERS : Charles, Emir, Pooi Yean, Su Yean

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- causes of dreams, philosophies, Hiller, ethics, cause and effects; economic restraints, pressure, fours, unmotivated.
- Types of dreams – we dreams, inspirahonal dreams, udp ,weddings, internships, opportunities, membership, roads, weather,
- Strategies – never stop believing government should offer incentives and opportunities, carrier day, internships for secondary schools, exposure to read life passion, mindset, workshops, support, cross-training
- Employee must interesting trail and error, cruised and full exposure observing, hands on public campaigning
- If given the choice, would you follow your passion to become a lawyer or follow your abilities as a chemical engineer?

SESSION OUTCOME 27

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Elitism in Singapore

SESSION INITIATOR : Gwendoline Roam

CO-WORKERS : Shawn, Liyan, Steve, Tang Wenglin, Yaishnavi

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- definition of success in Singapore needs to be broadened
- Acknowledge other forms of success.
- Elitism by product of meritocracy
- Not may in Singapore
- In Singapore, chances to cross-over
- We need better: chances at the beginning, more equal chances from childhood, e.g. equal access of computers
- Unequal opportunities
- Late bloomers given few chances
- Play JC debate
- Open up positions of power to everyone with selected guidelines
- “Lee Dynasty”, GIC, Temasek holdings, Singtel

SESSION OUTCOME 28

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Maid Issue

SESSION INITIATOR :

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

1. Need for more of maid activism in Singapore. NGO.
2. Maid tax.
3. Make the maid agency responsible for their welfare and information on maid.
4. Take note of the psychological damage done to the maid when employer change the maid due to valid reasons; before the expiry of contract. Provide counseling to the maids, fees should be shared between maid agency and employer.
5. Since the government is always encouraging Singaporeans to have more babies and majority of families have maids to take care of their kids, in order for government to discourage hiring of maids, subsidies and tax breaks should be given to parents to put their children in child-care centers.
6. Make it necessary for maid agencies to check on maids (by phone, medical check-ups, etc) periodically. Employers should only go to maid agencies with “ good practices” certification.
→ Maid agencies controlled by government legislation.
7. Government should restrict the rules in maid agency. For examples, check maid certificate for authentications or nay other maid issue tro ensure that they are responsible to their maid. Both Singapore and Indonesia government have to cooperate in setting up the rules.
8. National record of employer. Maids have records kept of them, why not employers? Create a blacklist and prevent certain abusers, both verbal and physical from employing again. Same for abusive agencies.
9. Organization to keep track of maid abuse at maid agencies (Physical and verbal abuse).
10. Regular counseling, so that the maids psychological behavior can be monitored.

SESSION OUTCOME 29

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Free trade

SESSION INITIATOR : Ian Tai

CO-WORKERS : Sharmeen Alum, Joseph Lan

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- No tax or barriers to entry
- business between two parties
- use consumer power to stop sweat shop labour: consumer power can change the world.
- depends on the society you live in: better for certain societies (eg: agricultural society in India is impeded with taxes we cannot have a fixed idea of whether free trade is good or bad. Depends on each situation.
- Free Trade is good as countries can specialize and trade goods freely to benefit but people are not aware of good and bad.
- Corporate social responsibility so companies are less likely to be inclined to pollute the environment.
- Protestors look at negative and forget positive. Burden on third world should china and America sign the FTA. This is why china is cautious, also because they don't want to be flooded. China is exporting more than importing.
- protectionism is a barrier to Free Trade. In an ideal world, protectionism will not exist.

PROS

- better flow of information
- protectionism benefits rich
- lowers corruption
- better relations between countries
- trading of expertise
- creation of jobs.

CONS

- rich poor divide
- flooding of western markets
- lack of regulation
- exploitation of third world resources

How to increase benefits and decrease detriments?

- regulation by the government :free trade in an ideal case.
- pros: benefits to firms and consumers.

Cons: social and ethical problems

World has worked without trade and it is not necessary to make it "better" when more problems have arisen.

- government intervention is necessary

-a more democratic form of free trade

starting point: look at Bolivia(latin America)

president took back all the natural resources and redistributed to the people

-more percentage of income should return to the people and this will be possible through regulation.

-privatisation: short term and there will be perfect competition with only the biggest firms surviving.

-singapore, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan were able to grow because of the FTA.

-regulation might lead to corruption and inefficiency

WB Presidents Speech (annual 2004)

Conclusion:

- **a balance between Free Trade and govt interventions**
- **HOW?**
- **New idea, experience(very tricky)**

SESSION OUTCOME 30

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Child Rights

SESSION INITIATOR : Jared Tham

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- difference between child rights and child welfare
- 4 categories of Child rights
- overview of situation in Singapore
- various child rights violations in developing nations
- how Singaporean youth can take action

-Child rights are not just common sense, it's also been codified into law

-youth should promote child rights, more so than adults and in schools.

-although s'porean youth have their rights to survival, protection, and development mostly taken care of, right to participation has lots of room for improvement

-examples of participation include National Youth Forum and Mekong sub-regional childrens' forum

-exploitation and informed choice are key in deciding how to intervene in a child's situation

-right to protection: it's a fine line between disciplining a child and emotional/physical abuse

-mailing list being set up for this group

SESSION OUTCOME 31

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Child Rights

SESSION INITIATOR :

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- **Right to survival: basic needs.**
- **Right to protection: exploitation etc.**
- **Right to development: opportunities to develop activities/ talents.**
- **Right to participation: Having voices heard, etc.**
- **Singapore**
 - **Volunteer Welfare Organization.**
 - **Social services: for juvenile delinquents, [C.A.R.E] for would be delinquents.**
 - **Thumbs Up → empowerment of youth.**
 - **Think Tank → The Think Centre**
 - **Signed the Convention of Child Rights**
- **Young changemakers → Panel for funding for Youth Fund.**
 - **Human trafficking in Mekong → Save the Children Movement.**
→ recommendations from youth taken into consideration and changes trying to be made.
- **Child sex legislation → What youth can do to curb this?**
 - **Reporting any discriminating evidence.**
 - **Even if the law is implemented in the country, the participating country's law has to cooperate as well. If even one country is able to keep tabs on the problem then there is a way to at least control the outflow of child sex crime committers.**
- **Exploitative (coercion by others) vs. choice (informed choice- consequences well explained; self initiatives).**
- **Singapore → psychological child labor.**
- **What defines abuse?**
 - **Can the child make its own informed choice?**
 - **Culture plays a part.**

SESSION OUTCOME 32

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Shift in Global power

SESSION INITIATOR :

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- potential for china but wealth gap is pretty large
- china/japan/India leaving to capitalize what they have
- global power very closely related to wealth of the country
- what is power?(size?input?knowledge hub? Economic power?)
- influence of western powers such as America is very strong.
- eastern countries may have much more money but western influence(from America etc) may be too stifling
- having china and India combining economically
- will be vetoed by other countries because although they want power to be shifted, still not in their vested interest to have two huge countries come together.
- western Europe+America want to maintain their economic standing
 - should their be a shift? Yes, to balance the western power with eastern influence(a for of counter balance)
- shift wont happen
- stigmatic mindset of the western
- US trying to hold on although power is weakening
- US politically discriminative. But economically needs the help of foreign industries.
- Middle east potential is weakened because there is too much of internal civil strife
- also affected by the global economy(adaptation of economy)
- but is this cause because of overwhelming western influence?
- eg: state sponsored terrorism (headed by middle east puppet govts)
- corruption within the United Nation (security council)-> change of veto power-> change of perception ->stigma that the westerners know everything.
- is it possible for Europe to have more global power, as apposed to just following US around.

SESSION OUTCOME 33

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Equity in Developing Countries

SESSION INITIATOR : Bhupinder Singh

CO-WORKERS :

Yeo Ying Hao

Kristel

Dong Yue

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- **Defining equity**
 - providing equal opportunities for all people, regardless of age, race , social status, gender
 - Eg India
 - Children, who are poor, have no resources, those in rural areas
 - Corruption leads to a wide gap
 - Investing in people so that they can give back to their community

- **Rich and poor divide**
 - Giving those who have nothing a chance
 - Allowing them to study and get jobs

- **Education and corruption in government that leads to inequality**
 - Getting other developed countries or IMF or UN to encourage or help to manage politics
 - Building bonds to show how to improve a system of corruption
 - Putting in a new government, getting them to be transparent, training them from young
 - Getting them to set targets so we know where the money is going and what they are doing
 - Inject new concepts and mould the youth to take charge and make it a better place

SESSION OUTCOME 34

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Freedom VS Stability

SESSION INITIATOR : Joseph Lau

CO-WORKERS : Sharmeen Alam
Amisha Kabra

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

*Stability: Political, economic and social

Freedom: absolute rights-preserved as the state as the highest priority opposite of Freedom is captivity?

No, not total.

*Freedom is necessary because stability stifles creativity. But do we want it?

It is possible to have a balance and equilibrium.

*Stability is necessary for the government to pass policies.

-stability is important now but we will embrace.

-eg. Taiwan: unable to pass politics because of violence in parliament.

*Necessary to compromise especially in Singapore or multi-racial society.

Freedom unless it infringes on others.

*Yardstick to quantify a person's readiness

-no quantify but degrees by which it can be measured.

-what is important to the people; we want basic rights.

*opposition poses a threat to government and allows them to do all the good to the country.

SESSION OUTCOME 35

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Bringing Global Issues to Singapore Youth

SESSION INITIATOR : Jonathan Koh

CO-WORKERS : Sai Chavali

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- UWC has an excellent group, Nelson Mandela is on the board, which speaks volumes
- Youth Park @NYC is a good platform
- Singaporean youth have a myopic view of the world, only issues that affect them directly get any attention
- In elite schools, there is a larger percentage of people interested? Some debate on this
- Not the onus on schools to advocate these issues, more down to students' own interest
- We need a platform for interested people
- Competitions to voice out opinions about global issues (Catholic High)
- In UWC, there are forums every Wednesday, student initiated political newspaper, 32 Global Concern groups, one group went to Brazil to work with slums
- Encouraged to join GC, student initiated because nearly everyone is the child of an expatriate
- Teachers are friendly, although you might lose a bit of respect
- ACJC Humanities: lots of debates but rarely goes beyond a conversation. Harder to start a group in school
- How do we appeal to those who are not interested? We need more awareness, but to concentrate on those who are already
- Young changemakers is not for global issues, only local community work.
- Leadership and communication are life skills that are more emphasized
- Put it in the curriculum like the UWC has but need to go through MOE, need to show its relevance to grades
- NGOc need to go out there, and get their cause known
- Child labour short film now part of Orchid Park secondary
- 2005-2014 UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development
- UN Association of Singapore trying to integrate Young Global Diplomat into curriculum, Gold, Silver, bronze award, like NYAA
- NYAA is more practical, much wider programme
- 2 parallel organizations UN Youth wing and Singapore Youth for UN
- This is a process that will take more time. Neighbourhood schools have more opportunities
- Ngee Ann Poly has a core module in Year 3
- There is a list of organizations that are waiting for schools to invite them for a talk
- Don't wait for the government, start something going
- Should youth focus on local and regional issues first, before going on to global issues?
- PSC Secretariat shot down a youth who wanted to do an expedition to Zimbabwe. Government concerned about youth wanting glamorous expeditions
- We have to start with small steps

- 1 Degree Asia: 2 girls decided to start Make Poverty History campaign in Siglap Secondary, but they face opposition from principals
- Share Your Bookmarks, Ethical Shopping Guide
- Meeting up with student leaders to create critical issues
- We need to do a conference for global issues
- Interact clubs can tie up all the schools together
- UWC has legislative committee to oversee all projects
- Youthink – we can write in on a thematic issue
- Cherian George and What's Up? Newspaper
- We need to think long term, a collective initiative
- The Equator Initiative in RJC – needs to be better known
- Need to link youth up across various issues, ie. ChildRightsSG@yahogroups. Com
- Those who are not interested, we need to campaign
- We need to do more knowledge management, past campaigns have not been captured for future generations
- We need clout, not just a group of people, like UNAS
- People are more pragmatic, if we have backing of organizations which gives sustainability
- Link up to Youth Day, to work through MOE
- SHINE and YCM: if you want to look at ad-hoc projects, funding up to \$3000 or at to 80% of costs involved, some very inspiring projects
- Global concerns wanted to be involved with local schools, had a rock show, pro tem committee members wanted
- Meet up with NVPC to get institutional support
- Posters would be a good way to spread the word

SESSION OUTCOME 36

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Community Trading, Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship: Body Shop, SIFE and Project Runway

SESSION INITIATOR : Muhd Ibnur Rashad

CO-WORKERS : Kendrick

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- **SIFE (Students inn Free Enterprise). Global organization of over 44 countries where community service and business principles are being adapted. It aims to address: sustainability, personal, success skills, free market economics, financial literacy, entrepreneurship**
- **Create contacts and develop businesses. World bank can work with SIFE or have similar wing and promote in schools. Follow SIFE format but adapt the successful projects for future developments. Have grants for the future projects. Usually after presentation, ideas are not executed. World bank should adopt it and pass it to NGOs.**
- **Mentioned and talked about. “Pay it forward” Concepts. Even though it did not use money as a currency, it used networking principles. Promote/educate such projects.**
- **Environmental entrepreneurship. For example, Project Runway where they used ecological concepts like reusing of scrap materials to create good million dollar fashionable goods. Use scrap materials for the Arts like Stomp to make money. Use incentives for environmental efforts.**
- **Do research on Animal related Social Entrepreneurship.**

SESSION OUTCOME 37

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : WORLD BODIES – WB, IMF, UN, WTO

SESSION INITIATOR : YAO WEN

CO-WORKERS : Lee Weixian, Shauna Lo, Alicia Ang, Natalie, Kenny, Shin Shin

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

* Scope: issues facing them
solution to overcome problems

* World Bank

- corruption issues that affect a lot of funds
- mismanagement of resources
- don't feel at ease – every request for help has strings attached (loss of sovereignty)
- solutions proposed may create more problems – it is better to look at things through on a case-by-case basis
- regulatory system not really institutionalized – media and NGOs just criticize/analyse problems – how do we make WB listen

UN - problems

- scandals about oil for food
- often equated with US
- sometimes they cannot achieve what they want
- many countries not represented in UN security council(include more outside of core 5)
- in some sense, they still reflect the past
- short of funds and hence, are dependant on strong and rich countries like US
- stratifications (Arab VS Western powers)
- many satellite bodies so it's very hard to keep track

General - current

- Credibility since they were seen as being controlled by the west - they can achieve what they say they can?
- Mismanagement/corruption – how effective is regulatory system
- There is often more talk than action – impacts of results not seen

Possible future problems

- position of world bodies are changing today (new issues that might affect them in the future)

WTO problems

- WTO might become more and more powerful – question of how far it should extend its reach, even into non-economical areas

- Redefine its role and position
- WTO failed to address problem of world economic equality
- They have plummeted in power
- EU and US have too much power in the WTO
- WTO finds it very hard to take actions that oppose them
- Quite hard for WTO to be transparent
- Publishing reports may be detrimental as citizens many not understand decisions made/ discussions (transparency not that big a deal)
- Many small-group meetings among developed countries
- Developing countries do not know what's going on

General – solutions

- world bodies can make use of technology to promote/ define its role
- help them do better work procedures
- now, a lot of R&D, technology and IP are owned by private corporations
- world bodies to try to have a pro-active R&D branch now
- checks and balances within the world body – should be more transparent: publish reports like in UN
- regulate the use of IP today – very difficult as there are different rules
- combat bio-piracy
- trend is that more private corporations are linking with world bodies
- this should be promoted
- in the past, they tend to do it in a top-down way, but today, they are tying up with NGOs
- balance between being consultative and prescriptive
 - eg. WB etc. gives advice and leave room for the government to take action
 - local government is more aware of which areas need to be worked on
- moral responsibility of individual world bodies – adhere to the code of conduct, and a constant review in today's changing world.
- Give people sense of ownership (esp. countries that rely on a lot of aid)

General problems

- with regards to trying aid with domestic reforms
- may not be effective may be good as you push them/ give them incentives to change
- accountability of world bodies
- not exactly accountable to anything
- there is a limit to how much the world body can do in a country
- people imposing sanctions in the country impedes the true democracy - the citizens in the country may be aware of what is going on.
- it's very hard to define what help is and who need help
- internationalism VS regionalization
- countries prone to fall back into regional blocs since solutions and problems are more immediate.

Outcome of Session Meeting 38

Singapore 9-10th September 2006

TOPIC: ISSUES FACING THE DISABLED

SESSION INITIATOR: Maximillian Tan Chern

CO-WORKERS: Priscilla, Xie Jyan, Farhana, Su Yuen, Chin Chean, Shawn, Yi Duan, Chee San

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS:

- They can get an education, but will they be able to get a decent job?
- Job scope not related to the education they received: unable to get a job that they wanted, because of the difficulties in obtaining a job.
- Big organisations have facilities for the disabled → not a problem for the highly-educated, but for those with lower-level education, there is difficulty in obtaining a job.
- Introduce the disabled to jobs (entrepreneurship, IT education)
- Stigma: “Disabled people shouldn’t even be born.”
- Disabled-friendly facilities in MRT stations and shops, now buses in Singapore are slowly being modified.
- Promote a culture where there are less barriers for the disabled → specialised dance classes
- Necessity to educate the young that they have to integrate with the disabled
 - young people are the future, the future generation of the disabled will have a greater chance of being integrated into society
- Disability sports: level playing field, everyone on the field is equal → promoting wheelchair sports, encouraging socialisation of the disabled, encouraging acceptance and integration of the disabled into society
- How do we find activities to engage those afflicted with cerebral palsy (e.g. in Red Cross Home) so as to increase social integration
 - case study: artist in Europe with cerebral palsy whose art is popular despite his disability
 - introduce art activities to them since young
 - provide connection to society for the non-serious cases (who are able to communicate with society)
- What about the deaf: in Singapore, education is only catered for them up till primary (PSLE) level
 - more should be done to allow for the deaf to get through secondary and tertiary education
 - family plays an important part as well
 - lessons in sign language
 - deaf community is actually very active → in the USA, the deaf can contribute back to society by coming up with improved sign language books and research
 - People should recognise that the deaf people are just as able to do well academically as the rest
 - Currently, only one secondary school in Singapore that have teachers who are trained in sign language
- Society should be aware that the deaf are as able as the able-bodied
 - If the deaf are not empowered/developed, they will have no/little skills and will become a liability to society (i.e. living off the social security system)
 - Being able to care for the disabled is the mark of a sophisticated, graceful society
- Burden is most on the disabled, society has to provide the support

- More resources for the disabled
 - there are funds for the disabled, but significantly less
 - if the *people* support the disabled, the government is more likely to allocate more funds
 - in top schools of some countries there are facilities for the disabled so that the disabled have a chance to obtain a higher level education and hence contribute back to society
- **STOP** portraying the disabled as pitiful and needy
 - make a change in marketing strategy to highlight their potential instead (e.g. making craft, drawings, etc.)
 - highlight success stories and the opportunities given to them, the support given to them, and try to encourage that same support for others
- Local universities: not disabled-friendly
 - only some faculties are disabled-friendly, most areas have many steps (even without railings), hilly areas
 - most campuses in Singapore are not disabled-friendly
 - practicality over design → test out prototypes first to gain feedback from the disabled so as to make it practical for use
- Civics lessons on how to interact with the disabled
 - how to guide the blind, how to help a disabled person
- Lack of consideration for the disabled: people parking in front of disabled-friendly facilities, e.g. ramps in front of shopping centres
 - reinforce security to prevent such things from happening → Progressive increasing fines, penalties

SESSION OUTCOME 39

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Bridging the Generation Gap

SESSION INITIATOR : Steve Tan

CO-WORKERS : Farhanah, Kenneth, Chin Tai, Suhui, Michelle, Jason, Steve, Jemima

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- **Type of generation gap among us:**
 - **Parents - Us**
 - **Us - Friends**
 - **Us - Older Public Members**

- **Problems**
 - **Parents – Us**
 - **Age Gap: Age of parents at birth of child**
 - **Culture gap: lack of common interests**
 - **Expectation gap: parents expects highly of children**
 - **Communication break down**
 - **Tradition trend: Asian: conservative, less open expressing one self (intimately)**
 - **Us – Friends**
 - **In schools, friends (more mature, like you, less mature) gaps in perception (since they don't share same perceptions as yours)**

- **Solutions**
 - **Effective communications with parents**
 - **Children to initiate conversations with parents**
 - **Share their daily activities with their parents**
 - **Care and love your parents via extraordinary actions such as 'a warm hug' 'a kiss on your parents cheek' to show or express your appreciations**
 - **Change your attitude towards parents: Account to them. Show them that you are mature and let them know what you are doing**
 - **Get them engage into your activities**
 - **Give them 'surprises' by doing their favourite movie (or whatever interest from the parents)**
 - **Spend time with them**
 - **Peer to peer**
 - **Get to know more friends of your same interest via:**
 - **Mass youth programme (Government Initiations)**
 - **Joining local youth organizations such as YEC (Youth Executive Committee) or NYC programme**

SESSION OUTCOME 40

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Volunteerism

SESSION INITIATOR : Amisha

CO-WORKERS : Shermeen, Arathi

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- **World Vision:** Reaches out to adults who can reach out to children in the 3rd world where you can sponsor a student's education for \$40 only. However, there is a greater need to spread awareness
- **Volunteerism:** not just through donations but also helping to spread awareness
- **One possible solution to the low volunteerism rate is to create a CCA in schools and this has to be backed up by organizations such as World Vision or World Bank to make them attractive**
- **CIP and volunteerism makes students more aware about their surroundings. Even though it is forced, at least awareness is created about the world around them.**
- **An alumni can also be created for this CCA and so that people can still contribute even when they are not awarded for it.**

SESSION OUTCOME 41

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : MICROCREDIT – HELPFUL OR HARMFUL?

SESSION INITIATOR : JYOTSNA SHANKAR

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

* Provides poverty-ridden people with a diverse range of financial services, so the poor can expand their asset base

- protection against emergencies
- investing in needs means better nutrition, sanitation, healthcare
- Enables the poor, especially women to become self-employed
 - women empowerments, builds confidence
 - can start own business and repay loan from revenue
 - promote entrepreneurship
 - contributes to household income
- Is it appropriate?
 - the destitute and the homeless don't have a stable income, so if they receive microcredit loans they will be pushed further into debt & poverty.
 - Also not feasible for poor with regular income
 - High risk involved. May reduce feasibility of programme.
- High interest rates charged:
 - cost of providing financial services is high – relative to loan amount
 - can only be paid back if borrowers take advantage of economic opportunities
- Government's role: doe it have one? Is it effective?
 - unable to control funds
 - hindered by corruption
 - needs to work with rather than compete against NGOs
- Challenges and Ideas
 - Can microcredit cater to all 3 billion people who would potentially benefit
 - Put funds in developed capital markets for growth in investment to give back to poor.

SESSION OUTCOME 42

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : IT Technology- Digital Gap/ Wealth Gap
Consequences of the digital gap

SESSION INITIATOR : Colin Lim

CO-WORKERS : Jyotsna Shankar, Mary Geraldine Fernandez, Ken Ong, Lim Si Rong, Lingehswari, Lim Yong Long, Henry Chong, Jason Pan, Terence Chia.

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- The fact that IT can help reduce poverty- brings about improvement in agriculture and in various sectors. IT also encourages entrepreneurship where youth take initiatives to help other. World Bank can help promote private participation (e.g. Global Info and Communications Dept [GICT]).
- Lack of fundamental factors that prevent IT from spreading?
 - Power + information – restriction of information, lack of information flow, can hinder some of the solutions to world problems, eg poverty.
 - However there are organizations that are willing to share their information – eg wikipedia, firefox, open courseware (eg MIT)
 - Equipment
 - Information -restriction of information, lack of information flow.
- Infrastructure
 - A) Connectivity-the need for broadcasting infrastructure.
 - B) Maintenance- there is a need to train people to train people to spread knowledge
 - Do they give skills to fix technology default
 - Institutions have to display some sense of integrity and transparency. Making sure that what is given to a country is used for people and not for the institutions to make profit for their own sake
 - Corruption on the government part
 - Need to work with the governments to ensure facilities are fully utilized
 - C) Scanning – the need to prevent virus spread
 - Countries are not prepared to handle it due to lack of knowledge and skills.
 - People have overinvested in the wrong infrastructure → waste of resources. Cables are cheaper over the seabay.
 - IT revolt – leads to a new form of cultures → developing and developed countries → networking global culture.
 - Exchange of cultures → are we really better off now?
 - →culture and globalization, is it really good?
 - Changes in values and culture depends on the individual country's needs.
 - Globalization is a mixed part of culture ==. Change of definition, of race and ethnicity.
 - Formation of new societies → it is always changing
 - It also helps preserve your own records of culture and heritage. However data formatting may be a problem. Needs to constantly reformat to save data.

SESSION OUTCOME 43

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : How to minimize poverty in third world countries

SESSION INITIATOR : Kuo Yi Duane (yiduan882hotmail.com)

CO-WORKERS : Max, Chee San, Prisilla

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- Richest to help the poor?
- Richest are being richest and the poor become poorer
- Corruption in country?
 - Money are not given to the people
 - Given to the government
 - They just keep the money, not giving it to the people
 - How to ensure goods and money reach the people.
- Good government e.g. Singapore, New Zealand
 - To lead the people out of poverty
- How to create a good government in third world?
 - Plan ahead, reach out for the future
 - Narrow the income gap
 - Housing developing board HDB
 - Give the people the sense of belonging
 - Give people the freedom speech
- How does the World Bank help them?
 - Make use of the people resources, to help them develop
 - Medical expand research team
- Aid in goods, money and medical teams to help them
 - Teach them entrepreneur spirits
 - To market their place, and help them to promote Africa

- What can we do to minimize poverty in the 3rd world countries?
- In the 1990s, for the first time, growth in developing world our paced that in the developed world, leading to a decline in aggregate poverty that in the developed world.
- There was a sharp decline in people living on less than a dollar a day
- Millennium 6 development and good (MDG) of cutting proportion of poverty in half is within reach.
- Proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day is expected to fall to 10 percent by 2015, compared with 27.5 percent in 1990.
- But progress has been uneven? Why?
- - MDG met only Asia, middle east and part of north Africa
 - Greatest and fastest economic growth are in east Asia and the pacific

- China GDP rose 6.4 % from 1991 -2000
- Poverty fell from 29.6% to 14.9% between 1990 and 2000
- In sub Saharan Africa GDP fell 0.4% a year in 1990
- Poverty rose from 47.4% - 49%
- Problem to solve
 - INequality in helping and funding for poverty country
 - People are dying in Africa, how does WB help them?
 - How do we ensure the money get to the poor, rather than the government?
- 14 Countries involve:
- Namely: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Romania, Senegal, Tunisia, Vietnam, Zambia, Uganda and Burkina
- What they face are heterogeneous:
 - They are unevenly distributed
 - El Salvador → 6 million
 - India → about 1 billion
 - → money is unevenly distributed
- For accountability:
 - Bangladesh and Tunisia were among bottom for corruption, so we must know how to avoid corruption and determine the money are sent to their people in spite of the government
- There were research showing a number of headcounts in poverty from these countries were increasing, despite the focus on them (<http://siteresources.worldbank.org>)
- We need to know whether it is sustainable for world bank o help the developing country to be developed
- A long term plan needs to be implemented to help people from the third world country.

SESSION OUTCOME 44

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Fair Trade

SESSION INITIATOR : Jonathan, Kaleni, Jared, Bernise

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

- Saher – Starbucks' CEO/company pumps money into Right wing groups therefore she doesn't support Starbucks (supporting Israeli groups)
- Fair Trade – pay organization (middle man) money to buy their goods (e.g. coffee). That organization would pay the farmers a fair price and take good care of them
- RGS – Pantry stocked with fair traded products
- RJC – The Equator Initiative (TEI) is an informal group promoting fair traded products
- <http://maketradefair.org>, fairtrade.sg
- fair Trade: macro (economic structures that are fair and just), micro (products like fair trade coffee)
- Fair Trade Campaign in Singapore – Foot print
- Cold Storage and Jasons stock fair trade products
- Ideas: make cards give to people, people give to management of NTUC..etc – if enough numbers, can make a difference
- Fair trade group working on NTUC to get them to sell fair trade products
- Fair trade products: chocolate, food, vegetables, coffee, tea, cotton (t-shirt)
- Possible to get fair trade products to school
- A tool kit is being produced about information about fair trade issues - so students can be informed and organize
- Problem: fair trade products more expensive – will it take off in a big way here
 - Will businessman buy such stuff
- In UK, there are fair trade villages
 - Advertise: Need to really show consumers the farmers benefit
- Contrast – fair trade farm us non-fair trade (exhibition, pictures)
 - Prove that fair trade thing is really what it is (money really goes to helping farmers and doesn't get siphoned off in bureaucracy)
- Bring fair trade farmer to Singapore - exhibition

SESSION OUTCOME 45

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : A Youth Voice @ WB/IMF Meetings

SESSION INITIATOR : Bernise Ang

CO-WORKERS : Approx. 20-25, emails available

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

1. More WB Country Offices to implement Youth Voice
2. Increase number of grants to youth-led development initiatives by youth NGOs → also need to reduce barriers to entry/ increase access to grants
3. Scale up engagement with local youth NGOs as part of efforts to increase understanding of local conditions (ie. Sites of development projects).

SESSION OUTCOME 46

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Youth and MDGs in SE Asia

SESSION INITIATOR : Bernise Ang

CO-WORKERS : Florraine , Zong Huan, Asri

DISCUSSION NOTES/ KEY UNDERSTANDINGS/ KEY IDEAS/ OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS/ ACTION ITEMS:

- There is a need to develop a youth strategy for development collaboration with youth/civil society in SE Asia. There are youths initiating such an effort – please talk to them.
- Implement a mechanism to institutionalize civil society inputs in decision-making about development projects and budgetary decisions.
 - these civil society inputs should necessarily include youth organisations' input
 - in particular (where it does not exist), the design process of projects should include views from the local community.

SESSION OUTCOME 47

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Higher Level Living Standards (tangibles or intangibles)

SESSION INITIATOR : Kenneth Sim

CO-WORKERS : Melvin Tan, Alison Lee, Joshua Oeji, Liang Yuanruo, Claressa Wong

DISCUSSION NOTES / KEY UNDERSTANDINGS / KEY IDEAS / OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS / ACTION ITEMS :

* Quality of life is the most important to most

* Wealth and happiness interlinked?

- Third World countries – no basic necessities →

- But are they contented? Some are but others like farmers are seeking ways to constantly improve themselves (seeking wealth)

* Intangibles

- stress

- Free time; working hours

- time with family

Tangibles

- material items

SESSION OUTCOME 48

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Generation Gap

SESSION INITIATOR :

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES/ KEY UNDERSTANDINGS/ KEY IDEAS/ OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS/ ACTION ITEMS:

- Share things with mothers more than with fathers.
- Asian tradition.
- Boundaries will be there.
- Thus they will communicate more with peers.

SESSION OUTCOME 49

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Animal Abuse

SESSION INITIATOR : Roy Rodrigues Mak

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES/ KEY UNDERSTANDINGS/ KEY IDEAS/ OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS/ ACTION ITEMS:

- Too lenient sentences from courts.
- Methods of killing an animal for consumption.
- How animals are treated in zoo.
- How animals are tested for cosmetics.
- How animals are force fed- the animals are fed through a tube forcing into their mouths.
- The government should take a strong stand.
- Creating awareness to public.
- Educate the public via video, distribute video free, provide them information about alternatives to meat.
- Children education in school, take domestic pet for instance, tell them what if their pet is abused.

SESSION OUTCOME 50

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Piracy

SESSION INITIATOR :

CO-WORKERS : Chin Thai, Michelle, Su Hui, etc

DISCUSSION NOTES/ KEY UNDERSTANDINGS/ KEY IDEAS/ OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS/ ACTION ITEMS:

Problems:

- New programs are out to help piracy
- Game CD cracks
- Involves copyright
- Downloading webpages
 - Kaza
 - Baidu
 - Yahoo
 - Etc
- File sharing through
 - MP3
 - Thumb drives
 - MSN
 - Bluetooth / infra-red
 - Etc
- Downloading of
 - Music
 - Movies
 - Shows
 - etc

Why piracy happens?

- They may only want a song in a particular CD
- CDs are expensive
- Easy- search for song, rather than to find the CD
- Download – F.O.C (free of charge)

SESSION OUTCOME 51

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Developing Creative Platforms for Youth Advocacy and Youth Activism

SESSION INITIATOR : Natalie Morris, Lim Xin Yi

CO-WORKERS : Suvitha Krishnan, D. Arathi, Chin Rui Ling, Lee Sing Kwang, Shawn Low, Audrey Tan, Kenny Tan, Yap Yaowen, Yongtai, Ken, Terrence, Jason

DISCUSSION NOTES/ KEY UNDERSTANDINGS/ KEY IDEAS/ OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS/ ACTION ITEMS:

- Obstacles to youth volunteerism/ activism → school commitments, age barriers (some orgs require volunteers to be above 16), principals/ bureaucracy no system
- Post service learning is important → don't do much after they return, just for sake of trip. Same for some forums- don't have follow-up!
- Overseas service learning & local community service → at odds? Or complementary? Which should we focus on? → overseas trips: accessibility
- Whose responsibility? Onus on the government/ schools to provide nurturing environment/ opportunities? Why not take it upon ourselves to grab the opportunities.
- How to spread awareness? Get MOE to initiate. Service learning framework distorted (but good to at least make people do it). Youths create own community and bypass bureaucracy.
- Voluntary Welfare Organizations should adapt to youth's needs- most are unale/ don't want to commit large chunks of time.
- Effective youth partnership needed. Youths attracting more youths to participate (e.g. NYF). Sustainability of partnerships is key.
- Spread awareness through blogs (blog- linkages), livejournal communities, target youth with more graphics. Celebrity bloggers like Mr Brown and Xixue could be asked to plug/promote the cause.
- Glamour of overseas trips can be used to get people started on volunteerism – impact of trip greater on volunteers than on overseas community.
- Some groups that need more attention: people who don't have prior experience/ exposure, groups that are not “student leaders.”
- World Bank should set up a youth portal for all of us and we can continue to get together & discuss ideas as a “World Bank Youth Group.” Combine efforts!

SESSION OUTCOME 52

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Issues on Sexuality (everything)

SESSION INITIATOR : Utba

CO-WORKERS : Selena, Bruce, Yeo Ying Hao, Hoang Khanh Chau, Michelle, Kristel, Dong Rue, Mary Geraldine Fernandez, Bhupinder, Bruce, Su Yuen, Pooi Yean

DISCUSSION NOTES/ KEY UNDERSTANDINGS/ KEY IDEAS/ OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS/ ACTION ITEMS:

- Feminist rights, gay-lesbian relationships, transsexuals, bisexuals, butches, mindset.
- How does the government address the issue?
- Consider legalizing gay-lesbian marriage
- Economically, contribute to the economy due to funding from sex-change, buying of erotic prosthetics, etc.
- Have more awareness sessions about being such things.
- Have an organization to house these issues.
- Educate the society on using derogatory words that give a pessimistic view on queer people.
- To watch movies educating the public on such issues.

SESSION OUTCOME 53

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Youths Problems in Singapore. How are we going to tackle them? Open (free for all). All voices.

SESSION INITIATOR : All: Any – Farhanna, Kenneth, Jason, Steve, Chin Chian, Farhana

CO-WORKERS :

DISCUSSION NOTES/ KEY UNDERSTANDINGS/ KEY IDEAS/ OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS/ ACTION ITEMS:

Topic 1: Volunteerism

- Why people don't volunteer voluntarily?
 - Intention on volunteerism → Group intention, yet 'miscommunicated'
 - → misinterpretation
 - Volunteer via attracting them via their interests.
- Reasons for volunteer? Why volunteer? Perceptions → Dull, boring, waste time
 - → What do you want from volunteering?
 - Objectives: try to integrate interest in volunteerism
 - Farhanna- More youth are volunteering; majority of students do it for 'CIP' points; objectives should encourage 'real volunteerism'- volunteer not for 'CIP' points but for passion...

Topic 2: Rising Transport Cost

- In particular to public buses
- Long journey = high cost → rebate?
- Should public buses corporations be profitable?
 - No. Tax payers → pay taxes. Public transportation cost should be subsidized!
 - Buses have redundant services, such as TV mobile which might affect the cost of transport greatly.
 - 2 cents worth → Taxi incidents → Taxi drivers overtly charged tourists in Singapore.
 - Rising bus fares → affects everyone → students
 - workers
 - unemployed
- Situation 1
 - Independent body to advise government to control transport fees accordingly → for audit and advisory
- Situation 2
 - Using tax payers money to reimburse transport fees and just pay optimal fees when they transport.

SESSION OUTCOME 54

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Terrorists or Freedom Fighter

SESSION INITIATOR : Jemma Yong

CO-WORKERS : Vishnu, Ibnur, Shin-shin, Prashant, Khalid Hassan, Alicia, Shauna, Weixian, Manee, Collin Ho, Dhanesh Chainani, Daniel Loh, Cheryl Sam, Aw Sze Min, Weng Chang

DISCUSSION NOTES/ KEY UNDERSTANDINGS/ KEY IDEAS/ OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS/ ACTION ITEMS:

- Two different types of people? Or matter of perspective [e.g. Osama Bin Laden, Lee Kuan Yew (who was a political prisoner), Nelson Mandela.
- What's the definition of a terrorist? Feels the need to prove beliefs but have no ways of getting voice heard due to lack of democratic government, poverty, other circumstances. We are freedom fighters... working for what we believe in... So is this (terrorists/ freedom fighters) justifiable?
- Al Qaeda (when you think about it) has achieved it's goals.
 - Visibility of agenda
 - Alienation of US
 - Heightened surveillance
 - Bringing 3rd world to 1st (this is what happen in the middle east, on a regular basis)
- Media position in war on terrorism
 - overhyped, sensationalized issue
 - brought about stereotypes of the Muslim world
- How can we make the war on terrorism more neutral?
 - possible rise of major super powers... to create a more equal balance in terms of media overage/ political power?
- Will there ever be peace? Can it be achieved through violence?
 - Coincidence to coexist
 - Communication and its importance... open dialogues/ discussions...
- Empathy/ sympathy with terrorists. Understand why they want our attention...

SESSION OUTCOME 55

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Stay Home Motherhood

SESSION INITIATOR : Christine Huang

CO-WORKERS : Sarah Kurian, Mok Xin Ling, Lau Zi Hui, Ong Huimin, Wee Weng Wei, Christopher Sim, Wan Xiang Lin, Ismail, Lim Si Rong, Lim Yong Long

DISCUSSION NOTES/ KEY UNDERSTANDINGS/ KEY IDEAS/ OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS/ ACTION ITEMS:

- Stay home mothers have no financial stability, small social circle. Cannot go back to work after years of staying at home.
- We agree that children are affected when parents do not make the effort to spend time with their children, whether they stay home or not.
- Help should be given to mothers who want to stay at home to take care of their children but cannot afford to (need double income).
- Working women might regret not staying home to take care of their children if they children do not turn out as desired.
- Globally, particularly in EMDCs, increasing numbers of graduate women are going to work and leaving their young children in someone else's care. (In Singapore, young children are left with domestic, often 'less educated' helpers for a large portion of the day). To what extent can we consider this a societal problem? Does this necessarily result in
 - A weaker informal educational foundation in a child's formative years?
 - Weaker parent-child relationships
 - teenage delinquency
 - Other societal problems (that could otherwise be reduced by stay home mothers)
- Is it realistic to expect the modern woman to sacrifice her career for her children? If it isn't, why is work or money valued greater than her children's upbringing?
- What can we do to support women who want to stay at home to take care of their children but one income is not enough to meet family needs?

SESSION OUTCOME 56

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

TOPIC : Organ Donation

SESSION INITIATOR : Christine Huang

CO-WORKERS : Sarah Kurian, Mok Xiu Ling, Lau Zi Hui, Ong Huimin, Christopher Sim, Wee Yong Wei, Wan Xiang Lin, Lim Si Rong, Lim Yong Long, Koh Xuan Qi, Ethel Sng, Sheena Chua, Roy Rodrigues Mak

DISCUSSION NOTES/ KEY UNDERSTANDINGS/ KEY IDEAS/ OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS/ ACTION ITEMS:

- Organ donation policies in Singapore are adequate without public awareness: only 15 in 250 know about the Human Organ Transplant Act.
- There should be greater focus on organ donation awareness- free choice of citizens.

Local:

- Is there adequate awareness of organ donation practices in Singapore?
- Are organ donation policies in Singapore fair WITHOUT adequate public awareness?
- Should more funds be channeled to promoting awareness of organ donation (at the cost of funds going elsewhere to more 'deserving' causes)?
- Dialysis v Transplantation in the wake of the NKF saga

Global:

- Trade in organs: voluntary selling of organs by the poor and the black market.
- Are there more efficient ways of harvesting organs without compromising hospitals' interests to care for patients?

ACTION OUTCOME 1

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

ACTION GROUP SUBJECT : How to Minimize Poverty in Third World Countries (Issues related to debt, interest rate)

CONVENOR : Kuo Yi Duan, Muhd Ibnur Rashad

CO-WORKERS : Kenny Tan, Ken Aw, Hoang Khanh Chald, Ritika Chandra, Jyotsna Shankar, Kristel, Charles Xavier Patrick, Audrey Tan, Kenrick Chew

WHAT WE WILL DO :

- Exhibition to show awareness.
- Financial literacy roadshow (MAS)
- Seminar, workshops should be brought to create entrepreneurial ideas and corporations (SIFE).
- Create awareness on issues of interest.
- Promote overseas committee involvement.
- Do collaborations with overseas NGOs.
- Create websites/ newspaper sections for free advertisement of overseas projects.
- Seek funding from IMF/WB
- Focus more on the core competencies
- Use agricultural skills
- Tourist visitor's centre.
- Trade laws that improve equity and increase the price of agricultural products.
- Introduce microcredit co-operatives in Singapore, approved by MAS, or overseas (like Grameen).
- Eliminate debts accumulated though interest rates. IMF/WB create more networks with other organizations. Remove interest rate. Use "balloon" if still need to have interest.
- Portable library at villages: collect books from first world and create portable libraries and pass them to villagers.
- World Bank "SIFE-like" wings to ask students to come out with good ideas.
- Giant hedge funds.
- Multinational corporations build or invest in their manpower and resources.

WHO ELSE WE WILL NEED TO INVOLVE :

IMF/WB to be involved in scholarships; Gates Foundation; African Development Bank; Lee Foundation

THE NEXT STEPS/S (e.g. When/where/how we will meet, etc)

- Where: Virtual space (povertyawareness.blog/ alt news portal)
- When: The next fortnight (blog should be up by then)
- Financial Literacy Roadshow (Annual Open Space Dialogue) (NGO)
- Open Space SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise)- This group emphasizes social entrepreneurship amongst students to creat/generate ideas to alleviate poverty in Singapore and overseas. → Join competitions, do projects.
- Destination Danang 2006 (with Global Village Organization)- An overseas expedition at Danang, Vietnam to create portable libraries in the villages. Hand over the project to villages to sustain themselves.
- DFID.ORG.UK (Free) (Go find out!)- A development magazine about overseas projects that have been successful. Increase awareness amongst readers. Perhaps, a Singapore version would be good.

ACTION OUTCOME 2

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

ACTION GROUP SUBJECT : The problem of corruption

CONVENOR : Sai Chavali

CO-WORKERS :

WHAT WE WILL DO :

- Start from top part of government. (Introspection by government itself and World Bank advises government).
- Meetings to be conducted between citizens and town leaders, to talk and discuss the town's issues.
- Education about jobs with interaction between NGOs and World Bank.

WHO ELSE WE WILL NEED TO INVOLVE :

World Bank

THE NEXT STEPS/S (e.g. When/where/how we will meet, etc)

ACTION OUTCOME 3

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

ACTION GROUP SUBJECT : Elitism in Education

CONVENOR : Lee Weixian

CO-WORKERS : Priscilla, Ying Hao, Joel, Utba (58), Chee San, Zong Huan, Jason Pan, Bhupinder, Shauna.

WHAT WE WILL DO :

- Have schools which will specialize in different aspects of education, i.e. characterize the schools (niche), e.g. School A good Arts education, School B has good Chinese education, School C has good Maths education, etc. → Success story of TJC (good arts programme).
 - Action: -Funding to develop specific facilities
 - Increase the quality of teachers
- More opportunities for students who don't do well academically (or even in sports/music/arts) to receive alternative education, and other ways to succeed, e.g. Northlight.
- Increase the quality of teachers → so that both neighborhood and independent schools can get good quality teachers.
- Redefine mindset of what it means to "do well."
 - more focus on testimonials (the individual) rather than focus on the prestige of the school.
 - people who do well in exams may not be good workers.
 - non-discrimination policy where applications to scholarships, occupations, etc, do not include school.
 - While we acknowledge that "elite" schools provide a better quality of education, quality of education should be more equalized.
 - Perhaps, "elite" schools and normal "schools" can have better communication and entry to special programmes can be open to "normal" school students.
- Change the mindset that academically-inclined schools are better.
- DSA should be open to every school to the same percentage.
 - Schools can be more characterized, e.g. schools can have good basketball programmes, etc.

WHO ELSE WE WILL NEED TO INVOLVE :

- MOE
- CCAB
- NIE
- MCYS

THE NEXT STEPS/S (e.g. When/where/how we will meet, etc)

ACTION OUTCOME 4

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

ACTION GROUP SUBJECT : Helping 3rd World Countries cope with Globalization

CONVENOR : Alicia Ang

CO-WORKERS : Toon Hwee, David, Kevin, Lewis, Yao Wen.

WHAT WE WILL DO :

- Multi-prong approach in areas like Africa
- Improve on education in these countries in Africa
 - outside countries, on top of China, should also provide scholarships
 - countries should also help by giving advice about educational system
- Help them trade in other areas.
 - education in other aspects
- Counter HIV/AIDS
 - effective sexual education
- EU/US to give aid that is proportional to the amount of agricultural subsidies they give.
- UN, WB and IMF to work together to create programmes that encourage and promote companies to set up businesses in third world countries.
 - provide employment
 - WB to give funding/aid to countries to promote fair trade in 3rd world countries and invest in them
 - corporations and World Bank to work hand in hand, not independently
 - could have wage unions (Singapore style)
- WB to help African Union to be more developed- start from South Africa
- Economists to analyze situations in these countries- capitalize what states have

WHO ELSE WE WILL NEED TO INVOLVE :

WB; corporations; UN; NGOs; African Union

THE NEXT STEPS/S (e.g. When/where/how we will meet, etc)

- Help landlocked countries in Africa
 - Private companies, austerity schemes, gain agreement from the countries, UN peacekeepers
 - Build transport infrastructure between landlocked countries and border countries, such as railways, as well as build ports in the latter.
 - Countries with the linking infrastructure would both pay (60% landlocked, 40% the other one).
 - Provide jobs for people in the involved countries
 - Funding from World Bank and MNCs –provide compensation
 - MNCs stand to gain with better infrastructure
 - Ports benefit as they act as transition areas/ middlemen.
 - Less likely for conflict.
- Plan long-term socio-economic goals for each country
- Once basic infrastructure is in place
 - Platform to be created to allow flow of technology among 3rd world countries.

ACTION OUTCOME 5

Singapore 9-10th September, 2006

ACTION GROUP SUBJECT : Fair Trade

CONVENOR :

CO-WORKERS : Karthik, Henry, Jeman, Sarah, Jennifer, Jiayan, Kaleni, Oeij, Xinling, Utba, Bernise, Jonathan, Jared

WHAT WE WILL DO :

- Consumer Action- generate demand
Awareness → Demand : -campaigns/ sales in schools/ public (roadshow); sharing 1st hand (videos)
- contrast difference between fair trade producers and others (living standards)
→ impact of choosing fair trade.
- Supply- availability of fair trade products
 - limit choice (only sell fair trade products on-site) – restaurants
- university campuses
 - ease of access (increase places where it can be found)
 - supermarkets
 - starbucks, etc. (monthly brew- fair trade brew?)
 - fair trade cafes (lifestyle appeal- niche market)

WHO ELSE WE WILL NEED TO INVOLVE :

Corporations, Cold Storage, Starbucks, etc.

THE NEXT STEPS/S (e.g. When/where/how we will meet, etc)

- Bazaar- ACS I
- Workplace campaign- efforts to get schools/ corporations to stock fair trade pantries
- Roadshow- free samples; sales; posters
Sponsorship (location- Orchard area)
Funding (Young Changemakers)
- Fairtrade.sg- portal for awareness