



MEDIA RELEASE

Stronger Together for Total Defence

LAUNCH OF SPECIAL EXHIBITION IN COMMEMORATION OF TOTAL DEFENCE DAY

Singapore, 16 February 2017 – In commemoration of Total Defence Day, S'pore Discovery Centre (SDC) will be launching a special exhibition titled “Stronger Together” on Thursday, 16 February 2017 at 9.30am, at SDC. Mr Ng Chee Meng, Minister for Education (Schools) & Second Minister for Transport, will be the Guest-of-Honour for the launch event. This event reaffirms the strong foundation of Total Defence (TD), and the importance it continues to play in the face of today’s changing security landscape.

“Stronger Together” features the hardship experienced in Singapore during World War II, discusses clear and present threats and shares how friends, families and community play their part to help protect our peace. This exhibition has taken the bold step to present the facts squarely and visitors can experience the unnerving atmospheric sounds of war and cries of pain and helplessness. This is done in order to evoke emotions so that the current generation will remember the consequences of not being able to determine our own fate and chart our collective future.

One key feature of this exhibition is the opportunity for our students to immerse themselves and engage subject matter experts in the areas of cyber security, pandemics and terrorism. Having watched what the experts have to share, students are encouraged to pose questions to Mr David Koh, Chief Executive of the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore; Professor Leo Yee Sin, Head of the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology and Clinical Director of Communicable Diseases Centre, Singapore and Dr Shashi Jayakumar, Head of Centre of Excellence for National Security, who have all lent their voices and expertise to this exhibition.



The exhibition, which reinforces the emotional and psychological ballast among Singaporeans to prepare for uncertainties that the nation may be confronted with, is open to the public from now till 19 March 2017.

As part of the guided tour at the launch event, Minister Ng will also be joining St. Hilda's Primary School students to participate in the "SG Unite!" TD card game, which was jointly developed by SDC and Ministry of Education's Character and Citizenship Education Branch. The interactive game is specially designed for and played during the Primary 6 social studies programme. By adopting the gamification approach to engage our leaders of the future and with scenarios in relation to the 5 pillars of TD, we hope to inculcate in our students a sense of ownership in the defence of Singapore, and at the same time, encourage them to be advocates of Total Defence.

Another TD strategy card game, "Guardians of the City" (GOTC), was inspired by suggestions from participants of a *SGfuture* engagement session hosted and facilitated by SDC in February 2016. Developed by Nexus with the secondary school audience in mind, the game aims to help youths understand the complexity of threats, the trade-offs involved in keeping Singapore safe and secure, and the impact of their decisions. Students will recognise that the impact of terrorism on society is not confined to physical acts of terror. This will allow them to better prepare for, respond to and recover from these crises.

To sum it up, Executive Director SDC, Mr Lawrence Chua said; 'Total Defence was first introduced in 1984 and the fact that it is still very much a part of us 33 years on says a lot. It is only possible as those before us had believed (in the concept of Total Defence) and I hope you too will continue to believe because only if you do, will you have the conviction to do your part.'

About S'pore Discovery Centre

The mission of S'pore Discovery Centre (SDC) is to share the Singapore Story and inspire a desire to contribute to Singapore's future. SDC provides a mind-and-heart-engaging and multi-sensory learning experience which spans a selection of integrated themes. Visitors can learn about what makes Singapore tick and gain insights into Singapore's challenges, dreams and aspirations.

Website : www.sdc.com.sg

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