

NEWS



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Parliamentary Secretary of MCYS, also a guest of honour, Mr Teo Ser Luck, piggy-backs Assumption English School student and Boys' Town home boarder, 14-year-old Chua Shan You.

“He ain't heavy, he's my brother”

By Joyce Gan

SINGAPORE – A record for the most number of people – 1,146 – to be piggy-backed across a distance of six metres was set on Feb 15 as part of Boys' Town's 60th anniversary celebrations. The event was held also to support Singapore's bid for the 2010 Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

Teo Ser Luck, Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) was a guest of honour and participant. He piggy-backed Chua Shan You, 14, an Assumption English School (AES) student and Boys' Town home boarder.

Friends of Boys' Town joined with students and teachers from AES and Assumption Vocational Institute, which are part of the Boys' Town community, to set the record.

The YOG was created on Jul 5, 2007 by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to represent the IOC's role as a catalyst for international sports movement and their commitment to the youth of today. It is hoped that the YOG

will motivate youth to produce a “healthy society, with less crime and drug abuse” and that it will entice them away from computer screens, back to sports.

Singapore's resolve to encourage excellence in sports and make sports a part of everyday life underscores the nation's bid to host the first YOG in 2010, said a MCYS media release. Through its bid, Singapore hopes to inspire true sportsmanship among youths and promote understanding and harmony among communities and with other nations, it added.

In keeping with the spirit of the Olympic Games, the act of piggy-backing also reflects friendship and solidarity among participants.

Brother Emmanuel, who has been with Boys' Town since 1956, said that the event “should not be just a record setting event but a reminder to us that it is never too late to give a helping hand to someone in need.”

Incidentally, the image of a person piggybacking another symbolizes the school's motto – “He ain't heavy, he's my brother.” □