

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **RE-NAMING OF IRCCS TO INCLUDE INTER-RELIGIOUS DIMENSION**

#### *Logo and slogan competition to promote better public understanding of IRCCs*

#### **Background**

1. The Community Engagement Programme (CEP) launched in February 2006 by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong seeks to develop strong and deep networks of trust and vigilance among the different racial and religious communities. The Programme, led by the Ministerial Committee for Community Engagement, is supported by six Government coordinating agencies in their respective clusters. See [Annex](#) for more information on the CEP and IRCCs.

#### **Repositioning IRCCs**

2. The IRCCs, thus far known as the Inter-Racial Confidence Circles, will be renamed as Inter-Racial and **Religious** Confidence Circles. This is meant to better reflect the IRCCs' role as constituency-level platforms *for the strengthening of engagement among* religious and community leaders. The renaming also signifies that IRCCs will be actively promoting inter-religious understanding and harmony going forward. The existing acronym – IRCC – will remain unchanged as the community and grassroots organizations are familiar with it.

#### **National IRCC Logo and Slogan Contest**

3. To mark the repositioning of the IRCCs, the public is invited to help create an identity for the IRCCs. The logo and slogan should reflect what IRCCs represent, namely trust, respect, harmony and co-operation among different races and religions in Singapore.

4. The competition has five categories, which cater to:
  - a) Pre-school children
  - b) Primary school students
  - c) Secondary school and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) students
  - d) Polytechnic, Junior College and University students
  - e) General Public and Professionals
  
5. Winners stand to win prizes worth a total of \$40,000 which includes LCD TVs, MP3 players and other attractive prizes. To encourage students from the various schools to participate, publicity materials and entry forms will be distributed to all school principals. Prizes will also be given to schools that submit the most entries in each of the four categories. Pre-school children can take part in a colouring contest held in conjunction with the competition.
  
6. The winning logo and slogan will become the new identity of the IRCCs and will be used in all of the IRCCs' public communications materials and activities. A public exhibition will also be held in mid-October to showcase the shortlisted entries. Winners will be announced in November.
  
7. Participants can obtain more information on the competition and download and submit the entry form from [www.ircc.sg](http://www.ircc.sg). The closing date for the competition is 12 October 2007. The public can also obtain hardcopies of the entry forms from libraries, Community Centres and Community Development Councils.
  
8. Commenting on the launch of the competition Mr Ameer Ali Abdeali, PPA(G), PBM, (Pasir Ris East IRCC Chairman), said: "The new role that the IRCCs are taking on is in recognition that both racial and religious understanding and tolerance are issues that we must all work at together, both as individuals and groups. We hope that this competition will help the public see the importance of racial and religious harmony, and invite them to be involved in creating a suitable image to represent IRCC".
  
9. Added Mr Tan Hwa Kwang (Clementi IRCC Chairman), "The harmony and peace we enjoy today was not attained with ease and we must not take it for granted. While most Singaporeans acknowledge the importance of racial and religious harmony, we must work towards a deeper understanding of the differences in our ethnicities and religions, beliefs and customs. The 84 IRCCs will now serve as key platforms to enhance racial and religious understanding amongst our people. I hope this competition will help the public, young and old,

better understand that we must continue to embrace our diversity and not be divided by our differences".

10. Principal of St Gabriel's Secondary School, Mr Marcel Lee said: "Respect and harmony within the community are based on understanding of each other's backgrounds and cultures. This competition offers a great learning opportunity for all students by allowing us to communicate to the students the importance of racial and religious harmony in Singapore and also to raise awareness of IRCCs in our community".

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH AND  
SPORTS**

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