

MEDIA RELEASE

SINGAPORE TO MARK UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES WITH THE LARGEST GATHERING OF CO-OPERATORS AND FAMILIES AT ‘CO-OPALICIOUZ’

*PRESIDENT TONY TAN KENG YAM TO LAUNCH SINGAPORE’S FIRST-EVER CO-OPERATIVE
STAMPS AND JOIN CHORUS READING WITH 15,000 PEOPLE IN THE LARGEST GATHERING OF
CO-OPERATORS, AND FAMILIES IN SINGAPORE’S HISTORY*

SINGAPORE, 5 June 2012 — Singapore will mark the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) 2012 with the largest gathering of co-operative members, staff, and families in Singapore’s history at ‘Co-opaliciouz’ – a series of first-of-its-kind events on 9 June 2012 at Marina Barrage.

Centered on the spirit of ‘Coming together as One’, ‘Co-opaliciouz’ aims to bring together more than 15,000 people to raise public awareness for Singapore’s co-operative movement of which 1 in 3 Singapore residents are members.

Organised by Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), these first-of-its-kind events at Co-opaliciouz include the following:

- 6,000 co-operators and their families from 42 co-operative social enterprises will participate in a 3-km family fun walk, starting from Tanjong Rhu, through Gardens by the Bay (East), and arrive at Marina Barrage, to symbolise the solidarity of one co-operative movement. Representatives will proceed on stage to place flags and logos of their respective co-operatives, onto a launch gambit which President Tony Tan Keng Yam will complete as he officiates the launch of Co-opaliciouz
- The launch of Singapore’s first-ever legal tender co-operative stamps and First Day Covers by President Tony Tan, alongside SNCF Chairman, Chan Tee Seng. This unique set of legal tender stamps, traces milestones of the co-operative movement. The Limited Edition First Day Covers is available exclusively to the public at SingPost’s booth on

level one at the Marina Barrage. The stamps, one of which showcases Singapore's icons, places Singapore on the world map while aiming to raise the awareness of the role that co-operatives play around the world

- Chorus Reading of 'A Very Big Storm', the first of four children storybooks on co-operative values by the largest number of co-operators and families and the public, totalling about 15,000 at a single event. The book series is published by SNCF and written by internationally award winning author, Emily Lim
- As the sun sets, Co-opaliciouz will see the largest number of co-operators and families breaking light-sticks at a single event, before embarking on a specially composed and choreographed dance, titled 'Come Together as One'. The mass dance with light-sticks will culminate in a fireworks extravaganza, in symphony with the Co-opaliciouz song

Commenting on the significance of 'Co-opaliciouz', Ms Dolly Goh, Chief Executive Officer of SNCF said these activities aim to increase the public's awareness of the values manifested in the 'Co-opaliciouz' theme of 'Coming Together as One' to help themselves and one another, especially in the last 86 years, where the lives of more than one third of the population (1.4 million members) have been touched and improved.

"Co-operatives play a unique and complementary role in socio-economic development. As Singapore faces increasing global competition, an ageing population and widening income disparity, the self-empowerment value and principle of co-operatives is as relevant today as it was nearly nine decades ago," she said.

The mass reading activities demonstrate the core theme of Co-opaliciouz with members of co-operatives coming together to read for their children. In the same co-operative spirit of 'caring for the community', SNCF will lend a hand in raising funds towards a new mini library bus that the National Library Board (NLB) will use to reach underprivileged children who are unable to visit the libraries.

When the public purchases a copy of 'A Very Big Storm' story book through NLB, SNCF has pledged to donate all royalty proceeds towards this fund raising effort. This initiative is estimated to garner more than \$25,000 towards this fund from the sales of the 1st book in the IYC children storybook series of four.

SNCF invites all to join in the Co-opaliciouz celebrations at the Marina Barrage on Saturday, June 9, 2012 from 3:00pm till 8:00pm.

For more information on Co-opaliciouz, visit: <http://www.singapore.2012.coop>

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About Singapore National Co-operative Federation

The Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) is the apex body of Singapore's Co-operative Movement, and secretariat of the Central Co-operative Fund (CCF). Formed in 1980 with the aim of championing Singapore's co-operative movement, the apex body represents 99% of co-operative members in Singapore through its 70 affiliated co-operatives. Today, the Movement boasts a base of more than 1 million members.

SNCF aims to promote and develop co-operatives as sustainable enterprises that address social and economic needs through the co-operative principle of self and mutual help, so as to foster a more resilient society. SNCF is a member of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) and the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU). It enjoys co-operative relationship with the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other international and regional bodies.

For more information on SNCF and the Singapore Co-op movement, visit www.sncf.org.sg

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