



MEDIA ADVISORY

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EDUCATION TRUST FUND TO GIVE OUT MORE THAN \$1.75 MILLION TO BENEFIT MORE NEEDY STUDENTS EDUCATION TRUST FUND DISBURSEMENT CEREMONY 2009

The Education Trust Fund (ETF) will be disbursing more than \$1.75 million for the academic year 2010. This is more than double¹ the amount disbursed for the academic year 2009. More than 6,900 students – from preschool to post-secondary levels, including students pursuing their studies at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and our local universities will be benefiting from this educational subsidy, for the academic year 2010. This is also more than double the 3,000 recipients in the academic year 2009. This is made possible due to the continued support and contributions from the community, as well as philanthropists' and corporate donors.

Details of the new assistance schemes introduced to help needy students in the ITE and tertiary institutions will be shared at the annual ETF Disbursement Ceremony, on Thursday, 10 December 2009. Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-In-Charge of Muslim Affairs, and Advisor to the Education Trust Fund Committee, will grace the event.

When it was first introduced in 2003, ETF focused on providing education subsidies for students at the preschool level to ensure that all our children were able to have a good head-start in their educational journey, regardless of their family's financial circumstances. As the donations increased and support for the fund grew, we were able

¹\$570,000 was disbursed to about 3,600 students in 2009.

to extend the ETF to more students at the primary and secondary levels in both the mainstream schools and *madrasah* by 2008. As at 31 November 2009, the ETF had disbursed \$2.3 million to subsidise the education of about 11,533 students from low-income families.

For the academic year 2010, the ETF subsidy will be given out to about 5,600 students from preschool to secondary levels. This will range from \$200 book vouchers for the primary level and \$250 for secondary school level for the purchase of textbooks, workbooks and stationeries. In addition, another 80 deserving primary school students will be receiving the ETF-Merchant Primary School Bursary Award, worth a total of \$40,000. From next year onwards, ETF recipients would also be enjoying free tuition under the MENDAKI Tuition Scheme. At the same time, their parents would also be empowered with skills by attending our developmental programmes under the Core Parenting Skills Programmes such as the financial literacy workshop - *Program Bijak Belanja* and the Strengthening Family Series Workshop. This is part of Yayasan MENDAKI's effort to ensure that such families receive a more holistic intervention.

In addition, the ETF will be further extended to students at the ITE level. The scheme will be made up of two components. First, a one-off start-up grant of up to \$100 per student, to help them purchase related materials and equipment related to their course. This will be given to about 1,200 selected students. The second component consists of the Academic and Life Coaching Programme. Sixty students will be selected for this pilot and we hope to expanding it to 150 students in subsequent years. They will be matched with mentors who will be providing them with the necessary coaching to cope with their academic studies and lifeskills support to inspire and motivate them to remain in school. As a start, the training and coaching fees for the mentors will be funded by Temasek Cares under the ETF-Temasek Cares and Lifeskills Coaching Programme. ,In addition, another 50 students from the primary level up to the universities, will be receiving the ETF-SingTel Education Bursary Award.

We would like to invite your reporting crew to cover the event and include the information in your media coverage. Thirty students receiving the ETF Assistance

Scheme from Primary 1 to Secondary 5 will be present during the ceremony to provide you with photo opportunities. Details of the event are as follows:

Day/ Date :	Thursday, 10 December 2009
Time :	3.00 pm to 5.00 pm
Venue :	Yayasan MENDAKI Hall 1 Wisma MENDAKI 51 Kee Sun Avenue Singapore 457056

Please see Annex A for the programme.

We appreciate it if you could confirm the attendance of your photographer/cameraman and reporters, by 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 9 December 2009.

Please do not hesitate to call the officers named below if you require more information. We look forward to your favourable reply and thanking you in advance for the continued support of this community effort.

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Education Trust Fund Disbursement Ceremony 2009

Yayasan MENDAKI, Hall
51 Kee Sun Avenue, Singapore 457056
Thursday, 10 December 2009

Programme

- 2.15 pm Arrival of ETF Recipients, Parents and Guests
- 2.50 pm All to be seated
- 3.00 pm Arrival of Guest-of-Honour (GOH)
- Dr Yaacob Ibrahim
Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and
Minister-In-Charge of Muslim Affairs
- 3.10 pm Speech by
Mr Haider Sithawalla
Chairman
Education Trust Fund Committee
- 3.20 pm Presentation of Textbooks and Bursaries
- 4.00 pm Refreshments
- 4.15 pm Photo-taking with GOH and Guests
- 4.45 pm End of Event