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**Press Release
20 February 2013**

LAUNCH OF TEMASEK CARES - TRANSITION TO WORK PROGRAMME

Bizlink Centre and Temasek Cares have come together to set up a new programme to help disadvantaged youths to secure employment and to succeed at the workplace. The pilot programme was launched on Friday, 22 February 2013 at Bizlink Centre by Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin, Acting Minister for Manpower & Senior Minister of State, Ministry of National Development during an event to celebrate the lunar new year.

The objectives of the Temasek Cares – Transition To Work Programme are to help graduating students of Northlight School and Assumption Pathway School to:

- i. identify job opportunities suitable to their ability and to help them secure employment;
- ii. adjust to the new environment; and
- iii. overcome work-, social- and family-related issues so that they can sustain their employment

The programme is the result of close collaboration between community partners such as Bizlink Centre, employers and Temasek Cares to support graduating students of Northlight and Assumption Pathway Schools who come from disadvantaged backgrounds or who have learning needs. With the growing number of graduates from these schools entering the workforce at a young age, there was a pressing need for a community-led programme to help them make the transition to the workplace.

A multi-disciplinary team consisting of a psychologist, an occupational therapist, and job placement officers from Bizlink will work closely with employers and staff of Northlight and Assumption Pathway Schools. They will provide the young graduates with employment support services and monitor them closely during the initial period of employment. They will guide the graduates to resolve social, family and workplace-related problems which may impede their ability to do their jobs well and to stay on the job.

Mr Alvin Lim, CEO of Bizlink Centre said: “Bizlink has a proven 26 years track record of serving the employment needs of the needy disadvantaged and less fortunate fellow Singaporeans and PRs. This group of graduating students with the appropriate transition support, can be nurtured to join the mainstream workforce and thereby increase our local labour participation rate.”

The Temasek Cares - Transition To Work Programme is funded by Temasek Cares through its Ee Peng Liang Endowment, which was set up to build the capability of the Special Needs sector. The endowment will provide a grant of more than \$500,000 to help more than 200 graduates over the next 2 years.

Mr Richard Magnus, Chairman of Temasek Cares, said: “The graduates of Northlight and Assumption Pathway Schools have made the most of the second chance given to them. We are pleased to support this first-of-its-kind programme to help these young graduates to integrate into the workforce.”

Since the beginning of the Temasek Cares – Transition To Work programme in 9 October 2012, employers have signed up to provide employment opportunities to the graduates under the programme. They include Remnant Holdings, Silosa Beach Resort, Home-Fix DIY Pte Ltd, Jew Kit Excellent Food Pte Ltd, DAISO Industries Co., Ltd, Billy Bombers Classic Pte Ltd, Holiday Inn Singapore Orchard City Centre, NTUC Fairprice Co-Operative Ltd, and Paradise Group Holdings Pte Ltd.

NTUC Fairprice has been pleased with the progress so far. It has employed Mr Muhammed Aziz, 17 years old, as a Retail Assistant with the Hypermarket. Mr Richard Kan, Division Manager of Hypermarket Ang Mo Kio said: “When Aziz first joined our store in November last year, he was reserved and quiet, often keeping to himself and was too shy to smile at customers. Nonetheless he was very eager to learn and improve and through constant encouragement, we have noticed that he has started to interact more with both his colleagues and customers. He has a cheerful smile and is a fast learner. I am impressed with his positive attitude and am happy to have him on the FairPrice team.”

Members of the press are invited to:

- i. Cover the event and to publicise the launch of the Temasek Cares – Transition to Work Programme; and**
- ii. Conduct a media interview with a successful candidate who benefitted from the programme.**

The launch is on:

- Day/Date : Friday, 22 February 2013**
- Time : 11.00am to 2.00pm**
- Venue : Bizlink Centre Singapore Ltd
Block 512, #01-09, Chai Chee Lane
Bedok Industrial Estate, Singapore 469028**

For more information or further clarifications, please contact:

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Background on organisations (Bizlink and Temasek Cares)

Bizlink

Bizlink has a proven 26 years track record of serving the employment needs of our needy disadvantaged and less fortunate fellow Singaporeans and PRs. Tapping on its years of experience in providing both open and sheltered employment for the disadvantaged workforce, Bizlink is well placed to train, place or hire disadvantaged and disabled beneficiary employees in its 7 Social Enterprises and Sheltered Production Workshop. Bizlink is also in a unique position to offer benchmark salaries according to the various industries and for employers to hire these beneficiaries to meet their manpower needs.

Bizlink is now stepping forward to help improve Singapore's disadvantaged labour force participation rate through concrete measures for its employment specific vocational training model and launch of the Temasek Cares – Transition to Work Programme on 22 February 2013.

Temasek Cares

Temasek Cares aims to improve the lives of underprivileged individuals, families and communities in Singapore. It is actively working with various established charities, Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs), Non-profit Organisations, government agencies, Ministries and other institutions to support programmes that contribute to the well-being, dignity, and livelihood of its beneficiaries.

Success Story Of 17 Year Old Muhammad Aziz B Nin Ahmad Who Benefited From Temasek Cares – Transition To Work Programme



Muhammad resides in a 3-room HDB flat in Ang Mo Kio. He is the youngest of 3 children with 2 other siblings who are married and staying apart. Muhammad's father is a shipyard cleaner while his mother is a housewife.

Muhammad attended Northlight School for 4 years and has not worked before. Since birth, Muhammad has lived with a medical condition. He has a congenital hole in the heart and still receives follow up treatment at KK Women's & Children's Hospital every 6 months.

Due to this condition, Muhammad is advised not to carry heavy things. However, Muhammad is motivated to work because he wants to support his family financially. Through the Temasek Cares - Transition To Work Programme, Bizlink was able to place him in the NTUC FairPrice as a Retail Assistant and has been following up with him very closely since November 2012.