



Eurasian Community House

139 Ceylon Road
Singapore 429744
Tel (65) 6447 1578
Fax (65) 6447 3189

[MEDIA RELEASE] Inaugural Eurasian Association Football Camp 2023 with the four Self-Help Groups

19 June 2023 – The Eurasian Association (EA), in partnership with its fellow Self-Help Groups (SHGs); Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), Yayasan MENDAKI (MENDAKI), and the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA), launched the inaugural multi-racial football camp for 7 to 12-year-old children at the Jalan Besar Stadium this morning.

Guest-of-Honour, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Social and Family Development, Mr Eric Chua, was present, with EA President Ms Sandra Theseira, CDAC Executive Director Mr Tan Yap Kin, SINDA CEO Mr Anbarasu Rajendran, MENDAKI CEO Mdm Zuraidah Abdullah, Sport Singapore Deputy CEO Mr Toh Boon Yi and Singapore Pools Senior Director of Community Partnerships and Communications Mr Chin Sau Ho.

The three-day camp brings together close to 100 children from the four SHGs and special guests from SportCares, with a finale tournament to wrap up the camp. It is sponsored by Singapore Pools, and supported by Sport Singapore and ActiveSG Football Academy with the venue and coaches. It aims to bring children from different races and backgrounds together, and to promote racial harmony and inclusivity through sport. A first iteration of this camp with about 30 children from EA, MENDAKI and SINDA was held in 2022.

Senior Parliamentary Secretary Mr Eric Chua, who launched the event, highlighted the role Self-Help Groups play, and their collaborative efforts in bringing children from different cultures together.

“This first Football Camp involving our Self-Help Groups is a commendable effort in reaching out to our young and supporting their all-rounded development, beyond academics. Bringing together our children through sport offers them an opportunity to interact and bond with peers across communities and cultures. This effort reflects the important role SHGs continue to play as part of a wider network to strengthen social cohesion in Singapore.”

Said Mr Chin Sau Ho, Singapore Pools’ Senior Director, Community Partnerships and Communications, “Singapore Pools is honoured to be the title sponsor for the Eurasian Association (EA)'s Kids Football Camp 2023. Football is a sport that is able to bring children of all races together towards a unifying purpose of inclusive sports excellence. This underscores our belief in creating a positive impact on young participants and advocating for social change through sports.”

Mr Toh Boon Yi, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Sport Singapore, shared, “Sport Singapore is pleased to support ground-up community initiatives that helps make sport more accessible to Singaporeans. We believe sport can breach boundaries and engender social bonds. Sporting activities can also teach valuable life skills. In this camp, other than developing football skills, equal emphasis will be placed on values and character development.”



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EA President Sandra Theseira expressed, "The EA is honoured to be able to host this camp for the four Self-Help Groups for the first time. This truly celebrates our multi-racialism and creating inclusivity through sport, by bringing our young children from different races and backgrounds together."

CDAC Executive Director Tan Yap Kin said, "The CDAC is glad to have played a part in providing a platform for our young to interact through sports. Many thanks to the EA for organising this inaugural football camp and extending invitations to our children. We believe that such inter-Self-Help Group collaborations provide valuable opportunities for sustained engagements where our children and youth get to interact meaningfully and have fun together."

Mdm Zuraidah Abdullah, CEO of MENDAKI, added, "MENDAKI is happy to support the annual Eurasian Association Football Camp this year. Through this initiative, kids from different races and various cultures are able to lead a healthier lifestyle and bond through sports. MENDAKI will continue to work with fellow Self-Help Groups to create opportunities that bind us together and build a diverse yet inclusive and cohesive Singapore."

Summing up, SINDA CEO Mr Anbarasu Rajendran stated, "The inaugural EA Football Camp serves as a binding agent for our young champions to come together as ONE, regardless of race. This opportunity of coming together through the medium of sports not only promotes the healthier notion but further serves to strengthen our social compact. Through football, the participants will write a common narrative, one that not only illustrates the rich tapestry of our various cultures but one that also builds our common identity as Singaporeans."



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ABOUT THE EURASIAN ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

The Eurasian Association of Singapore (EA) has a long history of serving the interests of the Eurasian community in Singapore since its inception in 1919. In 1994, the EA was formally accorded 'Self-Help Group' status by the Government to act on behalf of the Eurasian community in Singapore.

The EA provides services for the community in three key areas: It supports children and youth through **Education** programmes, assists less fortunate members of the community through **Family Support Services**, and brings people from different backgrounds together through **Community Development** initiatives, to strengthen community bonds and promote inter-racial harmony in Singapore.

It also works toward preserving unique Eurasian heritage and traditions, including Eurasian dance, food and language. The Eurasian Community House is the home of the EA and Eurasian Heritage Gallery and is a focal point for the Eurasian community to work together. The EA reaches out to various school and community groups to increase public awareness on Eurasian culture, through exhibitions, cultural and dance festivals, tours of the Eurasian Heritage Gallery, and through events such as the first and second editions of the Singapore Eurasian Family History Exhibition in 2021 and 2022, featuring 59 Singaporean Eurasian family trees in total. The exhibitions aim to create a knowledge legacy for new Eurasians, and to increase public awareness on how Eurasians have contributed to Singapore over the years.

Website and Social Media

Website: <https://www.eurasians.sg/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eurasianassociation/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/the_eurasian_association/

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-urasian-association/>

For enquiries, contact Beverly at beverly@eurasians.org