

# APEC Summit 2008

## Voices of the Future

Lima, Peru, 16 to 22 November 2008



A special report on the NYAA's Delegation to the APEC Summit 2008 in Lima, Peru

### Singapore Youth Leaders Attend the APEC Summit 2008 in Lima, Peru

The year 2008 marks the 10th Anniversary of the APEC Voices of the Future – a programme that provides selected young leaders from the 21 APEC nations the opportunity and platform to engage with Heads of Government, Foreign and Trade Ministers, senior government officials, business leaders and captains of industries on a variety of APEC-relevant issues including trade liberalization, sustainable development, corporate social responsibility and economic integration. The Voices Programme is traditionally organized to coincide with the APEC Leaders' Week that culminates with the meeting of Heads of Government from the 21 APEC member countries.

The APEC Summit 2008 was held in Lima, Peru from 16 to 22 November 2008 with the theme "A New Commitment to Asia-Pacific Development". The APEC Summit in Lima was particularly important in the light of the financial crisis that has quickly spread to all parts of the world. At the time of the APEC Summit 2008, several APEC economies had already slipped into recession. More than ever, it was critical that governments made a renewed commitment to continue trade liberalization and not revert to protectionist measures.

James Soh, Executive Director, NYAA Council and Head of the Singapore NYAA Delegation, together with Aileen Yap, Deputy Executive Director, NYAA Council were joined by NYAA Gold Award holders Mustafa Izzuddin, a PhD candidate in International Relations with the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Shawn Low Cher Heang, an undergraduate with Harvard University, all of whom represented Singapore at the APEC Summit 2008 Voices of the Future Programme. Marcus Chee, Assistant Director, Youth Division, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports joined the Singapore NYAA Delegation as an invited guest of the Voices Leadership.

### Voices of the Future Programme Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of the Voices of the Future Programme 2008 was held at the Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola in Lima on 17 November 2008 and was graced by H.E. Mercedes Araoz Fernandez, Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism. Here, the Minister emphasized on the importance of providing the next generation of youth leaders with avenues to learn about trade liberalization and free trade.



Officials and delegates of the APEC Summit 2008 Voices of the Future Programme at the Universidad San Ignacio De Loyola, Lima, Peru.



Opening Ceremony of the APEC Summit 2008 Voices of the Future Programme graced by H.E. Mercedes Araoz Fernandez, Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism of the Republic of Peru.



James Soh, Executive Director and Aileen Yap, Deputy Executive Director, NYAA Council (Singapore) with Raul Diez Canseco Terry, former Vice President of the Republic of Peru and Edward Roekaert, Vice President, Universidad San Ignacio De Loyola at the APEC CEO Summit.



Voices delegates attending the 20th APEC Ministerial Meeting as observers during the APEC Summit 2008.

## APEC Ministerial Meetings and APEC CEO Summit

During the 6-day event, youth leaders from the 21 APEC economies were accorded the opportunity to attend various meetings as observers, as well as interview ministers and business leaders at the sidelines of the ABAC Ministerial Meetings and the APEC Summit 2008. The youth leaders were also given the opportunity to attend the APEC CEO Summit held at the Ministry of Defense where they witnessed Heads of Government from the APEC economies deliver their speeches on issues affecting the current financial situation and their proposed solutions. This included speeches from H.E. Alan Garcia, President of the Republic of Peru, H.E. President George W Bush of the United States of America, H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia, H.E. President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China, and H.E. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico.

It was particularly beneficial for these young leaders to understand the complexity within the global trading system and the different phases of economic development across APEC economies. It was indeed an eye opener for many young leaders who attended the Voices of the Future Programme for the first time. Singapore youth delegates were also able to interact with their own political leaders such as George Yeo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, and with ministers from ASEAN member countries such as Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Minister of International Trade and Industries of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, Foreign Minister of Malaysia and Dr Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia.



H.E. George Yeo, Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs with H.E. John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand at the APEC CEO Summit.



H.E. President George W Bush of the United States of America addressing the APEC CEO Summit.



Voices delegates Mustafa, Shawn and Jorge Antonio Chavez Mazuelos with H.E. Dr Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia.



NYAA youth leaders Mustafa, Shawn and Peruvian youth leader Jorge Antonio Chavez Mazuelos with H.E. Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, Foreign Minister of Malaysia.



Singapore youth leaders Mustafa, Shawn and Jorge Antonio Chavez Mazuelos with Singapore Foreign Minister H.E. George Yeo.



NYAA youth leaders Mustafa, Shawn and Peruvian youth leader Jorge Antonio Chavez Mazuelos with H.E. Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Minister of International Trade and Industries, Malaysia.

## Dialogue with Singapore ABAC Members

One of the key highlights of the Voices of the Future Programme was an open dialogue session with three distinguished members of the APEC Business Advisory Council that served as a lead-up to the APEC Summit 2008. The panel comprised Teng Theng Dar, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Business Federation and Chair, ABAC 2009, Chong Siak Ching, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ascendas Pte Ltd and Tang Kin Fei, Group President and Chief Executive Officer, Sembcorp Industries Limited. Their extensive insights regarding Singapore businesses were very well-received by the Voices delegates. The number and variety of questions asked, and comments made by the young leaders suggested a great deal of interest and confidence toward the APEC mechanism and how this network can advance the development of member countries through further trade liberalization, signing of bilateral and multilateral trade arrangements, and collaborations among small-and-medium enterprises. The youth delegates were also particularly interested on how Singapore, being a small city-state, has been able to punch above its weight when it comes to advancing its economic interests.

Furthermore, the youth delegates, especially those from Latin American countries like Peru and Mexico expressed their interest to learn from Singapore's success and emulate its model of economic development. All-in-all, this lively dialogue session stirred up great awareness among the youths in view of the APEC Summit 2009 to be hosted by Singapore.



Singapore ABAC members Teng Theng Dar, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Business Federation, Chong Siak Ching, President and CEO, Ascendas Pte Ltd and Tang Kin Fei, Group President and CEO, SembCorp Industries Ltd addressing the dialogue session with the Voices delegates.



Mustafa Izzuddin and Shawn Low with the Singapore APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) members Teng Theng Dar, Chong Siak Ching and Tang Kin Fei.



Voices delegates having a chat with Alvin Lee, Director, International Relations, Public Policy, Time Warner, Asia Pacific at the ABAC Meeting.



James Soh, Executive Director, NYAA Council with H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry at the APEC Business Advisory Council Annual Luncheon at the Country Club Hotel in Lima, Peru.



Voices delegates with Jack Ma, Chairman and CEO, Alibaba Group at the ABAC Meeting.



NYAA delegation James Soh, Shawn Low and Mustafa Izzuddin with Derek Williams, Executive Vice President, Oracle Corporation and Chairman, Oracle Asia Pacific at the ABAC Annual Luncheon.

## Visit to Places of Interest and Closing Ceremony

Of course no overseas event would be complete without being indulged in the culture and history of the host nation, and the APEC Summit 2008 was no exemption. The Peruvian capital of Lima is a beautiful metropolitan city with a rich history and vibrant culture. The youth delegates were given the rare privilege of visiting the Government Palace, the official residence of H.E. Dr Alan Garcia Perez, President of the Republic of Peru. Delegates also visited the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima, the Indian Market, the Parque De La Muralla, the Plaza De Armas and many more interesting and historical sites.

At the Closing Ceremony Dinner, each delegation contributed to the cultural night as the Peruvians and Mexicans lead the way with their colorful costumes and songs. Mustafa and Shawn both contributed two local Singapore songs which were well-received by the host and delegates. The NYAA Singapore was further honoured when Mustafa was voted as the most outstanding and popular youth leader for APEC Summit 2008 Voices of the Future Programme. He received a Mexican Sombrero as a testament to his leadership and contributions as an educator.

The Voices Leadership planned a simple yet symbolic handover of a torch to the Singapore delegates who will host the next Voices Programme. Many close friendships were made, ties forged and camaraderie developed over the 6-day event. And even as the delegates bid each other farewell, they all have something to look forward to – the APEC Summit 2009 Voices of the Future Programme in Singapore.



NYAA delegation visiting the Government Palace, the official residence of H.E. Dr Alan Garcia Perez, President of the Republic of Peru.



Voices delegates visiting the Pachacamac Ruins in Lima, Peru.

## Acknowledgements

The Singapore youth delegation is grateful to the numerous agencies and organizations that supported Singapore's youth participation at the APEC Summit 2008. To the Virtual Trade Mission Foundation International for organizing the Voices of the Future Programme held in conjunction with the APEC Summit 2008 in Lima, Peru, the Singapore ABAC Members for their invaluable insights shared during the Dialogue Session with the delegates of the Voices of the Future Programme, the Lee Foundation for their financial support, and to all the supporters and friends of the NYAA Singapore and the NYAA Gold Award Holders' Alumni who have made all this possible.



Voices delegates visiting the Main Square in Lima.



Youth leaders from the APEC economies feasting on Peruvian cuisine, which includes Ceviche and Sancochado.



Mustafa Izzuddin voted as the most outstanding youth leader at the APEC Summit Voices of the Future Programme. He was the honoured recipient of the Mexican Sombrero presented by the Voices Leadership at the Closing Dinner of the APEC Summit 2008 Voices of the Future Programme.

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