

## Local charities say a big thanks to volunteers

SINGAPORE - For the first time, three local charities - the Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities, Lions Befrienders Service Association and YMCA of Singapore - joined forces to rally other non-profit organisations to show their appreciation to volunteers, on this International Volunteer Day

More than 6,000 volunteers and 70 charitable organisations came together at the Singapore Management University Campus Green on Saturday, joined by Mr Lawrence Wong, Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth.

There were game booths and food stalls run by social enterprises, a flea market, arts and craft run by charities and a concert featuring artistes such as Hady Mirza. Volunteers also enjoyed free entry to the National Museum of Singapore and Singapore Arts Museum.

Mr Laurence Lien, CEO of the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, said: "We are heartened to see charities take ownership and responsibility to organise a mega appreciation event for volunteers. Volunteer affirmation is a key component to effective volunteer management as much as ensuring volunteers are adequately briefed and meaningfully engaged."

Meanwhile at the Singapore Memory Project booth, visitors wrote about their experiences of being involved in volunteering efforts. More of such stories are being sought at <http://www.singaporememory.sg/campaigns/irememberdoinggood>.

Launched by President Tony Tan earlier this month, the irememberDoingGood initiative seeks to collect memories of people "doing good" in Singapore through volunteerism and philanthropy - from immigrants and tycoons, to working adults and students.