



8 June 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

To New Editors

SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2014 AIMS TO DOUBLE THE FUNDS RAISED FOR CHARITY WITH THE SUPPORT OF SINGAPORE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

The 4th edition of SAFRA Swim for Hope is set to return on Sunday, 12 October 2014 to raise funds for needy NSmen and underprivileged children. For the first time, the event will be held simultaneously at all five SAFRA clubs island-wide with a bold target to more than double the achievement last year. The event aims to clock a total of 50,000 laps in the pool within six hours and raise at least \$50,000.

The Singapore Swimming Association (SSA) is among the first to show its support. It will be sending a contingent of 50 national athletes, including swimmers, divers and water polo players, to swim a total of 5,000 laps at the event. Some of the athletes joined the SSA officials at SAFRA Tampines this afternoon to pledge their support as registration opened.

Every lap swam by participants will contribute \$1 to the fund raising effort, which will benefit three adopted charities – the SAF Care Fund, Singapore Children's Society and Aquatics Heart & Hope.

Some of the athletes such as national swimmer and NSman Russell Ong have volunteered to conduct a series of swim clinics for participants. All fees collected will be fully donated to the fund raising effort. The athletes will also be sharing their experience and providing swim tips at a complimentary talk for the first 200 participants to register for the event to aid them in their preparations.

COL (NS) William Chua, Chairman of SAFRA Tampines, commented, “The aim of SAFRA Swim for Hope has always been to build bonds and create memories among NSmen and at the same time, to raise funds for charity. We are very glad to have the support of SSA and the national athletes this year. Many of them are also full-time national servicemen or NSmen such as Russell Ong. Their involvement will definitely motivate other participants.”

He added: “This year, we are also holding the event at all five SAFRA clubs so that it will be more convenient for NSmen and their families to participate. Fathers are important role models to their children and this is a good opportunity to imbue them with a sense of care, and when you care, you share with others.”

Mr Lee Kok Choy, Secretary General of SSA, commented: “Many of our athletes are very excited about giving their support to help raise funds. They train hard to represent Singapore at key competitions and this is one instance where they can also use their talent and training to directly benefit less privileged Singaporeans. They are in their elements when in the pool. I believe this will be a very rewarding experience for many of them.”

SAFRA Swim for Hope is organised by SAFRA Tampines. Last year, the event raised a total of \$20,000 for charity and earned itself a new record in the Singapore Book of Records for the ‘most number of laps swam in six hours’ at one location. More than 402 NSmen and swimming enthusiasts helped to clock a total of 22,637 laps then.

Kindly refer to the fact sheet on this year’s event at **Annex A**.

About SAFRA National Service Association

SAFRA was formed in 1972 to provide for the social and recreational needs of NSmen and their families through quality sports, social and educational programmes to recognise NSmen for their contributions to National Defence.

SAFRA currently has a network of five clubs conveniently located in Jurong, Mount Faber, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs is a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for over 330,000 members and their families.

Issued by the Communications & Public Relations Division, SAFRA National Service Association.

**SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2014
SUNDAY, 12 OCTOBER**

FACT SHEET

SSA NATIONAL ATHLETES WHO PLEDGED AT SAFRA TAMPINES ON 8 JUNE 2014

National Swimmers:

1. Russell Ong
2. Danny Yeo
3. Pang Sheng Jun
4. Arren Quek
5. Clement Lim

National Water Polo Players:

1. Ang An Jun
2. Chong Wayne
3. Fu Chuan Yu
4. Lee Kai Yang
5. Lim Churn Yi
6. Neo Seh Woon
7. Yip Yang

REGISTRATION FEES

	Early Bird Period (8 Jun – 31 Jul)	Normal Period
Individual	\$15 (SAFRA Member) \$23 (Public)	\$18 (SAFRA Member) \$23 (Public)
Team of 5	\$85	\$100

All participants will receive an exclusive event tee-shirt, goodie bag and a certificate of participation. Lunch will be included.

BENEFICIARIES

SAF Care Fund

The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Care Fund is set up to provide additional support to SAF servicemen who are severely disabled due to military service, over and above MINDEF's existing compensation and welfare frameworks. The Fund enables members of the public to make contributions and show their support to injured servicemen.

Singapore Children's Society

Singapore Children's Society protects and nurtures children and youth of all races and religions. In 2013, the Society reached out to 72,640 children, youth and families in need. Established in 1952, its services have evolved to meet the changing needs of children.

Today, Children's Society operates 10 service centres islandwide, offering services in the six categories of: Caregiving, Community, Developmental, Preventive, Public Education and Remedial.

Aquatics Heart & Hope

The Aquatics Heart and Hope programme includes several thrusts that involve the participation of national athletes from the Singapore Swimming Association (SSA) in giving back to society. Funds raised under the programme will be used to sponsor learn to swim programmes for the underprivileged and participants will also undergo SSA's Singapore Swimming Proficiency Award program. The fund will also enable those who are talented to be given the opportunity to participate in the high performance athlete development pathway programme.

SSA is also exploring having national athletes conduct inspirational clinics and talks for underprivileged kids and youths-at-risk to impart sporting values and encourage them to achieve their life goals as part of the Aquatics Heart & Hope programme.