

# Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Marina Bay Sands offers full-time employment to special needs students**

*Former Metta School interns are now budding pastry chefs*

**Singapore** (9 February 2011) – Marina Bay Sands kicked off the new year in a meaningful way by offering full-time careers in pastry making to three Metta School students after they completed a one-year internship program. This marks the beginning of the students' careers in the growing hospitality industry and their ability to lead independent lives. The students were under Marina Bay Sands' Youth Inspiration Internship Program which aims to provide disadvantaged youth, including those with learning disabilities, with the opportunity to learn valuable life skills as they develop to become independent adults.

As part of Marina Bay Sands' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Program, Marina Bay Sands supports a variety of charities and causes including those relating to youth and education. In particular, the Youth Inspiration Internship Program allows students to intern at various departments within the property, such as pastry, F&B, and housekeeping. Since the start of the program in July 2010, a total of 10 interns from Metta School, all of whom are Singaporeans.

Chef Alejandro Luna, Executive Pastry Chef of Marina Bay Sands and supervisor of the three interns, said, "The three Metta School students showed great potential and a positive working attitude during their year-long stint with the pastry department. They integrated extremely well with the pastry team and we have learnt much from them as they have from us. When the opportunity arose to have the interns onboard the pastry team on a full-time basis, it was an easy decision and the team fully supported the idea."

Jovi Tan, 18, is one of the three students who have signed on as a full-time Team Member. He went through two internship stints at the pastry department as part of the Institute for Technical Education's (ITE) Skills Certificate (ISC) program.

Jovi said, "I was taught the skills required for me to succeed in the F&B industry. I was not only taught the necessary technical skills, but have also learnt soft skills such as communicating with other team members. I am really happy that the internship at Marina Bay Sands has taught me how to lead an independent life."

"The initial transition from an intern to a full-time Team Member was particularly nervous for me. But after a couple of days, I became more confident and looked forward to my new role. The internship prepared me for the full-time role and has allowed me to take on greater responsibilities. I hope to stay at Marina Bay Sands for a long time," he said.

Mr. Anuwar Abdul Wahab, Vice Principal, Metta School said, “We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Marina Bay Sands for not only taking our students for their work experience program but also eventually offering them full-time employment after their graduation. Marina Bay Sands’ exemplary moves will hopefully pave the way for more of our special needs students to be employed in the hospitality industry.”

Apart from the Youth Inspiration Internship program, Marina Bay Sands has donated to numerous charitable programs, ranging from art education programs to special-needs schools.

Mr. George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer for Marina Bay Sands, said, “Marina Bay Sands is very privileged to be given the opportunity to be in Singapore. We’re therefore fully committed to contributing to the community in various ways, be it in driving economic and tourism growth, or creating career opportunities for Singaporeans. The partnership that we have with Metta School is especially meaningful, and we’re excited about developing more of such initiatives and partnerships with the community in 2012.”

In May 2011, Marina Bay Sands partnered with Community Chest to organize the ComChest Heartstrings Walk 2011 @ Marina Bay which successfully raised over S\$1.2 million for more than 300,000 beneficiaries in Singapore.

In November 2011, Marina Bay Sands contributed to the ComChest TrueHearts Show, a televised donation drive. Besides a cash donation towards the show, *Wicked*, the Broadway hit currently performing at Marina Bay Sands, made a special appearance at the show to appeal to viewers for donations to Community Chest. In addition, Marina Bay Sands adopted one of the “Charitrees” located along the waterfront promenade, spreading the joy of Christmas amongst the beneficiaries of Community Chest.

In December 2011, the skating rink at Marina Bay Sands was converted into the world of Narnia – an exhibition based on C.S. Lewis’ beloved fictional books and the blockbuster films. Visitors could view artifacts from C.S. Lewis’ personal study, the famous attic, a replica of the White Witch’s Throne, and many other interactive and engaging displays. Ticket proceeds from this initiative, which has been extended to 26 February 2012, will be donated to The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund.

In January this year, Marina Bay Sands was presenting sponsor of the Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2012 Singapore Gala Dinner, raising over S\$300,000 in support of Singaporean artists and Art Outreach, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting art literacy among local schools.

With numerous entertainment and leisure options, Marina Bay Sands seeks to give back to the community in a creative manner. Located at the Waterfront Promenade at the Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands, the Rain Oculus – a site-specific art installation by American artist Ned Kahn – has doubled up as a wishing well for many visitors. Since the initiative was started in late 2010, over S\$140,000 in coins was collected and subsequently donated to Community Chest in support of schools for children with learning disabilities.

Team Members at Marina Bay Sands actively play their part for the community by volunteering their time at events jointly organized with Metta School. These include Children's Day 2011, and baking lessons and floral arrangement workshops conducted by Marina Bay Sands' pastry and floral departments respectively. Marina Bay Sands Team Members also participated in an eco-educational program where they cleaned up the waterways around the Marina Bay Reservoir. More recently, Marina Bay Sands hosted Grace Orchard School in celebration of the Lunar New Year with tours of the ArtScience Museum and Sands SkyPark.

**About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd**

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theaters showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com](http://www.marinabaysands.com)