
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

I MEDIATE! YOUTH MEDIATION DAY 2012

The Community Mediation Unit (CMU), a department under the Ministry of Law, organised its sixth annual youth event, *I Mediate! Youth Mediation Day 2012 (YMD)*, on Saturday, 18 February 2012. Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Law, Ms Sim Ann, was the Guest-of-Honour at the event.

Background

2. Targeted at Secondary Two and Three student leaders, the event introduced peer mediation as a useful life skill and encouraged youths to apply peer mediation techniques to resolve disputes. The theme for this year, *I Mediate*, encapsulates the vital role that students can play as a mediator between peers. More than 600 student leaders from over 50 secondary schools signed up for this year's event.

3. The event, as with past events, included lectures on peer mediation and interactive skits with student participation. One of the firsts for this year's event was the prize presentation for the inaugural *I Mediate! Video Challenge* contest. About 50 students took part in the video contest. Another first was the carnival segment, where student participants could apply their newly acquired peer mediation skills at game booths.

I Mediate! Video Challenge

4. The video contest was held in August 2011 as a precursor to YMD. It sought to raise awareness of peer mediation among students, and to provide them a creative platform to share their understanding of mediation with their peers. Each student team comprising up to five students had to produce a three to five-minute video about the peer mediation process.

They were given free rein on the genre of the video, which could be in the form of a musical, drama, rap, stop motion or animation.

5. A total of 12 video entries were shortlisted for voting by our judging panel, comprising Mr Nicholas Chee, co-founder of Sinema Old School and Sinema Media, Mr Darren Tan, Creative Director of Little Red Ants Creative Studio and Ms Elsie Tjoeng, General Manager of CMU. The videos were put up on CMU's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/i.mediate.2012) and members of the public voted for their favourite videos from 11 to 31 January 2012. The winners were determined by the total scores from CMU's judging panel and public voting.

6. The winning video entry came from Commonwealth Secondary School. The team received a prize of \$800 and \$100 worth of movie merchandise courtesy of Sinema Old School. The second and third place winners – Ang Mo Kio Secondary School and Bedok South Secondary School – received prizes of \$600 and \$400 respectively. All participating teams of the video challenge received a plaque of appreciation. The videos can be viewed at this link: <http://www.facebook.com/i.mediate.2012?sk=videos>

Conclusion

7. The CMU is pleased with the students' enthusiastic participation in this year's YMD. Ms Elsie Tjoeng said: "We would like to congratulate the winning teams of the video contest. All the participating teams did a tremendous job in creatively expressing their understanding of peer mediation. We hope that through the YMD, student leaders acquired useful skills to help them resolve disputes amicably amongst their friends or family members."

8. For more information on the *I Mediate! Youth Mediation Day 2012*, please visit <https://www.mlaw.gov.sg/news/speeches/speech-by-sps-sim-ann-at-the-i-mediate-youth-mediation-day-2012.html>