



YOG 2010: Big deal or not?

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INTHEAIR

Joshua Kor and Mahirah Law face off

"WOO-HOO!"

When the president of the International Olympic Committee, Mr Jacques Rogge, announced on Feb 21 **last** year that Singapore had been chosen as the **host** for the 2010 Youth Olympic Games (YOG), the atmosphere was electric.

It was more than the elation of a "little red dot" **hosting** 3,500 athletes from 170 countries in the **first** Olympic Games for youth aged 14 to 18.

The Games will bring more than sports to the Lion City; they will also bring intangible values.

Thousands of athletes will mingle with our own sportsmen, giving them a chance to learn about the **host** nation.

Likewise, our athletes will also learn more about other cultures and how to welcome people of other races and religions with open arms.

More importantly, YOG will bring a passion for sports.

Seeing their peers **striving** to be the **best** in their fields may inspire many non-athletes to pick up a sport, and athletes to improve their training and aim to be the **best**.

It could augment Singapore's place in the sporting scene in future as these world-class athletes will grow up to compete in the Summer Olympics.

So as 2010 draws closer, and with it the opening ceremony of the **first** YOG, I wait in anticipation for the coming together of the world's promising athletes here in Singapore.

Joshua, 14, is a Secondary 3 student at St Joseph's Institution.

"HO-HUM!"

The excitement of holding YOG 2010 right here in Singapore escapes an arts **student** like me.

I'm sure it will be fascinating to watch teens like ourselves battle it out, and sure, I have friends who dream about taking part in the actual Olympic Games.

But it would be heartening to see the same **investment** being put into becoming Asia's Renaissance City.

There's no arts event to match the global scale of the Olympic Games and the \$120 million injected into the arts annually for five years until 2006 has not seemed to make much of a dent for **artists** here.

Sure, theatre goers can look forward to many and varied performances coming here from overseas.

But home-grown **artists** **still** find it hard to earn a decent living in Singapore.

Until recently it was the same for home-grown athletes, too.

Now, things are beginning to change for those who make the country proud in sporting achievements in terms of earning monetary rewards.

Maybe one day the same can be done for **artists** who take the Singapore name overseas.



Mahirah, 15, is a Secondary 3 student at Chua Chu Kang Secondary.



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