

SAILABILITY SINGAPORE

Speech at the 3rd Sailability Singapore Access 2.3 Regatta 2003

By Daniel J McHugh, Vice Chairman, Sailability Singapore

Sunday, 31 August 2003

1. Mr Frankie Thanapal Sinniah, Vice President, Singapore Disability Sports Council

Sailors

Friends of Sailability

2. I'm delighted to be here this afternoon at the third Sailability Singapore Access 2.3 Regatta. It's wonderful to see so many young, and not-so-young, sailors here today, discovering the joy of competitive sailing for themselves.
3. When NOL decided to adopt Sailability Singapore as our corporate volunteerism programme in 2001, we wanted to expand the horizons of those less able than ourselves, and to open up avenues for physical activity to them.
4. We appealed to the hearts and minds of our fellow colleagues in contributing generously to Sailability Singapore and managed to raise over \$100,000 for the programme. This money is continuing to fund the purchase of new boats and equipment, as well as the programme's running costs.
5. But our support extends beyond the financial. Over the years, our staff have also devoted their time and effort in bringing the sport to many disabled individuals, and sharing the joy of sailing with them.

6. As a volunteer of Sailability Singapore myself, let me tell you that there is no more rewarding sight than seeing these disabled individuals sail out to sea for the first time. The excitement and freedom that comes from sailing is like nothing they have ever experienced and it is such a delight for us to be a part of that experience.
7. Our sailors have made the most of this opportunity and as you saw from the fierce competition at this afternoon's regatta, display great talent, sportsmanship and camaraderie.
8. I am proud to inform you that two of our Sailability Singapore sailors, Abdul Karim bin Din and Mohamed Taufik bin Ahmadilli, have been chosen to represent Singapore at the 2003 Disabled Sailing World Championships in Greece.
9. They are an example of individuals who refused to be bound by their disabilities and who believed that dreams can come true. We are pleased to have been able to support them in their training and wish them all the best for the competition.
10. We want to develop more of these talented sportsmen and women through Sailability Singapore and at the same time, introduce more people to sailing. NOL is committed to growing the programme and increasing the sailing opportunities available to disabled individuals so that more people can enjoy the benefits of sailing.
11. On that note, I would like to congratulate all of the sailors who participated in today's regatta. Your passion and perseverance are an inspiration to all of us and we applaud you for your achievements. I wish you many happy sailing days ahead.
12. Thank You.