

**MEDIA RELEASE
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**Over 2,000 participants gather at Marriage Convention 2010
to learn what goes into a strong marriage**

Singapore, 26 March 2010 – One of Singapore’s largest and most established marriage related conventions, Marriage Convention 2010, opens today. Held for the fifth year, the convention is among the highlights of Marriage Central’s Real Love Works 2010 celebrations that stretch from 20 to 28 March 2010.

Organised by Marriage Central and MediaCorp Pte Ltd, in partnership with Focus on the Family Singapore, the three-day convention is for couples looking for insights, advice and skills in building a strong and happy marriage. Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports, graced the Convention’s opening at Suntec Convention Centre today.

“Marriage is a personal decision. The strength of relationship between spouses depends very much on individuals in the marriage. Government cannot decree strong marriages. But we seek to create an environment where marriage is promoted, celebrated and strengthened. This is to support those who wish to enrich their marriage and make it work. To help strengthen marriages, my Ministry works closely with stakeholders such as marriage educators and counsellors to equip couples with the necessary skills and knowledge. We are happy to have piloted new marriage enrichment programmes with our partners. This constant review and updating of resources is necessary to meet emerging needs and help couples effectively,” Mrs Yu-Foo said.

In line with the Real Love Works 2010 food theme, this year’s Convention focuses on the different “Marriage Ingredients” – Love and Respect, Making Love Deposits, Intimacy and Passion, Forgiveness and Growth – all of which are important for couples to work on in order to have a healthy, fulfilling, vibrant and lasting marriage. The

speakers for Marriage Convention 2010 include Dr Wayde and Rosalyn Goodall, from the United States. The husband-and-wife team has conducted family events and seminars extensively and is heavily involved in providing coaching tools for families throughout the world. The Convention will also showcase speakers from Singapore and Malaysia. (Refer to [Annex](#) for details on the speaker profiles). Sessions will be conducted in English, Mandarin, Malay and Tamil throughout the weekend.

Ms Anita Fam, Marriage Central Advisory Board's Chairperson said, "Marriage Central is very encouraged by the overwhelming response of couples. Some of the Marriage Convention sessions have been sold out weeks before. This certainly shows that couples are willing to take time off their busy schedules to focus on their spouse and their marriage. We hope that couples will take home useful tips and ideas this weekend that will set them thinking, and make their marriage last a lifetime."

Most of the tickets to Marriage Convention 2010 have been snapped up. "Marriage Convention has become one of radio's most anticipated events, and we're proud to bring this back again. We are confident that couples will enjoy a refreshing experience and benefit from the speakers' experience in family and marriage-related issues," said Ms Zakiah Halim, Vice President, Malay, Indian & Expat Programming, MediaCorp Pte Ltd.

Partnering the event, Ms Chong Cheh Hoon, Senior Vice President (Content and Communications), Focus on the Family Singapore, said, "We're pleased to work with Marriage Central and MediaCorp to help couples strengthen their marriages through seminars such as this. Certainly there's no recipe that will suit every relationship, but we hope that couples will see how every little thing counts towards building a stronger marriage, day by day."

Marriage Convention 2010 will be held from 27 – 28 March at Suntec Convention Centre. Tickets for the sessions are priced at \$12 per pax or \$16 per couple for each session, and are available through all Sistic outlets.

Members of the public can visit marriagecentral.sg or facebook.com/marriagecentral for more information on Marriage Central and Real Love Works 2010.

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For media queries, please contact:

Asia PR Werkz

Tel: (65) 6536 6881

Fax: (65) 6535 2008

Ms Tamana Ramchandani

H/P: 9737 7725

Email: tamana@asiaprwerkz.com

Ms Lim Wee Ling

H/P: 9768 6827

Email: weeling@asiaprwerkz.com

Marriage Convention 2010 Speakers Profile

Dr Wayde and Rosalyn Goodall (English)



Wayde and Rosalyn Goodall are authors, speakers and life-coaches. They have travelled extensively throughout the world to hold family events and seminars. They are also highly involved in providing coaching tools for the family throughout the world. Their book, *Marriage and Family*, has been distributed overseas to help families in Latin America, Africa, Europe, India and China. Both Wayde and Rosalyn have been guests and hosts on various television networks in the United States. Due to their extensive international work with local communities, Wayde and Rosalyn are able to connect with audiences as they are able to make many “Western” marital principles relevant to local cultures. Wayde and Rosalyn have been making visits to Singapore in the last 2 years on a private invitation by the leadership team of a local organization. Their visits to Singapore have made them acutely aware of the local culture and issues of the family locally. They will be able to bring their insights and connect with the local audiences through their seminar. The Goodall’s reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They have two grown children, Jeremy and Kristin.

Books by Dr Wayde and Rosalyn Goodall

Why Great Men Fall

Marriage and Family

Success Kills: Sidestep the Snares that Will Steal Your Dreams

Jason & Shelen Ang (Mandarin) 洪文庆, 王雪伦



Jason and Shelen have a strong passion for building strong marriages and enriching families. They have been working with couples and families in the areas of dating, marriage, and parenting. Jason and Shelen are both accredited in the T-JTA (Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis) as well as the PREPARE/ENRICH programmes, and are equipped to do marital profiling and couple assessment. They are both licensed solemnizers and are committed to helping couples build a life-long marriage. Being effectively bilingual, they are able to deliver talks and facilitate workshops in both Mandarin and English. Coupled with their bubbly personality and outgoing nature, they are a pair of engaging and dynamic speakers.

文庆与雪伦对维系婚姻及建立家庭的工作有很大的热忱，所以两人常在婚恋和亲子上的课题讲学。文庆与雪伦是T-JTA (Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis) 和PREPARE/ENRICH婚前婚后心理测试工具的合格辅导员。他们能以测试格式来帮助夫妻更加了解自己与配偶的性格与关系，从中学习建立一个健康的夫妻关系，两人也是婚姻的宣誓官。文庆拥有道学硕士文凭，目前是一名教牧人员，也是新加坡爱家机构的客座讲师。雪伦拥有教育硕士文凭，现是新加坡爱家机构的副总裁，负责所有家庭教育的项目。

Siti Hamidah S. Abdullah Bahashwan (Malay)



A dynamic and engaging speaker, Siti Hamidah Bahashwan has worked with thousands of young couples, parents, teenagers, and children in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Australia and USA. She is a well sought consultant who has appeared as a professional presenter and resource person in Singapore's radio and television programmes. Siti Hamidah has written various articles in local newspapers and magazines and is currently writing her book for publication. Recently, Siti Hamidah was one of 11 panel members discussing on the issue of "Think Family Talk Family" a joint project by MCYS and MediaCorps (2007) and hosted the Malaysian TV program "Hidup OK". Siti Hamidah holds a BA in Social Work and Sociology and a MSc in Psychology from the University of Surrey, UK. In 2000 she set up a private practice in counseling, mediation and training, expressing her passion in helping others and making a difference. A wide range of people ranging from corporate clients, individuals, couples and parents seek her professional service.

Azariah Rajendram (Tamil)



Deeply passionate about helping Indian families, Mr Azariah Rajendram's rich counselling background in working with Tamil-speaking families has enabled him to speak on prevalent and existing challenges specific to Indian families, offering them practical solutions to real problems. He has been invited on numerous occasions to speak overseas and has travelled to about 10 countries in the world, teaching and conducting seminars on victorious family living and happy marriages. His local and international exposure to people has contributed to his deep insights on issues of family, marriage and relationships. Mr Azariah Rajendram currently resides in Melaka, Malaysia and sits on the board of several Tamil community groups.