

SINGAPORE SNIPPETS

SIA FLIGHTS TO BE RETIMED DURING SINGAPORE AIRSHOW

Some 158 Singapore Airlines (SIA) flights will be retimed during the Singapore Airshow, to accommodate periods when the airspace around Changi Airport will be closed to facilitate flying rehearsals and displays between Feb 14 and Feb 24.

SIA advised customers to log on to www.singaporeair.com to check the flight schedule in case of changes. SIA will also send SMS alerts to customers who provided mobile phone numbers in their bookings.

The retiming of flights has been planned to minimise inconvenience and flight mis-connections.

But if customers miss their connecting flights due to the schedule change, SIA will re-book them on other available services. — CHANNEL NEWSASIA

FIRM SUPPORT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY LABELLING

With the Mandatory Energy Labelling Scheme coming into effect from the start of this year, 312 air-conditioner and 235 refrigerator models have been registered and labelled so far, said the National Environment Agency (NEA).

These models carry labels with information on energy efficiency. An air-conditioner model with three ticks on its label, for example, can help save consumers about \$400 in a year, compared to one-tick model.

Manufacturers Daikin and Mitsubishi, in particular, have shown strong support for the scheme, with more than 20 air-conditioner models with four-tick labels. — CHANNEL NEWSASIA

FOREIGN WORK PASSES REVISED

From Feb 1, Professional Visit Passes will no longer be issued to

foreigners working in Singapore on short-term assignments. There will instead be two new Work Pass categories.

The new six-month Work Permit (Performing Artist) will apply to foreign performers at any nightspot, hotel or restaurant.

Those who will have to apply for the 60-day Miscellaneous Work Pass include foreigners involved in organising a conference or gathering concerning any religion, race, cause or political end, and foreign journalists not sponsored or supported by a Singapore government agency.

Two new categories of activities are exempted from requiring a Work Pass. One is certain arbitration or mediation services.

The other includes those providing expertise or specialised skills in the commissioning or audit of a new plant or equipment.

health & wellness



New to the Parkway family is the Parkway Liver Centre at Gleneagles Hospital. Managed by professionals who specialise in dealing with liver transplants, liver failure, liver cancer and critical care, the centre also has a dedicated intensive care unit in the ward, a facility offered by only a few hospitals in the world.

Find out more about ParkwayHealth at the TODAY Health & Wellness Exhibition at Singapore Expo Hall 6B, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 8pm.

OBSTACLES TO BE OVERCOME BEFORE SINGLE ASEAN VISA CAN BE ACHIEVED

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'Walk in the shoes of those with HIV, Aids'

Exhibition aims to overcome society's fear and prejudice

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THE Yellow Ribbon Project is helping change society's prejudices against former convicts. If only the same could happen for those with HIV or Aids, wish the organisers of an on-going Aids awareness exhibition.

If the findings of a survey on visitors to the exhibition are anything to go by, the battle against fear and discrimination appears long and hard.

A poll of 705 visitors showed that half would be uncomfortable around someone with Aids or HIV, the virus that causes the disease. Over a third said they might be

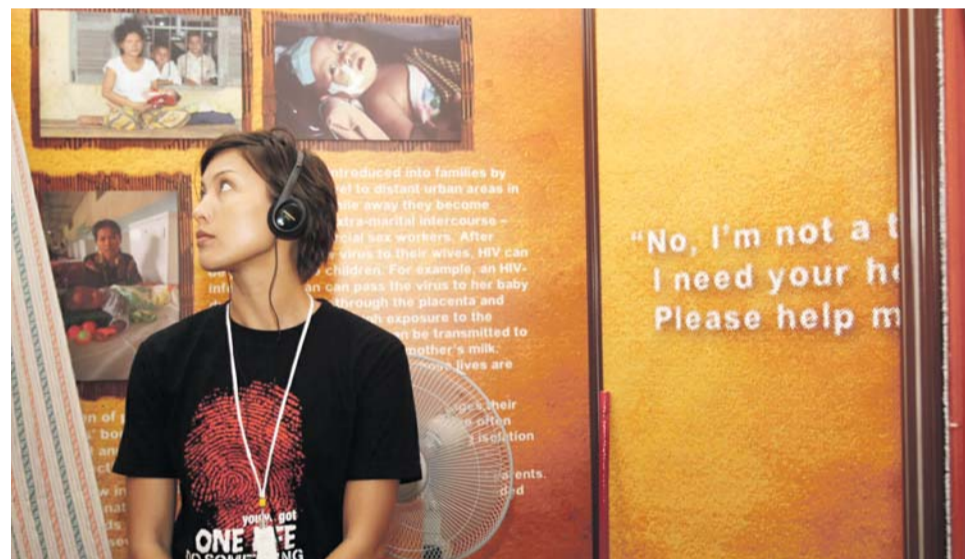
ashamed if someone in their family had HIV or Aids.

The survey also revealed a gap between what people knew about HIV and their attitudes towards it. For example, four out of five respondents knew that sharing food with someone with HIV posed no risk of infection, yet fewer than half would actually do so.

The One Life Experience exhibition encourages people to walk in the shoes of those afflicted with HIV or Aids.

"We would like to see an attitude change, like that from the Yellow Ribbon Project," said Ms Kristina Tom, the communications manager of World Vision Singapore, the exhibition organiser.

The event kicked off on Dec 1 last year, which was designated World Aids Day, and takes visitors through the real-life accounts of three people affected by HIV – a married Singaporean man, a Cambodian woman tricked into the sex trade and an HIV-free Zambian woman who has to care for her niece, whose mother died of HIV-related causes.



I HEAR YOU: TV personality Jaymee Ong listening to an account of an HIV-positive Cambodian woman.

This makes it very "real and tangible", and "really highlights the extensiveness of this epidemic in Asia and the rest of the world," said Mr Herman Lim, 34, who visited the exhibition and volunteers with First Hand, a support group for HIV patients under the City Harvest Community Services Association.

The exhibition has attracted more than 5,000 visitors so far and has the support of

television personalities like Jaymee Ong and Eunice Olsen.

It helps visitors understand that HIV "is not just a disease to be feared, but a human tragedy that has killed 25 million people and is now affecting 33 million others", said Ms Elaine Tan, the acting executive director of World Vision Singapore, citing numbers from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/Aids.

Besides the emphasis on compassion, the event has also offered some 200 people free HIV tests. The oral-fluid tests were available on four weekends, and "response to the anonymous testing was good as all the kits were utilised", said a spokesperson from the Health Promotion Board (HPB), which is co-organising the exhibition.

To fight prejudice against Aids and HIV sufferers this year, HPB is also planning an integrated media campaign for HIV/Aids Education 2008. The board is calling for tenders from creative agencies by Jan 30 for the \$2.23-million account, which also includes the Smoking Control Programme 2008.

The One Life Experience is open daily until Feb 3 from 10am to 9pm at Campus Green of the Singapore Management University. Admission is free.

"For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, fear not; I will help thee."

The Bible - Isa 41:13

SUNDAY MAIN WORSHIP SERVICE
Singapore Conference Hall @
Level 3, Main Concert Hall
Sunday Time: 10am

MONDAY NIGHT SERVICE
Marketplace Christian Fellowship
Monday Time: 7.30pm

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME SERVICE
Friday Time: 12.30pm

SATURDAY YOUTH SERVICE
Saturday Time: 4.30pm

Oasis Theatre @ Level 13, Parkmall

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