

Time for ACTION!

This issue, NYC Times catches up with **Mr Alan Tea**, Executive Director of Generation ACTS Club

NYC Times: Why the name "Generation ACTS Club"?

Alan: "Generation ACTS" is a pun on "Generation X", a term used to describe the current generation of 20-somethings. "ACTS" also represents our emphasis on action. Lastly, "ACTS" is an acronym for the programmes in our Club - "A" for Adventure, "C" for Community, "T" for Totality, and "S" for Service.

NYC Times: Please elaborate on your Club's mission - Sharing Life, Living Life, and Investing Life.

Alan: In Sharing Life, we bring people and communities closer through activities like sports, matriculation camps, networking nights, game shows and even record-breaking endeavours! Through the Living Life arm, we connect our members to seminars, workshops, courses and projects with the aim of holistic development in values, skills, and knowledge. Lastly, Investing Life is about mobilising members to do their bit for society. Eventually, we hope to develop the seed of potential in our youths, imparting values that enable them to be assets to society.

NYC Times: When, and how was Gen ACTS Club set up?

Alan: Gen ACTS was founded by a group of 11 restless youths, including myself, some four years back. We shared the same heartbeat and vision to do something worthwhile, something that will make a difference in the lives of youths today.

Since then, we've grown from a humble 11-member organisation to a 200-strong organisation!

Besides that, we've also ventured beyond our shores - we now have international branches in Peru, Quito (Ecuador), and Santiago (Chile).

NYC Times: Were your friends and family members supportive of you forming Gen ACTS Club?

Alan: Friends and family members were generally supportive. But there were some who thought we were crazy, especially

when we decided to bring our club to South America. Of course, there were those who thought we had too much time and energy to spare!

NYC Times: Tell us more about your programmes.

Alan: One of our flagship programmes is ACTSpeditions. It comprises the Cultural Insight Program, the Community Care Program and the Social Entrepreneurship Program. All these are held in our branch clubs in South America. We are also in the midst of setting up internship collaborations between South American university students and local companies. Termed I@work, this project aims to connect South American youths to invaluable corporate and cultural experiences in Singapore. So far, a number of firms have expressed interest in this project. In Singapore, we are in the midst of creating a developmental thrust in our programmes, following our mission of Sharing Life, Living Life and Investing Life.

NYC Times: Currently, what are the challenges the Club faces?

Alan: Like any non-profit, volunteer-driven clubs, we can always do much better with 1) more corporate sponsorships and funding, and 2) more active involvement amongst our members.

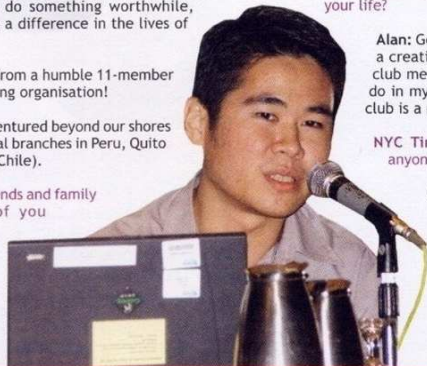
NYC Times: Personally, how important is Gen ACTS Club in your life?

Alan: Gen ACTS Club is a full-time passion. Like a creation to its creator, as a co-founder, the club means more to me than just something I do in my free time. To all of us founders, the club is a reflection of our personal heartbeat.

NYC Times: Tell us, in one sentence, why anyone should join Gen ACTS Club?

Alan: Life before the age of 35 is definitely incomplete without a taste of our GenACTS experience!

◀ *Mr Alan Tea, Executive Director of Generation ACTS Club, was one of the three representatives "Youth Voices" at the Youth.Net conference held in August 2003*



ESTABLISHED in February 2002, Generation ACTS Club was born so as to discover and develop the seed of greatness in youths. The Club believes that sharing life is better than living life alone; living life is better than staying alive; and investing life is better than owning life. For more information on the Club, log on to www.gen-acts.org