

**MEDIA ADVISORY
21 NOVEMBER 2024**

Dear media friends,

Singapore's First-of-its-Kind Inclusive Climbing Event

"Merdeka Monkey," Singapore's first inclusive climbing group, will host its first official event at Outpost Climbing on 23 November 2024. Supported by Japan-based nonprofit organisation Monkey Magic, this first event will bring about 15 individuals with visual impairment together with non-disabled individuals to experience the sport of climbing in an inclusive environment that fosters diversity, empowerment, and community.

Monkey Magic's founder, Mr Koichiro Kobayashi, 4-time world champion in Men's B1 class (for fully blind athletes) will also be present in Singapore on 22 and 23 November to support the Merdeka Monkey event.

Merdeka Monkey is a ground-up group formed by representatives from various local social service agencies such as iC2 Prehouse, Singapore Association for the Visually Handicapped (SAVH), Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) and Outpost Climbing Gym. The group was brought together by Monkey Magic and A/P Wong Meng Ee from the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. A/P Wong, a former national para swimmer himself, is a passionate advocate for inclusive education and sports.

"Merdeka," meaning "freedom" or "independence" in Malay, embodies the group's vision to unite and empower individuals of all abilities through the sport of climbing. By fostering a supportive community, Merdeka Monkey seeks to enable everyone to unlock their potential and embrace the sense of independence that comes with conquering new heights.

Building on Monkey Magic's success with 20 inclusive climbing communities across Japan, this event marks a significant step toward expanding Monkey Magic's mission to create sustainable, inclusive climbing communities in Singapore and beyond. Singapore is Monkey Magic's first overseas partner.

Event Details

Date: 23 November 2024 (Saturday)

Time: 10.00am to 2:30pm

Venue: Outpost Climbing, 464 Crawford Ln, #01-464, Singapore 190464

Time	Activity
10.00am	Arrival of Media and Briefing on Day's Proceedings
10:30am to 10:45am	Welcome address by Monkey Magic [Photo opp]
10:45am to 11:15am	Sight Guide Training for Climbing with Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) [Photo opp and Hands-on experience]

Time	Activity
11:15am to 11:20am	Group Photo [Photo opp]
11:20am to 12:50pm	Group Climbing Sessions [Photo opp and Hands-on experience] <i>Selected participants, volunteers and representatives from iC2 Prephouse, SAVH, SDSC and Outpost Climbing Gym will also be available for interviews</i>
12:50pm to 1:00pm	Closing Remarks and Session ends
1:00pm to 2:00 pm	Interviews with Mr Koichiro Kobayashi, founder of Monkey Magic and four-time world paraclimbing champion. <i>Selected participants, volunteers and representatives from iC2 Prephouse, SAVH, SDSC and Outpost Climbing Gym will also be present and available for interviews.</i>

We look forward to your RSVP to Mr Chong Zedong zedong@outpostclimbing.sg by **Friday, 22 November 2024**. Please get in touch with Mr Chong Zedong (9186 5715) for any questions and enquiries.

About Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC)

Established in 1973 by the then Ministry of Social Affairs, the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) dedicates itself to transforming the lives of individuals with disabilities through sports. Together with its members - an alliance of social service agencies, parasport and mainstream sport organisations, the SDSC drives Singapore's movement towards greater inclusivity through programmes and services that empowers persons with disabilities to participate, enjoy and excel in sports. SDSC has produced inspiring success stories such as Jeralyn Tan, Singapore's first Boccia Paralympic medalist, and Yip Pin Xiu, Singapore's most decorated Paralympian. More information at www.sdsc.org.sg

About Monkey Magic

Founded in Japan, Monkey Magic is dedicated to creating inclusive climbing opportunities and empowering individuals with and without disabilities through the sport of climbing. With a mission to foster a deeper understanding of diversity, Monkey Magic works to create a universal society where everyone can share in the joy of climbing. More information at <https://www.monkeymagic.or.jp/en-us>

About Outpost Climbing

Outpost Climbing is Singapore's largest one-stop indoor climbing destination, welcoming climbers of all ages and skill levels. With a vibrant thematic Fun Zone featuring augmented reality on Level 1 and a fully equipped Climb Zone on Level 3 offering lead, top-rope, and auto-belay climbing, and abseiling, it provides a complete climbing experience. Complemented by a fully featured lounge and a safe, inclusive atmosphere, Outpost Climbing is where climbers come to connect, grow, and explore their climbing journey. More information at www.outpostclimbing.sg