Factsheet on Marriage-related Intiatives

Families for Life's "I Still Do"



"I Still Do" is an annual marriage outreach programme, launched by the Families for Life (FFL) Council, to encourage couples to love and care for each other regardless of their differences and be committed to making their marriage last.

From February to April 2019, couples from all ages and all walks of life are invited to celebrate their love and marriage. A line-up of marriage enrichment talks, workshops and <u>online content</u> is available to provide couples with marriage tips as well as the skills to strengthen their marital bonds. Interactive bonding activities are also available for couples to spend quality time together.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

(1) "I Still Do" Couples' Picnic

Couples can enjoy a romantic evening together at the "I Still Do" Couples' Picnic at Empress Lawn, Civic District on 16 March 2019. Activities include a couples' picnic, dance and music performances, a romantic movie screening under the stars, and even a love renewal segment where couples can re-affirm their love and commitment to each other. What's more, the event is completely free and couples of all ages and walks of life are welcome!

Event details:

• Date: Saturday, 16 March 2019

• **Time:** 4pm to 9.30pm

• Venue: Empress Lawn, Civic District

Families for Life Council also works with community and corporate partners on a lineup of talks, workshops and fun activities to help couples build strong and long-lasting marriages. These talks and workshops cover various topics from communication and conflict resolution, connecting with each other, to learning how to strengthen the marital relationship.

The full list of programmes is available at http://bit.ly/IStillDo2019.

(2) Wide-ranging Online Content

To cater to busy, on-the-go couples, "I Still Do" also provides a wide range of online content, containing thoughtfully-curated original articles relevant to the local context, with a focus on couple-related topics targeting couples of all age groups.

These include building up emotional intimacy in marriage for couples to share their feelings and thoughts freely with another, renewing of vows as a testament to their love and commitment, spicing up the marriage through sports, preparing for parenthood, and refilling the empty nest when adult children move out. "I Still Do" also offers a Couple Quiz on our microsite, specially designed to help couples find out the programmes and content which will suit them best.

For more information about "I Still Do", please visit http://bit.ly/IStillDo2019.

Images (credit: "Families for Life") are available here: https://tinyurl.com/IStillDo2019

About Families for Life Council

Families for Life's vision is to build strong and resilient families because that makes for stronger communities and better individual well-being.

We Listen. We listen to the issues that Singaporean families are facing.

We Explore and Promote. We bring people and organisations together to create platforms for family bonding and to engage Singaporeans in conversations about families.

We Voice. We voice out concerns that people have on family issues and continue this conversation with our partners and the community.

The Council is chaired by Ching Wei Hong, Chief Operating Officer of OCBC Bank. Visit us at www.familiesforlife.sg.

About the Registry of Marriages (ROM) and Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM)

- The Registry of Marriages (ROM) was set up in 1961 to administer the provisions of the Women's Charter (Cap 353) for the solemnisation and registration of civil marriages.
- The Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM) was set up in 1978 to administer the provisions of the Administration of Muslim Law Act (AMLA) (Cap 2) for the solemnisation and registration of Muslim marriages.
- Since the set-up of the Registries of Marriages up till 2018, about 1.3 million civil and Muslim marriages have been registered.
- Various initiatives have been organised in recent years to enhance the overall experience of soon-to-wed couples and to celebrate marriages in Singapore. These initiatives include:

| Year | Initiatives |
|------|---|
| 2011 | Integration of ROM premises at Canning Rise with parts of Fort Canning Park for couples to celebrate their nuptials and create memories after their wedding at the ROM premises. |
| 2014 | Introduction of two-hour Introductory Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Programme (PREP) at ROM premises every weekday for soon-to-wed couples. |
| 2015 | Commemorative SG50 marriage certificate holder for residents who married during the year. Exhibition at ROM on wedding customs and rituals of the different races in Singapore. Photo booth for couples getting married and their guests as a keepsake from their wedding ceremony. |
| 2016 | • Celebrating 55 th Anniversary of First Civil Marriages in Singapore, to commemorate the passing of the Women's Charter in 1961. |
| 2018 | Inaugural Golden Jubilee Wedding Celebrations to celebrate couples who had been married for 50 years in 2017. |

Frequently Asked Questions

About the ROM Refurbishment Project and the Youth Engagement Session

1. When will the refurbishment of the ROM and ROMM building take place? When will it be completed?

Refurbishment works would begin approximately around mid-2020, and could take around 12 – 18 months to complete, depending on the complexity of the works. Detailed plans for the refurbishment will be worked out after the completion of the collaboration with the Institutes of Higher Learning and conclusion of the 'MyROMStory' Campaign.

2. How will the design proposals by the students be incorporated in the ROM refurbishment?

The student teams will come up with design proposals for the ROM and ROM building, based on inputs from relevant stakeholders and feedback from ROM and ROMM. Feasible elements from the design proposals will be considered for ROM and ROMM's eventual refurbishment plan.

3. Will the public get to view and give feedback on the design proposals by the students?

As part of the collaboration with the IHLs, students will present their design proposals to a panel of invited professional practitioners, such as architects, to garner feedback and suggestions.

About the "MyROMStory" Project

4. What will ROM and ROMM do with the submitted photos/stories?

Photos/ stories submitted will be showcased online on the Singapore Memories Project website (www.singaporememory.sg).

5. Who can submit their photos/stories?

Members of the Public who have memories of their experiences at the ROM and ROMM building, relating to weddings and marriage, can contribute their photos and stories. These memories could include your own or your loved ones' solemnisation.

6. When is the deadline to submit my photos/stories?

This project will likely conclude at the end of the year. We would like to encourage members of the public to submit their photos/ stories as soon as possible and to invite their loved ones to do likewise.