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NTUC Income Heralds Arrival of BigTrumpet.com.sg

More than a website, Big Trumpet will save people time and take the hassle out of daily tasks

NTUC Income publicly launched its new web services initiative, BigTrumpet.com.sg, at Raffles City this evening, with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong as the guest-of-honour.

More than a website, BigTrumpet is a community web services initiative designed to connect Singapore in an unprecedented manner online.

NTUC Income Chief Executive Tan Kin Lian said, "Our aim is to empower people to make their lives richer and more convenient. BigTrumpet ties in with our vision to provide a better life for the people of Singapore. The community portal provides a comprehensive range of services essential to people's daily lives."

The initial phase at BigTrumpet will feature these key components:

MyCareer - allows users to advance their careers and participate in job enhancement training activities. Job matching services are available from Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and NTUC Income. Courses are available from Peoples' Association (PA)

MyClub - enables users to join and participate in the activities of special interest clubs. The services of BigTrumpet are available to the general public. Registration is easy, and can be done at the website. At the initial stage, most of the services are provided free of charge

MyFolder - provides secure access to financial, educational, medical and personal information

MyHome - provides a range of domestic improvement services that includes locating tutors, hiring contractors and online shopping.

MyMoney - features insurance and financial planning services.

MyWorkplace - allows users to interact with work colleagues, access information and handle tasks at the workplace.

Mr Tan said, "This initial suite of services is focused on bringing more jobs, providing more opportunities for entrepreneurs and giving sound financial planning capabilities to all Singaporeans in the most convenient place possible."

NTUC Income is pleased to collaborate with its excellent technology partners - Hewlett-Packard (HP), National Computer Systems (NCS) and Trusted Hub.

HP will be providing the agile IT platforms and comprehensive management services for the BigTrumpet project. HP Singapore, Managing Director Dumas Chin said, "We are pleased to provide the IT infrastructure solutions to support BigTrumpet and contribute to the .NETMySingapore web services initiative."

NCS is the developer and designer of the web services for BigTrumpet. In addition to providing the innovative portal framework and smart engine, NCS integrated and deployed the web services for the participating organisations.

NCS' Chief Executive Officer Lee Kwok Cheong shared, "Our strength in systems design, development and integration enables premium e-services to be offered to the community through the .NETMySingapore programme. Together with Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA Singapore), Microsoft and NTUC Income, we leverage on technology to make this vision a reality for our people."

Trusted Hub provides a highly secured and certified Electronic Trusted Vault for the creation, storage and management of electronic content for BigTrumpet.

Mr Bryan Wong, President of Trusted Hub said, "This initiative provides a powerful platform for Singaporeans to embrace the concept of Trusted Electronic Documents as legally recognized documents. With that, powerful initiatives that revolutionize our lifestyle can be spawned from the community net and at the same time reinforce Singapore as a 'Trusted Hub' to the world."

BigTrumpet aims to employ 5,000 business agents to promote services to business partners and end users, both local and overseas.

Mr Tan also expects to have a collaboration with key government agencies. This will bring many online government services to BigTrumpet, including applications and payments.

He stressed that this was just the beginning, as more services will be added that are in line with NTUC Income's philosophy of making online services easy and exciting. "At BigTrumpet, users will be able to hire a maid, organize a get together and finance a car purchase easily online. More importantly, users can choose to let their doctors have instant access to their medical records when they need them to. This is beyond making their lives easier, it could make a difference in saving their lives."

BigTrumpet lets individual users access their personal information online on any device, at any time and at a high level of security. Users also have control over what information others can see. For example, a user looking for a job can allow potential employers to see his or her career history, and nothing else.

BigTrumpet will leverage NTUC Income's existing online services and 1 million policyholders. Existing users of www.income.com.sg can log in to BigTrumpet using their current usernames, while new users can quickly register free for a new account. The insurer's website currently attracts 9 million hits a month with 7,000 daily visitors.

Mr Tan said that BigTrumpet is the first of its kind in Singapore, "We want to make the next big contribution to the Internet lifestyle. Singaporeans have already embraced e-commerce robustly. BigTrumpet will incorporate technology into our lifestyle."

BigTrumpet is expected to have 100,000 users by the end of 2002 and 300,000 users by the end of 2003.

First announced in April 2002 by IDA Singapore and Microsoft, .NETMySingapore is a collaborative project to develop XML web services in Singapore. The project also aims to tap into the potential of web services for opportunities to build new infocomm skills and knowledge as well as open new avenues of business.

.NETMySingapore consists of four distinct pillars: Community XML Web Services, Training, Overseas Development and Emerging Technologies Exploration.

BigTrumpet is NTUC Income's contribution to the Community XML web services pillar of .NETMySingapore.

ANNEX E

About NTUC Income

NTUC Income is Singapore's only insurance cooperative. Formed in 1970 with a modest capital of only \$1.2 million, it has become the largest general insurer and leading life and health insurer in Singapore. Today Income has more than 1 million policyholders and total assets in excess of \$9 billion. Income is the first Singapore-owned insurer to be rated 'AA' by rating agency Standard and Poor's (S&P). It has about 3,500 insurance advisors and 1,000 office staff, with an extensive network of eight branches located island-wide.

About HP

HP is a leading global provider of products, technologies, solutions and services to consumers and businesses. The company's offerings span IT infrastructure, personal computing and access devices, global services and imaging, and printing. HP completed its merger transaction involving Compaq Computer Corp. on May 3, 2002. The company would have had combined revenue on a pro forma basis with the Compaq transaction of approximately \$81.1 billion in fiscal 2001 and has operations in more than 160 countries. More information about HP is available at www.hp.com.

About NCS

With a presence in ten locations over six countries across the Asia Pacific, National Computer Systems Pte Ltd (NCS), a wholly owned subsidiary of the SingTel Group, is the region's leading information technology (IT) and engineering service provider. NCS helps its customers gain a competitive edge through the strategic implementation of infocomm and engineering solutions. With a regional workforce of 2,800 dedicated professionals, NCS is well positioned to engage in a long-term partnership to bring business value to our customers. For more information, visit www.ncs.com.sg.

About Trusted Hub

Trusted Hub provides managed services in secure creation, storage and management of electronic documents. The company bases its technology and services on stringent legal and control frameworks to ensure the electronic document created and stored is always acceptable to the local authorities and global communities as the authentic copy. Trusted Hub is a member of the Singapore Technologies Group .