

## **For Immediate Release**

### **【 More Ethnic Groups Explore Toronto Together 】**

#### **Over 300 Youth Participated in the 6th Annual < City Mosaic >**

(May 29, 2010 – Toronto) Held on May 29th and hosted by Across U-hub, <City Mosaic> was an expedition race that allowed youth and people in the community to explore and appreciate the richness of multicultural diversity in Toronto. 300 participants and over 100 volunteers commenced their race at Albert Campbell Square in Scarborough Civic Centre. Guided by a series of questions provided in a booklet, participants visited 7 sites around the city in teams of 4. To complete the race, teams were asked to carry out challenging group activities, collect interesting cultural and historical facts at each attraction and return to the starting line within merely 8 hours.

The organizer invited Honourable Michael Chan, MPP, Ontario Minister of Tourism and Culture, Frank Scarpitti, Mayor of Markham and Chin Lee, Councillor of Toronto, to host the opening ceremony. The honourable guests encouraged young people to step out of their comfort zone, explore the diversity of Toronto and strengthen their sense of belonging to the community. Professor Eric Fong, Chair of Board of Directors of Across U-hub, invited all honourable guests and special guests Godwin Chan, Councillor of Richmond Hill, Anh Phung Ngo, Executive Director of Vietnamese Women's Association Toronto, Eric Li, Chairperson of Vision Youth, Justin Kim, Representative of Korean Canadian Scholarship Foundation, Micah Adler, Executive Director of Korean Canadian Cultural Association of The Greater Toronto Area, and Naushad Hirji, Chairperson of Social Service Network to host the kick-off ceremony. The 8-hour city expedition race started off with a bang.

This year was the sixth annual expedition race held in Toronto. The organizer strongly believed that <City Mosaic> would connect more people to the community and encourage them to experience the multicultural heritage and the rich history of Toronto--especially for youth that grew up under the influence of cyber world. The dynamics of a team setting also encouraged interactions and allowed participants to develop their communication and problem solving abilities. Throughout the race, participants exercised their team work skills and enjoyed their achievement as a team.

<City Mosaic> has been held every year on the last Saturday of May since 2005. Over the years, the number of participants continues to grow. This event has not only attracted youth of Chinese descent, but youth from other ethnic groups also took part in the competition in recent years. Over 70 teams competed in this year's race. Participants included youth from Chinese, South Asian, Vietnamese and Korean descent, which demonstrated increasing popularity of <City Mosaic> within the community. Through this event, youth participants gain new perspectives about their surroundings. Many also developed a deeper sense of belonging to their community. Having partnered with South Asian and Vietnamese organizations last year, valuable experiences were exchanged. This year, for the purpose of event planning and site researching,

Across U-hub partnered with various organizations, including Korean organization, University of Toronto East Asian Library and PawsWay animal center. The diverse background from this partnership provided a stronger base for understanding the diversity of Toronto and enabled in-depth insights into the meaning behind each cultural symbol and practice highlighted at various checkpoint locations.

To promote environmental awareness, <City Mosaic> purposely selected green for this year's T-shirt design and encouraged participants to bring their own water bottles. Similar to previous years, participants could only travel on foot or by public transit, which would help save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Allowing participants to experience different cultures on another level, the organizer also prepared a cultural performance before the closing ceremony, while teams waited for the competition results. Youth also enjoyed traditional dances, group games, booth displays and backdrops for team photos.

After a whole day of competition, with the incredible speed, <Outbox> Team took home the City Mosaic Top Explorer Award. This team managed to arrive at the most Check Points in the shortest period of time. City Mosaic Champion goes to :<Left that Blank> Team, First runner up: <Loo'ers> & second runner up: <VIVA >. This year, there is a new prize, called Top Crew, to reward the most cooperating team and <VIVA> team also got this.

This summer, Across U-hub will launch a series of events for young people to develop their leadership skills, and nurture their physical and psychological well-being. Once again, Dr. Leung Wing Tai, the General Secretary of Breakthrough Hong Kong, will be invited as guest speaker for the leadership training camp in August. The 11th annual Youth Leadership Training Camp will be held from August 29th to Sept 1st at Camp Medeba. Youth from the age of 16 to 23 are welcomed to attend. Register early as spaces are limited. Apply on or before July 9, 2010 for an early bird discount. Registration deadline is August 11, 2010. Registration form is available at Across U-hub office (160 GIBSON DR, UNIT 1, MARKHAM), or visit [www.acrossuhub.com](http://www.acrossuhub.com). For more information, please call (905) 944-1944.

#### Across U-hub Overview

*Together we help nurture our youth:*

- *to become a bridge across cultures by taking roots in Canada while developing a global perspective*
- *to become servant leaders for communities by helping them grow holistically*

#### Work:

*We adopt creative, interactive and multi-disciplinary approaches:*

- *to nurture our youths' holistic growth*
- *to cultivate their servant leadership skills*
- *to promote peer support and mentorship*
- *to foster their sense of community and to encourage active participation in cultural and civic activities*