



# The Eurasian Association, Singapore

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Eurasian Association to raise contribution rates to the Eurasian Community Fund to help more needy Singaporeans**

1. The Eurasian Association (EA) is a self-help group in Singapore, serving the Eurasian community. It intends to raise contribution rates to the Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) from 1 January 2015. The increase is tiered by income level, with Eurasians earning more than \$10,000 a month being asked to increase their contributions by \$10 a month.

2. The ECF was launched in 1995 for the purpose of collecting donations from the Eurasian community in Singapore to help the less fortunate through education and welfare. It is a monthly contribution automatically deducted from the wages of working Singapore Eurasians. Through the ECF and other donations, the EA is able to help an average of 900 households a year with cash grants, food vouchers, and dry food rations. About 400 students also receive assistance in the form of book or transport vouchers, bursaries, awards and scholarships annually. Contributions to the ECF have not been raised since the Fund's inception.

3. The changes to the contributions are as follows:

<i>Total amount of an employee's wages for the calendar month</i>	<i>Contributions payable by an employee for the calendar month</i>
≤ \$1,000	\$2.00
> \$1,000 to \$1,500	\$4.00
> \$1,500 to \$2,500	\$6.00
> \$2,500 to \$4,000	\$9.00
> \$4,000 to \$7,000	\$12.00
> \$7,000 to \$10,000	\$16.00
> \$10,000	\$20.00

4. Mr Benett Theseira, President of EA said, “We have engaged members of the Eurasian community on the issue of raising contributions to the ECF at various community events over the last two years. It’s very heartening that many Eurasians have expressed their full support for the revised contribution rates. Retirees have also stepped forward to ask how they can make a regular donation. The increased contributions will allow us to reach out to more young people and families in need, and make a positive difference in their lives.”

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## **About The Eurasian Association, Singapore**

The Eurasian Association has a long history of serving the interests of the Eurasian community in Singapore. In 1994, the EA was formally accorded "Self-Help Group" status by the Government to act on behalf of the Eurasian Community in Singapore. The EA provide services for the community in three key areas: educational advancement, family support services and community development.

### **EA's THREE MAIN PILLARS**

#### **Education**

EA actively strives to launch key initiatives for students from primary school to university ages, especially for less fortunate students. Initiated in 1996, the annual Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards is the largest educational disbursement for primary to tertiary students. The students are awarded for their outstanding performances in their respective level of study. In subsequent years, EA launched programmes for students to pursue post-secondary education at Polytechnics or ITEs or pursue higher learning at any of the current six local universities. Eurasian students receive subsidized tuition through the various Collaborative Tuition Programme (CTP) centres island-wide, run by the self-help groups. EA's programmes have effectively served to uplift the academic performance of Eurasian students and ensure that students have the means and access to quality education.

#### **Family Support Services**

The welfare branch of the EA, the Family Support Services (FSS) helps underprivileged Singapore Eurasians to get through the hardships of life's unforeseen circumstances through various programmes and funds. Volunteers from the FSS deliver monthly food ration runs and deliver basic necessities to homes of underprivileged Eurasians. The FSS also provides coaching, case mentorship, befriending programmes and home/hospital visits. Special outreach programmes are organised for single parents, families with children and elderly Eurasians to provide them with assistance and guidance. The FSS aims to help Eurasian families build self-confidence and self-reliance so they can eventually stand on their own two feet.

#### **Community Development**

As a part of its mandate of serving the community, the EA works towards the preserving of the unique Eurasians heritage, traditions and increasing awareness about Eurasians in Singapore. The Eurasian Community House is a focal point to promote stronger bonds and build synergy within the Eurasian community and with the wider society to achieve betterment of the Eurasian community.