



OOI BOON KEONG

SPEED STACK: The World Sport Stacking Association held its "Stack Up!" event at CHIJ St Joseph's Convent yesterday, where students, staff and family members had to upstack and downstack 12 specially-designed cups in pre-determined sequences as fast as they could. They join thousands of stackers in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan and Australia in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the "world's largest sport stacking event". The new sport will be launched in local schools in January.

watch www.channelnewsasia.com/video

Foreign activists, heed local impact

NAZRY BAHRAWI
nazry@mediacorp.com.sg

FOREIGN activists have been vocal in opposing Singapore's death penalty – but they should consider a more measured response, if any headway is to be made.

Making this call was law academician Professor Michael Hor (picture) at a seminar to discuss the penal code reforms at the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Bukit Timah campus on Wednesday.

International bodies such as Amnesty International, the United Nations Human Rights Council and the European Union should consider the "local impact" of their censure, the NUS don told a group of students, academics and legal practitioners.

"The moment external activists speak, the Government always bank on the 'us-against-them' argument and that clouds the whole issue," said Prof Hor, adding that leaders here see it as a case of "colonialists telling us what to do".

This shuts out the possibility of debate and also detracts from the arguments made by local activists who are seen as taking a Western line, he added.

Even so, foreign activists have "done a lot of good", said Prof Hor. For instance, the Government has since come out with its position and statistics – data on capital punishment is otherwise difficult to obtain, he noted.

He told TODAY: "I hope the future will see some sort of rapprochement between the two – the Singapore Government and the international community both taking a few steps towards each other."

This will happen, he added, if there is a degree of openness to discussing practices involving the death penalty. One change he hopes to see is mandatory death sentences, applied in capital offences such as murder, be made a discretionary punishment instead.

Last week, Singapore's ambassador to the UN, Mr Vanu Gopala Menon, defended the Republic's stand in a UN discussion, saying that capital punishment was an "important component" of its legal system.

Singapore has "proper legal safeguards to prevent miscarriages of justice", he said, according to the *IPS* news service.

While foreigners have been vocal on the death penalty issue, local activists have not been organised, Prof Ho told the seminar participants. Only a few have been openly critical of Singapore's capital punishment laws, such as lawyers M Ravi and K S Rajah

as well as blogger Alex Au.

Prof Hor wondered why religious groups – which, outside Singapore, are typically at the forefront of anti-death penalty movements – have been quiet here, in contrast to their responses to the debate on Section 377A, the law against gay sex.

In the lively question-and-answer session that ensued, participants debated the impact of international development on Singapore's judicial process. For instance, the UN is set to adopt this month an EU-backed convention of moratorium on capital punishment, said Prof Hor.

A fellow law academician at the forum said it was important the Government consider debating the death penalty because Singapore

is fast becoming more multinational and it wants to attract talents, some of whom might hold libertarian views.

"The death penalty is one important thing that they will consider before moving here," he argued.

Other issues discussed at the seminar included trial by jury, which many agreed was not cost-effective nor efficient.



NAZRY BAHRAWI

Experience
QUALITY PRODUCTS, GREAT SERVICES



Juzz1
www.juzz1.com.sg

Smile!

JUZZ1 VAIO SPECIALS
3 DAYS ONLY!
9 NOV - 11 NOV 2007

VAIO



Santa's
Choice



VGN-CR23G
Cool and Trendy Fun Colour

- Intel Core 2 Duo Processor T7250 (2GHz)
- Genuine Windows Vista Home Premium
- 1GB RAM (max 4GB)
- 120GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14.1" Wide (WXGA: 1280 x 800) TFT Colour Display
- Mobile Intel Graphics Media Accelerator X3100
- 1.3 Megapixel Built-in Camera: MOTION EYE
- DVD+RW/+R DL/RAM Drive
- Integrated Wireless LAN IEEE 802.11a/b/g
- Bluetooth Standard V2.0+ EDR
- 2.5kg, up to 4.5hrs battery life

FREE \$1,999
• Upg to 2GB RAM
• VAIO B Case



VGN-SZ55GN/B
Exceptional mobility and style in a powerful notebook

- Intel Core 2 Duo Processor T7100 (1.80GHz)
- Genuine Windows Vista Business
- 1GB RAM (max 2GB)
- 120GB Hard Disk Drive
- 13.3" Wide (WXGA: 1280 x 800) TFT Colour Display
- NVIDIA GeForce 8400M GS Graphics Card
- Built-in Camera: MOTION EYE
- DVD+RW/+R DL/RAM Drive
- Integrated Wireless LAN IEEE 802.11a/b/g
- Bluetooth Standard V2.0+ EDR
- Built-in Fingerprint Sensor
- 1.93kg, up to 6.5hrs battery life

FREE \$2,499
• Upg to 2GB RAM
• 14" slip case



VGN-FZ25G
Versatile Desktop Replacement

- Intel Core 2 Duo Processor T7250 (2GHz)
- Genuine Windows Vista Home Premium
- 1GB RAM (max 4GB)
- 160GB Hard Disk Drive
- 15.4" Wide (WXGA: 1280 x 800) TFT Colour Display
- NVIDIA GeForce 8400M GT (GPU)
- 1.3 Megapixel Built-in Camera: MOTION EYE
- DVD+RW/+R DL/RAM Drive
- Integrated Wireless LAN IEEE 802.11a/b/g
- Bluetooth Standard V2.0+ EDR
- 2.7kg, up to 2.5hrs battery life

FREE \$2,499
• Upg to 2GB RAM
• VAIO B case



VGN-TZ26GN
Ultra Slim & Light Weight

- Intel Core 2 Duo Processor U7500 (1.06GHz)
- Genuine Windows Vista Business
- 1GB RAM (max 2GB)
- 80GB Hard Disk Drive
- 11.1" Wide (WXGA: 1366 x 768) TFT Colour Display
- Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950
- Built-in Camera: MOTION EYE
- DVD+RW/+R DL/RAM Drive
- Integrated Wireless LAN IEEE 802.11a/b/g/Draft n
- Bluetooth Standard V2.0+ EDR
- Fingerprint Recognition
- 1.2kg, up to 11hrs battery life

FREE \$2,999
• VAIO S Case

FREE MYSTERY GIFT
with every purchase



*Juzz1's Terms & Conditions apply
Price inclusive of 7% GST
For enquiries, please email: sales@juzz1.com.sg

Sony Square – Juzz1 (S) Pte Ltd
Funan DigitalLife Mall

#03-02/03/04

t +65 6339 1110
f +65 6338 2285

SITCOM by Juzz1
Funan DigitalLife Mall

#04-10

t +65 6337 7123
f +65 6337 9332

#01-K6

t +65 6334 1110