

PRESS RELEASE



EIGHT SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO EMBARK ON 2,000 KM ECO CYCLING EXPEDITION IN ALASKA

Singapore, 18 June 2008 – Come 7 July 2008, eight Singapore Management University (SMU) students will embark on a 25-day, 2,000-km cycling expedition to Alaska.

The aim of the “ComfortDelGro Zero Limits X3pedition” is to promote adventure learning as well as to raise awareness of environment preservation. Organised entirely by students, the expedition is the third in a series initiated by the SMU Office of Student Life after successful expeditions in Nepal (2005) and France (2006).

The amateur cyclists, most of whom only picked up the sport in January, will begin their journey in Anchorage and make their way to their final stop, Juneau. They will average 100 km a day, all the while facing adverse weather conditions and daunting uphill climbs.

But it’s not just about the physical challenge.

They will also collect information related to the pervasive impact of global warming on Alaska’s aquatic systems, vegetation and indigenous culture through research and personal accounts from the locals.

To spread the message of environmental protection, they will maintain a blog (<http://zerolimitsalaska.blogspot.com> or www.comfortdelgro.com) detailing all they have seen and learnt. Upon their return to Singapore, they will also visit schools as part of ComfortDelGro’s community engagement programme.

Expedition leader James Ng, 23, explained why the team felt it needed to do its part for the environment.

“We live in Singapore where the effects of global warming are not always apparent. We read about it in newspapers and watch it on TV but we felt it was important to see for ourselves just what Man has done to the environment. We want to learn more and hopefully, come back home and spread the message that we need to do more to preserve our environment,” he said.

ComfortDelGro Group Corporate Communications Officer, Ms Tammy Tan, said that the Group decided to come onboard as a main sponsor largely because of the team's pledge towards the environment.

Ms Tan, who is also Chairman of ComfortDelGro's Green Committee said: "ComfortDelGro had just launched our Green Statement in November 2007 when we learnt about the team's planned expedition to Alaska. It was clear that they weren't just planning to go there and have fun. They had put in a lot of thought and effort into what they wanted to accomplish with regards to the effects of global warming. We therefore felt that we needed to help them realise their dream."

To get into shape, members of the ComfortDelGro Zero Limits X3pedition have been undergoing intensive training since January 2008. The team met up thrice a week for gym workouts and weekend road rides. After the conclusion of their examinations in late April, training was intensified with members clocking in overnight sessions at least 4 times a week. Aside from regular road and gym training sessions, the team has also extended its training programme to Desaru and Kota Baru.

Mentally, the team has also undergone training including tapping on the experience of seasoned Singaporean adventurer, Mr Khoo Swee Chiow.

Team member Lesley Fu, 19, said: "We're all definitely looking forward to this expedition. It's going to be a great learning experience and an adventure of a lifetime."