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Maldives' Former President Mohamed Nasheed urges Singapore youth to become climate leaders

SINGAPORE – Former President of the Maldives Mohamed Nasheed joined 350.org Singapore Power Shift -- a two-day climate action empowerment workshop -- to share inspiring campaign stories and discuss ideas for the climate movement.

Nasheed gave a powerful and emotional talk recounting his journey as a climate activist highlighting the urgency behind stopping climate change for the survival of the Maldives. During his presidency, he led his cabinet towards a national commitment to be carbon neutral by 2020. The young participants had opportunities to discuss how young activist can partake in the fight against climate change.

"I believe young people like you are the real force that will shift the power for a just, safe and peaceful world," expressed Nasheed.

Singapore Power Shift is part of Global Power Shift, a program kick-started by 350.org in Istanbul a year ago where 600 climate activists from 100 countries converged to mark the starting point of a new phase in the international climate movement. Climate leaders from around the world gathered in Istanbul to share stories, learn skills, and sharpen strategies and tactics to overcome the inertia in addressing the climate crisis. These climate leaders then returned to their home countries to spark a wave of convergences, campaigns, and mobilisations for climate action.

"From what I am witnessing, Singapore is gaining more traction from the youth sector in combating climate change and this is the perfect time and platform to voice out our ideas and take action," commented Nor Lastrina Hamid, 350 Singapore Coordinator. "We are also very fortunate to have had former President of the Maldives, Mohammed Nasheed, join us and inspire our participants. I hope the participants will take his advice, and feel empowered to take real actions in their communities".

Over 50 young people from Singapore were joined by 350.org friends and supporters from Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Brunei, the Philippines, and Vietnam for the Singapore Power Shift. The aim of the two-day workshop was to learn about climate change and gain campaigning skills, with the expectation for the group to develop five impactful campaigns that could be adopted and implemented in Singapore in the coming period.

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NOTES TO EDITORS :

1. [Background information on Mohamed Nasheed:](#)
2. [President Nasheed supporting 350.org](#)
3. [350.org](#) is building a global climate movement. Our online campaigns, grassroots organizing, and mass public actions are coordinated by a global network active in over 188 countries
4. [Information on 350 Singapore and Singapore Power Shift](#)
5. Global Power Shift: a grassroots development program by [350.org](#) aimed to mobilize youth and communities worldwide in a multi-year climate campaign. The objective is to get nations to switch from fossil fuels to sustainable renewable energy. Since the Global Power Shift kick off event in Istanbul in June 2013, 87 national Power Shifts have been organized, ranging from rallies against dirty fossil fuels and polluting industries to art events to inspire and educate the public, also climate leadership workshops have been held to build capacity of local youth leaders to launch projects providing sustainable energy solutions for their communities.