Get a taste of life at the Games village

SINGAPORE — Approximately 1,000 members of the public, sponsors, partners and Youth Olympic Games staff will get to experience life in the Youth Olympic Village at the end of next month — well before the first of 5,000 athletes and officials from 205 National Olympic Committees move into the village at the 200-hectare Nanyang Technological University (NTU) campus.

The two-day stay on July 30-31 will offer the organisers an opportunity to ensure the village is ready to host the visitors for the Games from Aug 14-26.

“The ‘stay and play programme’ is one of the validation exercises that we are conducting in preparation for the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games,” said Sheryl Lim, director of the Youth Olympic Village.

“Through this exercise, we will test our procedures and systems for the operation of the village.”

Participants will have the opportunity to experience a day in the life of an athlete at the village.

This includes buffet meals at the dining hall, one-night accommodation in the residential hall rooms, culture and education workshops, and a sneak preview of the official opening programme.

The two-day, one night programme costs $188, with an early bird price of $150 for sign-ups before June 30.

NTU first-year sports science and management student Adlin Haque is one of 40 Youth Olympic Games volunteer team leaders who has signed for the programme.

“It’s a great opportunity for all the team leaders and I’m so psyched up because we’re going to be at the village where the athletes are staying at,” said the 19-year-old.

Game village deputy mayor Canagasabai Kunalan hopes the “stay and play” programme will inspire more young athletes.

“This programme will give the public an insight into not just sports, but other areas like culture and education,” the 1966 Asian Games silver medallist (100m) told MediaCorp yesterday.

“The kids might be motivated after staying here and decide: ‘I also want to be like them next time’.”

Members of the public interested in taking part may email firdhaus_jaber@singapore2010.sg for information.

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