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30-hour Famine countdown with Teo

HONGKONG singer-actor Nicholas Teo was World Vision Malaysia's 30-Hour Famine ambassador together with Fish Leong three years ago.

This year, he has been appointed ambassador again, this time with TV and radio personalities Belinda Chee, Gary Yap and Nicholas Ong.

Started in 1997, the 30-Hour Famine is an educational and fund-raising project undertaken by selected World Vision offices. The funds raised are used to finance communal transformation and developments that can benefit both children and families in need as well as for emergency relief purposes.

At the recent press conference to announce the project, World Vision Malaysia board member Dorothy Teoh said that this is the 13th year of the programme.

"In the short span of three months into 2010, we have witnessed two massive earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, landslides in Uganda, not to mention on-going man-made calamities. While everyone in the affected nations are impacted, often, it is the poor and marginalised that bear the brunt of it all.

"And that is the reason why we need to keep the poor in mind and to realise that each of us have a role to play in lending a helping hand."

As ambassador of the 30-Hour Famine 2010, Teo is urging all celebrities and local personalities to do their part to inspire others to help the needy.

The 28-year-old singer has been a child sponsor with World Vision Malaysia since 2007. He is currently sponsoring six children, aged from seven to 14, from China, Vietnam, South Africa, India and Indonesia respectively. He recently was in Ba Thouc, Vietnam, to visit his



sponsored child.

Teo said: "I think it's good to see for yourself how the underprivileged people there live. Being grateful alone is not enough. You need to work hard, earn more money and then come back to help them. This is what we should and must do if we have the opportunity. We must always give back to the society."

The theme for this year's project is Light Up Their Life with the aim of raising RM1 million for both local and international projects such as The Street Children and Drop-In Centre projects in Myanmar and Thailand; Factory Workers' HIV/AIDS Education Project in China; and the Shemiah Foster Home for Children, Beautiful Gate Foundation for the Disabled, and the Yayasan Sin Chew Retirement Village in Malaysia.

Participants of the event raise funds by foregoing solid food for 30 hours. The fast can be done

individually or with a group. During their fast, they undertake various activities while learning about some global issues.

The official Famine weekend is Aug 21 while the Famine Countdown which Teo will be performing is on Aug 22 from noon to 4pm at Stadium Putra Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur.

Co-organised by World Vision Malaysia, Sin Chew Daily and Help University, the 30-Hour Famine includes a spin-off programme officially called the 8-Hour Famine for Kids, which is a special eight-hour fast for children aged four to 12. - Chan Soo Wah

To join the 30-Hour Famine or submit a donation, log on to www.worldvision.com.my/famine. Those who signed up for the DIY camps or donated to the cause can join the Aug 22 countdown with Teo.

(above) Teo (in orange shirt) with co-organisers, sponsors, advocates and other representatives of the project.