29 youths helping school in Punjab

THEY looked like typical tourists, bound for picturesque Punjab in India. But the 29 young Singaporeans’ check-in luggage contained 1,400 books.

The group left on Dec 7 on a 17-day trip organised by the Young Sikh Association. It is the association’s seventh community service project.

Collected over six months, the books will boost the collection in the first-ever library at Bhaloor High School in Punjab’s Moga district.

The volunteers, mostly in their twenties, come from different racial and religious backgrounds.

At a ceremony for them on Dec 6, MP for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC Michael Palmer said the project helps the less fortunate in Punjab and also enables participants to gain a better understanding of another culture.

Ms Stella Ng, 20, was thrilled about her first overseas community project.

The first-year student at the Singapore Management University said: “The study conditions at the school are poor. The ceilings are cracked and there are no proper tables unlike our local schools which are well-equipped.”

Another participant, Mr Vikneswaran Krishnamurthi, 26, a special needs officer at Anglo Chinese School (Barker Road), said he looked forward to meeting local teachers and sharing ideas on educating children with special needs.

RARING TO GO: The young Singaporeans will set up a library in a high school, fix its leaky roofs and give the building a fresh coat of paint.

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