

## Olympic legend gives youngsters a treat

SHE may not achieve the kind of success Canagasabai Kunalan did, but that's not going to stop 100-metre runner Samantha Yong, 14, from getting involved in the Youth Olympic Games.

The Secondary 2 NUS High School student was part of the 90-strong cohort attending the inaugural Meet Our Olympians session at the Youth Olympic Games Learning Centre with Kunalan.

Kunalan, 67, was on hand to share his experience at the 1968 Mexico Games with the students, and promote the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect.

"Mr Kunalan has shown us that anything can be achieved," said Samantha. "Singapore is so small and it's unexpected that we can have such an outstanding athlete. He's inspired me to do better. My school is sending student helpers to the Youth Olympics and I'm going to try for that."

Kunalan, a 1966 Asian Games silver medallist, is also part of the Singapore Olympians Association, and hopes that its members and their experiences will inspire the nation's youth.

"These values are missing from some of our senior athletes today, but somebody must start the education process and we want to start with the youth," said Kunalan, an assistant professor at the National Institute of Education's Physical Education and Sports Science department.

Launched in 2004, the association registered with the Registry of Societies in January, and will hold its first annual general meeting to elect office bearers on May 2. Pro-tem members Kunalan, sprinter Tan Eng Yoon, hockey player Ajit Singh, swimmer Ang Peng Siong, sailor Joseph Chan and boxer Syed Abdul Kadir, and 50 other Olympians are expected to attend the meeting.

More than 3,000 athletes aged 15 to 18 years old from over 200 countries will compete at the Youth Olympics, which will be held here from Aug 14-26 next year.