Q1: **What is Hajj and what is the official Hajj quota for Singapore?**

A1: Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam. It is obligatory for able Muslims to perform the annual Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca at least once in their lifetime if they have the means and the journey is safe for them. **Singapore’s official Hajj quota is 680, based on 0.1% of our Muslim population.** The formula of 0.1% was decided by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in 1987. As there are about 3,000 Singaporean pilgrims each year who wish to perform hajj, the Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs requests for additional places from the Saudi government annually. Between 2008 and 2011, the Saudi government has been granting Singapore an additional 1,500 places annually.

Q2: **What is the Advanced Hajj Registration System?**

A2: All Hajj applicants apply to Muis under the Advanced Hajj Registration System based on a first-come, first-served basis. The Hajj registration system is capped at 2180 applicants in any hajj year (680 + 1500). This is to facilitate early planning and preparations for hajj by the applicants and GSAs should the Saudi authorities grant us the additional places as requested by the Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs annually.

Many registrants were offered to go earlier than their registration year, to fill up the places available. There was no issue in the past of applicants not being able to perform hajj, in the year they register.

Q3: **Why is there a need to revise the Muis Hajj registration policy?**

A3: Due to major redevelopment projects in the Holy Land, the Saudi government did not grant additional places for hajj to any country last year (2012). Despite our best efforts, Singapore was granted only our official quota of 680 places. **As these development projects will take some years to complete, it is unlikely that Singapore will be granted additional places the next few years.**

Q4: **What is the revised Hajj registration policy about?**

A4: In view of these developments, Muis has reviewed our Hajj registration policy. The revised policy will give priority to first-time applicants to perform hajj. For those who wish to perform hajj again (i.e. for repeaters, there will be a time-out period of 10 years before they are allowed to register to do so. Muis will also cap repeaters to 10% of the places for any allocated hajj year. The revised policy will take effect from 15 March 2013.

Q5: **Will the current Hajj applicants who registered before 16 March be affected?**

A5: Based on this revised policy, Muis will re-allocate the hajj registration year for the current hajj applicants and inform all affected applicants of their new allocated hajj year accordingly.
Q6:  *When will be the Allocated Hajj Year for new applicants who register from 16 March 2013 onwards?*

A6:  The Allocated Hajj Year for new applicants who register on 16 March 2013 will be from 1449H/2028 onwards, capped to 680 for any allocated hajj year.

Q7:  *Will the situation improve once the developments in the Holy Land are completed?*

A7:  We anticipate that the development projects in the Holy Land will take a few years to complete. When this is done, we hope the Saudi authorities will allow more Singaporean pilgrims to be able to perform their hajj as it had generously done so in all the years preceding 2012.