



SPEECH BY MR BENEDICT CHEONG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TEMASEK FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL – NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEADERS PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA EVENT HELD IN PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA ON 10 OCTOBER 2016

Your Excellency Dr Aun Pornmoniroth, Senior Minister, Ministry of Economy and Finance, and Chairman of Supreme National Economic Council, Kingdom of Cambodia,

Dr Hean Sahib, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance, and Chairman of the sub-committee of Capacity Building of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Kingdom of Cambodia,

Your Excellency, Mr Michael Tan, Singapore Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia,

Professor Freddy Boey, Deputy President and Provost, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore,

Honourable Secretaries and Under Secretaries, Programme Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

Thank you for inviting me back to Phnom Penh to join you in today's opening ceremony. In May 2014, I had the privilege of witnessing the launch of our first programme with the Ministry of Economy and Finance in Cambodia, and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Today, we are happy to announce our second partnership in the training of public sector leadership, public finance, and governance.

2 Asia's influence in the economic, political and cultural arena is crucial to global growth and development. As cities grow and urban population expand, public officials and leaders in Asia will face increasing pressure to manage the many challenges that their communities face. This is where good public policies and governance frameworks need to be in place to manage these challenges and take the community forward.

3 In the conversations that I have had with leaders across Asia, many of these leaders have shared their concerns and challenges for the future. What we have come to realise is that we share more commonalities than differences. What we need more of is for communities in Asia to be actively engaged with each other, learn from each other and collaborate on as many platforms as possible. This shared learning will be beneficial to grow together as a connected, stable, and prosperous Asia.

4 This programme is one such example of pulling resources and leaders to share and exchange knowledge on strengthening public institutions, and establishing best practices in public policy, administration and governance. I understand that there were many positive outcomes that resulted from the first programme, including new frameworks that were established, and new departments and committees set up to address governance and productivity. It is gratifying to know that the earlier programme has been useful and I thank all the leaders and participants for your dedication and commitment. I am confident that the second programme will be just as successful.

5 The work of Temasek Foundation International centres on Building Communities through education, health care, public administration, urban management, and disaster-preparedness programmes; and Building Networks of Cooperation among leaders. For those of you in the audience who are familiar with us, you may have noticed that we have been recently renamed as Temasek Foundation International. While we have the scope to explore new programmes globally, the heart of our work will remain in Asia, and we look forward to your continued support, partnership, and friendship in building a shared future.

6 Since May 2007, Temasek Foundation International has supported over 330 programmes across Asia, and committed 127 million US dollars in programme grants. Of this, about 4.1 million US dollars has been committed towards 14 programmes in the Kingdom of Cambodia. This second public administration training programme is supported by a grant of about 380,749 US dollars by Temasek Foundation International, and generously co-funded by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia.

7 Allow me to express my appreciation to Your Excellency Dr. Aun Pornmoniroth for taking time off your busy schedule to honour us with your presence. Thank you to Dr Hean Sahib and all the leaders who have been so highly committed to the success of this programme. My appreciation too to the Singapore Ambassador Mr Michael Tan for your support, and to Prof Freddy Boey and the Nanyang Technological University for your partnership.

8 I want to take the opportunity to make a special mention of the leaders who have been part of a leadership programme that Temasek Foundation International has been running for the past four years. We run the Asia Leaders Connect programme every September for leaders from the region to come together for a 2-day exchange. For the past three years, we have welcomed Dr Hean Sahib, Mr Soung Mengkea, Dr Chhorn Sopheap, and Mr Po Rattana from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and Mr Sisowath Doung Chanto from the Supreme National Economic Council on our programme. We thank you for your friendship and look forward to welcoming you to Singapore again.

9 Thank you very much.