



**SPEECH BY MS JENNIE CHUA, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION (TF) – INFOCOMM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IDA) INTERNATIONAL INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAMME IN BHUTAN (PHASE TWO)**

**MONDAY, 14 APRIL 2014 at the ROYAL BHUTAN BANQUET HALL**

Honourable Minister for Information and Communications, Lyonpo Dina Nath Dhungyel,

Honourable Minister for Health, Lyonpo Tandin Wangchuk,

Honourable Secretary for the Ministry of Information and Communications, Dasho Kinley Dorji,

Honourable Secretary for the Ministry of Education, Aum Sangay Zam,

Honourable Secretary for the Ministry of Health, Dasho Nima Wangdi,

Honourable Director for the Tourism Council of Bhutan, Aum Chhimmy Pem,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to be here to witness the closing ceremony of the training programme between Bhutan's Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC), Infocomm Development Authority International (IDA International) and Temasek Foundation, Singapore. On behalf of IDA International and Temasek Foundation, I extend my warmest congratulations to all the 240 infocomm specialists who participated in this training collaboration between Bhutan and Singapore.

## TF Outreach in Asia and Bhutan

2            Temasek Foundation was established in May 2007, with the aim to support the human and social capital development of communities in Asia. We 'Build People' through education and health care, 'Build Institutions' through urban management and public administration, 'Build Bridges' among regional leaders, and 'Rebuild Lives' of those affected by natural disasters. To date, we have supported over 220 programmes across Asia.

3            As you may be aware, this is not the first time that Temasek Foundation has supported programmes in Bhutan. In 2009, my Chairman, Mr Goh Geok Khim launched the first two programmes that we had developed with the Ministry of Education. This was followed by a nursing training programme supported by the Ministry of Health. In addition, we have also sponsored 5 Bhutanese journalists on our annual Asia Journalism Fellowship held in Singapore. In fact, a journalist from Kuensel Corporation is currently in Singapore participating in the 3-month Fellowship. All in, there are almost 1,000 Bhutanese who are part of the Temasek Foundation alumni family. The foundation has certainly been fortunate to enjoy warm ties with the community in Bhutan over the years.

## Importance of Infocomm Technology

4            Infocomm Technology, or ICT, can indeed play an important role in social and economic development. In Singapore, ICT is an integral part of our lives in many ways, such as the creation of teaching and learning platforms, facilitation of business and investment opportunities, provision of e-government services, etc.

5            The MoIC has shared with us their vision and efforts in achieving the national goal of an ICT-enabled information society for Bhutan. This discussion led to the first-ever ICT training collaboration between Bhutan and Singapore. Temasek Foundation has had the privilege of being a partner in two such ICT training initiatives. The first programme focused on the macro priorities of an ICT Master Plan, e-Government framework, and the centralisation of government IT professionals. This was followed by a

second programme to apply the overall plans to the education, health and tourism sectors, which are key pillars of Bhutan's social and economic development.

### Reflection by Participants

6           The foundation's staff have shared with me that the participants have been thoroughly engaged in the programme, despite the intensity of the training. Now that the training has been completed, we are able to hear first-hand from the participants on their reflections. One of the lead coordinators of this programme is Ms Dorji Wangmo, the Deputy Chief Planning Officer from MoIC. She shared with us through email that as a team, they were "nervous", and that this was "a big challenge" as they had never written a Master Plan. It was "not an easy task" as they had to "think through and collect data or inputs." Upon looking back, she shared that the team felt "very proud and satisfied" that they managed to draft the Master Plan, and they now have the "confidence to engage in similar assignments." Thank you for your inspiring sharing, Ms Dorji, and I am sure that you and your colleagues will continue to strive hard for the development of ICT in Bhutan.

### Appreciation

7           On behalf of Temasek Foundation, I thank Your Excellency, Minister Dhungyel for your kind presence here today, and for the warm hospitality that you and your colleagues have accorded me and the Singapore delegation during our visit here in Bhutan. The foundation had the opportunity to welcome you and your team when you visited the Temasek office in October 2013, and we are assured by your leadership and commitment towards the success of the programme. I am confident that the programme will bring far-reaching benefits to Bhutan. Together, we can build a more prosperous and connected Asia.

8           "Kaa-din-chey" and "Tashi Delek" (*Thank you and Best Wishes*).