



**SPEECH BY MR BENEDICT CHEONG, CEO, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION SPECIALISTS' COMMUNITY ACTION AND LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE (TF SCALE) PROGRAMME, SINGAPORE ON 28 MARCH 2014**

Your Excellency Mr Cheth Naren, Ambassador, Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Singapore,

Friends from the Diplomatic Corp,

Ms Ekajit Kraivichien, Deputy Chief of Mission, Royal Thai Embassy in Singapore,

Mr Mersole Jala Mellejor, First Secretary and Consul, Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore,

Our partners,

Mr Chan Lee Mun, Principal/CEO, Nanyang Polytechnic,

Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal.CEO, Republic Polytechnic, and,

Mr Tan Choon Shian, Principal/CEO, Singapore Polytechnic,

Most importantly, all our Temasek Foundation SCALE Scholars from Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam,

Good morning to all of you and to our overseas participants, a very warm welcome to Singapore!

Leadership engagement is a core theme of Temasek Foundation's work. We engage with leaders at different levels and in different fields – public officials; university faculty; teachers; nurses; technical experts; journalists; and student leaders like you. Why is it important to us? Because we believe leaders are the catalysts to influence and bring about change for the good of the community.

2 Public officials can influence national policies, systems, processes and frameworks; university faculty, teachers, nurses and technical experts can make improvements to pedagogy and teaching curriculum, and apply new skills and knowledge.

3           So now you may be thinking – “what can I do? I am merely a student enjoying my school life, interacting with friends, studying for tests and examinations, etc.” But all of you, the Temasek Foundation SCALE Scholars, represent the future. You are the leaders of tomorrow. Programmes such as the SCALE programmes are seeds that we plant today for leaders of tomorrow.

4           This was precisely the thinking behind why Temasek Foundation, together with our partners, Nanyang Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic and Singapore Polytechnic, initiated the Temasek Foundation SCALE programme. We believe that it is not sufficient to build our young people to be academic and technical experts, ready to enter the workforce, and climb the corporate ladder. It is equally important that our youth today understand their roles as global citizens. Building relationships, appreciating different cultures, embracing diversity, and acting on empathy to meet the community’s needs and challenges – all these matter in shaping good leaders for the future. And this is what we hope that the SCALE programme will help you to do.

5           As some of you would know, Temasek Foundation was set up in 2007 by Temasek, a Singapore investment company. We support the building of human and social capital in communities in Asia. As a non-profit philanthropic organisation, we fund programmes in health care and education, public administration, disaster-response capability, and programmes that promote positive networks of cooperation.

6           A significant proportion of our programmes (25% to be exact) are in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (or TVET), providing training for leaders, educators and specialists all across Asia. The Temasek Foundation SCALE programme, however, is the first programme dedicated to student leaders from polytechnics in Asia. The objective is to provide a platform for students to exchange ideas and apply technical knowledge to projects that address real-life community issues and challenges. We believe that the SCALE programme will complement the networks of friendship, partnerships, exchange and collaboration that we have established across Asia.

7            I know many people have worked very hard to organise today's event, and to run the programme successfully, so let me express my sincere appreciation to them. To the polytechnic Principals – Mr Chan Lee Mun, Mr Yeo Li Pheow and Mr Tan Choon Shian, thanks for your leadership and support, and to your respective staff teams for their passion and commitment. I look forward to viewing the exhibition later to learn more about the community projects that the schools and students have been working on together.

8            To all the TF SCALE scholars, I hope that you will take away from this exchange programme many life lessons that will stay with you for a long time. Even after the SCALE programme has concluded, and after you have graduated, I hope that you will continue to keep close contact with the friends you have met through this programme, and that includes us at Temasek Foundation. I hope that you will keep in touch with us and continue to be part of our alumni family.

9            Thank you!