



SPEECH BY MR BENEDICT CHEONG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY FOR THE 2013 PROGRAMME AND LAUNCH OF THE 2014 PROGRAMME OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION – NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY TRAINING PROGRAMME IN PUBLIC POLICY, ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS IN VIET NAM, IN HANOI ON 30 OCTOBER 2014

Honourable Mr Nguyen Van Quynh,

Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, Vice Chairman of the Party Central Committee's Organisation Commission, and Standing Vice Chairman of Programme 165,

Dr Nguyen Van Du, Head of Monitoring Office of Programme 165, Central Committee of Organisation and Personnel, Viet Nam,

Your Excellency Mr Ng Teck Hean, Singapore Ambassador to Viet Nam,

Professor Alan Chan, Dean, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore,

Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning - "*Xin Chao*"!

There is a common saying that "good things happen in threes". I am not sure if it is just superstition or coincidence that resulted in this saying, but there must be some truth in it – because here we are gathered again among familiar faces to commemorate our partnership and mark the launch of a third programme between the Monitoring Office of Programme 165, Nanyang Technological University, and Temasek Foundation Singapore.

2 When the first programme was conceived in 2012, the idea was to customise a training programme for senior public officials in Viet Nam on Public Policy, Administration and Governance. The first programme focused on leaders in the business, labour, women and youth unions. This evolved into a second programme for provincial and municipal-level government leaders.

3 Through both programmes, some 250 senior officials have undergone the programme, and had the opportunity to visit Singapore. I am sure that Nanyang Technological University took good care of all participants. Aside from work and study visits to Singapore's public service agencies, I hope they had some time to see some sights and taste some local flavours that Singapore offers.

4 Personally, I am happy to know that the officials in this programme have such a high level of commitment and enthusiasm to learn and to share their knowledge with their peers. Very quickly after their return from their training visit to Singapore, participants from both programmes organised sharing sessions. Almost 3,500 of their colleagues have benefited from their sharing of knowledge and experiences. This is many times more than our original intended outcomes. This is indeed wonderful news and beyond our expectations. Mr Quynh and Dr Du – thank you so much for your leadership in committing the resources needed for a successful programme. We know that it is not easy for your officials to perform their day-to-day work and at the same time, commit to the training and sharing sessions. But with the staunch support from both of you, this has been most successful.

5 Now that we are about to embark on a third programme for 140 central government and high-level party cadre leaders, I am confident that the programme will continue to be a success and exceed the intended outcomes. Cumulatively, Temasek Foundation has committed about USD1.2 million to the three programmes, which has been matched with a very high-level of co-funding by the Government of Viet Nam of USD1.1 million. Again, this is strong affirmation of the joint ownership, leadership and partnership in this programme.

6 Partnerships are at the heart of what we do at Temasek Foundation. We work closely hand-in-hand with partners to design and implement programmes to address the human and social development needs of communities in Asia. This idea of sharing and learning together as neighbours and friends in Asia is the reason why Temasek Foundation was set up by Temasek, a Singapore investment company, in 2007. As a philanthropic non-profit organisation, we support programmes that build people in health care, education, governance and public administration and disaster-preparedness, and programmes that build networks of exchange and cooperation.

7 Temasek Foundation's relationship in Viet Nam has grown steadily over the past 7 years. To date, Temasek Foundation has supported 17 programmes in Viet Nam and reached out to over 2,000 direct participants. Just last month, our team organised a network gathering in Ho Chi Minh City for about 100 of our alumni members. Some of the alumni had attended our programme five to six years ago, but still remain interested to stay connected with Temasek Foundation.

8 In closing, I thank everyone who has made the programme such a success: Our partners - the Monitoring Office of Programme 165, Nanyang Technological University and the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration; My deepest appreciation too to the Honourable Mr Nguyen Van Quynh and Ambassador Ng for taking time to be present today to support us. We look forward to another successful programme that will bring about positive benefits to Viet Nam in the long run.

9 Thank you.