



**SPEECH BY MR GOH YONG SIANG, BOARD DIRECTOR, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION – SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION FOR PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMME IN BHUTAN
20 JULY 2016 IN THIMPHU, KINGDOM OF BHUTAN**

Her Excellency, Honorable Minister Dorji Choden, Minister, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement

Commissioner Indraman Chettri, Officiating Chairman, Royal Civil Service Commission

Honourable Secretaries, Commissioners, Director-General and Directors of partner Government Ministries and Agencies

Mr Tan Choon Shian, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Polytechnic

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

On behalf of Temasek Foundation, I am pleased to join all of you today in witnessing the official launch of the training partnership between Bhutan's Royal Civil Service Commission, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Foundation.

2 Allow me to start by giving a brief introduction of Temasek Foundation. In May 2007, Temasek, a Singapore investment company, set up Temasek Foundation to support the human and social development of communities in Asia. We support programmes in the areas of health care, education, urban management, public administration, disaster-response capability, as well as programmes that promote positive networks of cooperation. We believe that by sharing and learning together, we grow as neighbours and friends, and Asia as a whole grows to be more connected and prosperous. To-date, the foundation has committed some 121 million US dollars towards 302 programmes across Asia.

3 In the past few years, Temasek Foundation has been increasing its support in building capabilities in public administration. Overall, approximately 17% of our annual grants are channelled towards these programmes. Why is this important? As communities across Asia continue to develop, we need to have robust institutions of governance and officials with public policy capabilities that will help to sustain economic growth and development. Improving governance systems and institutions, and strengthening public sector capacity are key to achieving these goals.

4 This is why Temasek Foundation is supporting this programme in public policy innovation. Some 120 senior officials from the Royal Civil Service Commission, the Gross National Happiness Commission, as well as key ministries in Bhutan will participate in this programme. We hope this programme will be a catalyst in strengthening ties and people-to-people networks among the officials and specialists from Singapore and Bhutan. Also, as close partners in this programme, there will be many lessons for both the Singapore trainers and Bhutan participants, to learn from each other. As the saying goes, learning is always a 'two-way street', and I am sure the lively exchange in the course of the training will be very beneficial, enriching, and impactful for all.

5 This programme in many ways, reflect the warm ties of friendship between Temasek Foundation and Bhutan. Over the past nine years, Temasek Foundation has supported eight programmes in Bhutan, mostly in education, nursing, and info-comm technology. Through our programmes, we hope to contribute towards building a shared future in Asia with our friends and neighbours in the region.

6 On behalf of Temasek Foundation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Honorable Minister Dorji Choden for taking time off your busy schedule and honouring us with your presence here today. I would also like to thank all the senior representatives from the various participating ministries and commissions for being here today as well. Your support means a lot to us.

7 I would also like to thank the Royal Civil Service Commission and Singapore Polytechnic, for your leadership towards the programme. With the passion and commitment of everyone involved, I am confident that the programme will bring about lively exchange of ideas, and our peoples in Bhutan and Singapore will stand to benefit from our cooperation in the years to come.

8 I wish all the participants a fruitful learning experience in the months to come.

9 “Kaa-din-chey” and “Tashi Delek” (Thank you and Best Wishes).