



**SPEECH BY MR GOH GEOK KHIM, CHAIRMAN, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE LAUNCH OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION – SINGAPORE HEALTH SERVICES NURSING PROGRAMME IN SICHUAN, CHINA, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST CHINA HOSPITAL
29 JUNE 2016 IN CHENGDU, CHINA**

Professor Jing Jing, Director, West China School of Medicine / West China Hospital,

Professor Gong Qi Yong, Vice President, West China School of Medicine / West China Hospital,

Mr Gan Teng Kiat, Consul General, Singapore Consulate General in Chengdu,

Professor Ivy Ng, Group CEO, Singapore Health Services,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

A very good morning to all of you!

I am honoured to be invited to today's event at one of the largest and most established hospitals in China - the West China Hospital. Thank you for giving Temasek Foundation the privilege of this partnership.

2 In 2008, I was in Hainan Province to witness the launch of Temasek Foundation's first nursing programme in China. Those were very early days when the foundation first started. We had a vision of what the training programmes could achieve, but we were new and needed time to figure how the programmes would work.

3 Since then, we have learnt a lot of important lessons. We have listened to feedback, and have improved and improvised our programmes. These lessons have helped Temasek Foundation to support 40 programmes in China - not just in the area of nursing, but also in the areas of education, urban management, public administration, and disaster-response capability.

4 Over the past 9 years, we have established many strong partnerships and made many friends in China. During my trips, I have personally visited vocational institutions, universities, and hospitals, and have witnessed the commitment and dedication of leaders and participants in applying their knowledge and skills to benefit the community. We have indeed seen

many successes over the years

5 Today's launch marks the 16th programme in health care that Temasek Foundation is supporting in China. Our partners - the West China Hospital and SingHealth, are both leading health care institutions and highly regarded for their standards of health care delivery. Our grant of 2.7 million RMB (S\$546,240) towards the programme will provide opportunities for learning and exchange among health care professionals in Sichuan Province and Singapore over the next 3 years. I am confident that it will be very enriching and beneficial in enhancing nursing standards in our communities.

6 As the population in Asia continues to grow, health care leaders like all of you face immense pressure on providing the best possible care for the community. You would also need to keep updated on shifts in disease patterns and treatment options. It is a challenging task, which is why we should all work together, as one community, as one Asia, to benefit our peoples.

7 In closing, let me thank West China Hospital and SingHealth. The leaders and teams in both organisations are highly committed to making this programme a success and I thank all of you for your hard work and dedication. Thank you too to all the leaders present here today – Professor Jing, Professor Gong, Consul-General Mr Gan, Professor Ivy Ng – your presence has been a tremendous support for all the participants.

8 On a personal note, it is a pleasure for me to be back again in Chengdu again. On my last trip in 2011, my wife and I had the chance to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Jiu Zhai Gou National Park. We also thank the West China Hospital for your kind hospitality and I am sure I will enjoy more sights and tastes of Sichuan on this visit.

9 Thank you.