



**SPEECH BY MR GOH GEOK KHIM, CHAIRMAN, TEMASEK FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL AT THE  
OPENING OF THE "TEMASEK FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL@10 ASIA NURSE LEADERS FORUM"  
10 APRIL 2017 IN SINGAPORE**

Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Health, and Environment and Water  
Resources, Singapore,

Professor Ivy Ng, Group Chief Executive Officer, SingHealth,

Ms Tan Soh Chin, Chief Nursing Officer, Ministry of Health, Singapore,

Professor Lim Swee Hia, President, Singapore Nursing Association,

Distinguished public health care and nurse leaders and specialists,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning to all of you.

2017 is a very special year for Temasek Foundation International. We will be celebrating 10 years of our work in building people and building capabilities of communities in Asia. To commemorate this milestone, the foundation is supporting a series of leadership forums this year, which will be hosted in Singapore. The first of the series is today's event – the **“Temasek Foundation International@10 Asia Nurse Leaders Forum”**.

2 Temasek, a Singapore investment company, set up Temasek Foundation in May 2007 to support the human and social development of communities in Asia. In September 2016, Temasek Foundation was renamed Temasek Foundation International to extend our reach to communities beyond Asia. Over the past 10 years, the foundation has committed about **178 million Singapore dollars** towards **348 programmes** across Asia. Specifically in health care, we have supported **57** programmes in **13** countries.

3            Temasek Foundation International does not operate as a grant giver. We are deeply involved in all our programmes – from development to implementation, so that we can better appreciate the needs in the community, and ensure that our programmes are always relevant and meaningful.

4            Leading up to this forum, the foundation commissioned a study of three of our nursing programmes – one each in China, Indonesia, and Thailand. We have appointed an independent consultant to conduct face-to-face interviews and survey questionnaires. In total, more than 360 doctors, nurse leaders and specialists were interviewed, while we received survey results from over 400 individuals.

5            From the study, we drew a better understanding of some of the outcomes that were successful. For example:

- In the case of Shanghai Ruijin Hospital in **China**, patient care quality and safety was improved by introducing fall prevention initiatives, which decreased patient fall rates;

- Some of the hospitals under the Muhammadiyah network in **Indonesia** introduced new procedures and guidelines for patient safety and pain management. After attending the programme, the nursing department of the Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang implemented simulation labs and programmes in teaching and learning, which subsequently raised their nursing diploma accreditation from B to A;
- And, in **Thailand**, medication errors were reduced by tagging patients with wrist bands and with the nurses wearing "Do Not Disturb" jackets. **FAST** cards were introduced in Siriraj Hospital to help in stroke prevention and detection. I am sure most of you in the audience know that **FAST** stands for "**F**acial Recognition, **A**rm Weakness, **S**peech Problems, **T**ime to call Emergency Services" – these are very useful tips for all of us to remember.

6 All the participating organisations of the study are here today at the forum and I want to thank you for your time and effort, and for supporting us in the study. The study has been a useful process in drawing out learning points for us. Moving forward, we hope to use these lessons to enhance our future programmes.

7            Today's forum brings together many of the nursing leaders and participants from our past programmes. This is the first time that we are bringing together so many of our nursing programme partners together on a common platform. Our hope is to enhance learning among the network of our "alumni" by sharing the positive outcomes and achievements that you have implemented in your organisations over the years.

8            I would like to thank our partners - SingHealth and the Singapore Nursing Association who have jointly organised this forum. The next three days will be meaningful and useful to all of you as you hear and learn from the speakers and each other. The organisers have put together a comprehensive programme, with speakers from nine countries. A majority of the speakers for the forum are our past programme participants who will be sharing their experiences. My team and I are looking forward to hearing from all of you. Please take the time to network and get to know each other. You may even find opportunities to work with each other or to visit each other's hospitals or nursing schools.

9           We know that there are many individuals who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organise the forum. Our heartfelt appreciation to SingHealth and the Singapore Nursing Association for leading the effort, especially Professor Lim Swee Hia and your team for putting together such a comprehensive programme. We thank the following Singapore organisations who are also supporting us in this forum - Health Promotion Board, Institute of Mental Health, Nanyang Polytechnic, National Healthcare Group Polyclinics, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, and Tan Tock Seng Hospital. All of you in the audience today are our treasured partners and we know that with your support, we can do so much more to provide the best possible health care for our communities.

10           Thank you.