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SPEECH BY S DHANABALAN, CHAIRMAN OF TEMASEK HOLDINGS
HOWE YOON CHONG PSA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY
5 MAY 2010 (WEDNESDAY)
PSA BUILDING, 40TH STOREY AUDITORIUM

Dr Howe Hwee Siew and Mr Howe Tze-Sen, who are representing Mrs Howe Yoon Chong

Mr Fock Siew Wah, Group Chairman, PSA International

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon

I am very pleased to be here this afternoon for the Howe Yoon Chong PSA Scholarship Award Ceremony.

Two years ago I had the honor of launching the Howe Yoon Chong scholarship program. The idea of having such a scholarship program was initiated by the PSA Group Chairman Fock Siew Wah. His idea was to have this endowment fund provide bond-free scholarships for students with at least B-average results from lower income families to upgrade themselves through education and / or training in various technical skills. The fund is named after the late Mr Howe Yoon Chong, who was Chairman of the then Port of Singapore Authority from 1970 to 1979. Temasek is happy to be a partner in this program.

The scholarship recipients today may not be very familiar with the late Howe Yoon Chong's role in what Singapore is today. I have the privilege of working

with Mr Howe as his subordinate and as his colleague. More than that, Mr Howe was also a friend and a confidante to me for more than 45 years.

What made Mr Howe an outstanding Singaporean were two things: his ideas and his tenacity. Howe Yoon Chong had ideas which were often far ahead of his time. He was always forward-looking and resourceful, sticking his neck out for unconventional views and ways of resolving issues of the day. If he was convinced of a solution to a problem, he would persevere and persuade others to come to his point of view despite strong opposition. His energy, tenacity and willpower plus his persuasive ways meant that his ideas were often carried through and ended up proving his sound judgment. Some of the iconic projects in which he played a crucial role were mentioned by me when I launched the scholarship two years ago. I do not want to repeat them on this occasion. Copies of what I said at that time have been given to the recipients today.

While Mr Howe accomplished much in his public service, he remained a humble and frugal person. He was always generous with his time and compassionate towards the needy. Coming from a family of modest means, I am sure Mr Howe would have appreciated the help which the Howe Yoon Chong PSA Scholarship seeks to provide today.

It is our hope that the scholars will remain humble as they grow and become leaders in our society, and continue to help to make a difference for their fellow Singaporeans now and in the future.

The first batch of Howe Yoon Chong PSA scholars have lived up to our expectations. Most have done very well in their studies. What is even more encouraging is that the scholars, in spite of their difficult financial situations and sometimes dysfunctional family backgrounds, continue to find time to help those in need in our society.

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One of them is Yong Mei Lien who put her beauty therapy skills to give makeovers to 40 senior citizens who visited ITE College East in February 2009. Mei Lien also volunteered her time to do makeovers for nurses at the Institute of Mental Health on Nurses' Day last year.

Another scholar who deserves mention is Ang Xue Ling who spends every Saturday working with child patients in the paediatric wards of NUH, bringing toys up to the wards and engaging the children, thereby providing relief and giving much needed rest to the parents.

I would like to encourage today's second batch of 13 recipients of the Howe Yoon Chong PSA Scholarship to do the same. There will be ups and downs in life, but you have shown that you can ride the waves. I wish each of you every success in your life journey ahead.

Before I close, let me extend our thanks and deep appreciation to the six interview panelists who put in much time and effort to interview more than 100 candidates for this year's scholarships. They are: Ms Chong Hwa Yew from ITE HQ, Ms Florence Ang from ITE West, Mr Ting Kok Guan from ITE Central, Mr Chong Leong Fatt from ITE East, Professor Soong Tuck Wah from NUS, and Professor Lim Kah Leong from Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School. Today's ceremony is possible because of the work they put in to scrutinize the details of the applicants and determine the needs and merits of each applicant.

Thank you.