

SPEECH BY DR TONY TAN KENG YAM, CHAIRMAN OF SPH FOUNDATION, AT INAUGURAL LIM KIM SAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY, HELD ON TUESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2006

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to this ceremony for the presentation of awards of the inaugural Lim Kim San Memorial Scholarships. I am particularly pleased that the family of the late Mr Lim Kim San are with us this morning.

I would like to congratulate our four scholars today, for being selected to receive this inaugural scholarship award.

The late Mr Lim Kim San was instrumental in setting up the SPH Foundation in January 2003. Mr Lim's vision for the Foundation was to build a community that embraces language enrichment, creativity, diversity, healthy living and sports. And it is this very vision that has formed the basis for the selection of our four scholars today. These four scholars have all excelled academically and in their co-curricular activities.

Financial difficulties did not stop our scholars from giving their best or deter them from helping others. Take for example Ms Mangeswary Eravanan. While learning to cope with the new challenges in her first year at the National University of Singapore (NUS), she also volunteers her time at a non-profit organisation, mentoring young children on weekends.

And for Mr Lee Chong Leong who was born in Malaysia, he is mindful of his roots and has therefore chosen to study Malay as an elective

while majoring in Chinese studies at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Chong Leong hopes to teach some day, so that he can shape young minds the way his teachers have shaped his.

With tenacity, determination and a little help from the SPH Foundation, I am confident that our scholars will go far in their careers to be men and women who will contribute for the betterment of our society.

This is exactly the SPH Foundation's purpose for setting up the Lim Kim San Memorial Scholarship – to inspire and provide more opportunities to develop young Singaporeans, regardless of their family backgrounds, to step out and serve our country and our community, just as Mr Lim had done.

Mr Lim Kim San served as the Chairman of the SPH Board of Directors from 1988 to 2002. Although knowing very little of the media industry, Mr Lim has made great contributions to SPH's growth and viability. Mr Lim rationalised the SPH Group's disparate operations and controlled costs by freezing all non-critical spending and hiring. He did not hesitate to implement difficult measures when he deemed them to be necessary.

But an impressive bottom-line was not the only thing that Mr Lim cared about. He believed that SPH needed to give back to the community. He thus initiated the setting up of the SPH Foundation in 2003 with a seed contribution of \$20 million from SPH.

As a registered charity and an Institution of Public Character (IPC), the SPH Foundation does not solicit for public funds. Instead the Foundation relies on the returns from investments and the annual donation from SPH to support worthy causes.

When SPH consulted Mr Lim on what he would consider to be an appropriate farewell gift in appreciation of his contributions to SPH when he requested to step down as Senior Advisor in late 2005, Mr Lim did not ask anything for himself. Instead Mr Lim suggested that the SPH Foundation set up a scholarship award in his name to promote the study of English and the mother tongue and help needy students to achieve their goals in life. This is a reflection of the modest and humble side of Mr Lim that few of us know about.

I hope our scholars today will emulate Mr Lim in his willingness to take on challenges and determination and resourcefulness to implement measures which will benefit Singapore and the organisations for which they have a responsibility.

I urge our scholars to persevere in their academic pursuits and be the best that they can be. Congratulations once again!
