

Remarks by Professor Tommy Koh

1. **Salutation:** Foreign Minister Shanmugam, Ambassador Federico Palomera Guez, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, and member of the Diplomatic Corps, the Director of IPS, Mr Janadas Devan, the Chairman of WSP, Prof K.K. Phua, Singapore's NRAs and AALs, MFA colleagues, friends from the think-tanks, Ladies and Gentlemen.
2. Li Lin, Joanna and I thank all of you for joining us on this auspicious occasion. As a book lover, I consider the birth of a book as a happy event.
3. We would like to thank Elaine Ng, the CEO of NLB and her colleagues from the National Library for hosting us this evening and for her thoughtful welcome.
4. We would like to thank our Foreign Minister, Mr K Shanmugam, for accepting our request to launch the book for us.
5. We would like to thank the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador Federico Palomera Guez, for his elegant foreword. We also thank him for agreeing to say a few words this evening.
6. We would like to thank Mr Sajjad Ashraf, the former High Commissioner of Pakistan to Singapore and former Dean of the Diplomatic Corps (2008), for joining us this evening and for agreeing to read his essay to us.
7. We would like to thank Mr Frank Lavin, the former US Ambassador to Singapore, for joining us from his home in Hong Kong. We have given Frank the privilege of reading his essay to us, not because he represents a superpower but because his wife, Ann, his better half, lives and works here.
8. We would like to thank the 61 essayists, from 43 countries, including all 9 ASEAN countries, for acceding to our request to record their memories, thoughts and reflections about Singapore.

IPS Book Launch
The Little Red Dot: Reflections of Foreign Ambassadors on Singapore, Volume III
30 October 2014

9. We have succeeded in getting such a good harvest because of the help of our colleagues in MFA and in our overseas missions as well as our friends in the 70 resident missions in Singapore. In addition to Amb Sajjad Ashraf and Amb Frank Lavin, we would like to thank Amb Hiroshi Hashimoto, Amb Olexander Holin, Amb Joergen Moeller, Amb Mohd Amin Kurdi, Amb Jorg Reding and Secretary Roberto Soares for coming at their own expenses to join us this evening. We are very grateful.

10. Finally, we would like to thank IPS and WSP for co-publishing this book. We would like to thank the editor of the book, Li Hongyan and the designer of the book, Jimmy Low, for having done a very good job for us.

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