

## **OPENING REMARKS**

### **AMBASSADOR ONG KENG YONG**

Director, Institute of Policy Studies

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Singapore Perspectives 2010: Home.Heart.Horizon.

Raffles City Convention Centre

25 January 2010

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Distinguished Guests, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen:

1 A very good morning to you. I am pleased to welcome you to the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Singapore Perspectives. This is the Institute's flagship conference. It began in the year 2000. Before that, the Institute had organised a series called "Year in Review".

2 Over the years, we have had several Cabinet Ministers attend and speak at Singapore Perspectives, including Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew in 2008. However, this is the first time the Prime Minister is speaking at Singapore Perspectives. Thank you, Mr Lee, for spending time with us this morning.

3 Today, we have an impressive line-up of speakers, who will discuss and debate the issues associated with the conference's theme of "Home.Heart.Horizon."

4 To give you a bit of background: when we first started conceptualising the theme for this year's conference, we actually wanted to examine the achievement of the various aspirations outlined in the National Pledge. After the National Day Parade in 2009, however, we decided to go further and look at the meaning of Singapore as a home, our heartfelt feelings for Singapore and fellow Singaporeans, as well as the country's prospects going into the future. This resulted in the three panels we have in the conference, namely, "One United People", "One Gracious Society" and "One Global City".

5 I understand from the speakers that they intend to offer their respective perspectives to provoke your thoughts and engage your participation. The seating arrangement today has been designed to facilitate interaction amongst conference participants. Do feel free to comment and ask questions of our speakers and of each other, so as to make it an even more worthwhile day for yourself.

6 Our speakers today come from a wide variety of backgrounds, representing the multi-faceted nature of Singapore society. This is what Singapore Perspectives is about: to draw in views and ideas from as wide a spectrum of society as possible.

7 We hope you will find today's programme rewarding. More importantly, we hope that you will leave today feeling challenged and inspired.

8 As you can see on this backdrop, we have also received strong support from institutions of higher learning, statutory boards and outstanding companies from the private sector. Singapore Perspectives would not be possible without their kind and continuous support. I would like to make a special mention of Keppel Corporation, Standard Chartered and Temasek Holdings, which have made many IPS events possible. IPS looks forward to many more years of cooperation with all the sponsors.

9 Let me also take this opportunity to thank you for being with us today.

10 I would now like to invite the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, to deliver his Keynote Address. Mr Lee, please.

\*\*\*\*\*