



**SPEECH BY MR GOH GEOK KHIM, CHAIRMAN, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION PROGRAMME FOR LEADERSHIP IN UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT (PLUM) 2014**

**FRIDAY, 11 APRIL 2014 IN SINGAPORE**

Distinguished University Leaders, Deans and Faculty members of ASEAN universities,

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President, National University of Singapore,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

It's been a long time since my university days. As a student in Engineering, I never had to present a paper or give a speech in front of my professors. And all through my working life, I have always avoided the limelight. At my age, there are not many things that will cause me stress, but public speaking, especially in front of a large group of esteemed professors is certainly one of them! Preparing to speak in front of all of you almost felt like going back to school and having to sweat over a presentation!

2 Well, tonight I join you in extending our warmest congratulations to all 35 distinguished university leaders, deans and faculty members of the ASEAN universities who have participated in the Temasek Foundation Programme for Leadership in University Management 2014, over the past few days.

3 All across Asia, universities are investing heavily in their own development and growth. There is a constant need to stay ahead of the curve, whether in research, teaching, and innovation, to bring out the best in our youth, our leaders of tomorrow.

4           With that in mind, Temasek Foundation, together with NUS, initiated the first “TF Programme for Leadership in University Management” in March 2012. The programme provides a platform for regional university leaders like yourselves, to discuss issues and share experiences relating to leadership and management of universities.

5           The first programme was so well-received that it led on to customised programmes for university leaders and faculty from China and India. The foundation has committed to continue supporting this programme for more university leaders and faculty from ASEAN, China and India. This will hopefully spur on an informal network of alumni among more university leaders to transform university education in Asia.

6           To the delegates of the programme, I sincerely hope you have found this programme useful, and the past few days have been enriching and meaningful in many ways. It is our modest hope that this programme will facilitate your journey towards the long-term goals for your universities. And even as you take back lessons to your respective institutions, I know that the leaders and the team from NUS have learnt a lot from all of you. Such two-way exchanges are a hallmark of Temasek Foundation programmes, and we are honoured to have the opportunity to share this journey with you.

7           For the past 7 years, Temasek Foundation has supported over 220 programmes across Asia. Our programmes

- **Build People** through education and health care,
- **Build Institutions** through urban management and public administration,
- **Build Bridges** among regional leaders, and
- **Rebuild Lives** of those affected by natural disasters.

One step at a time, we hope to contribute to a peaceful, connected and prosperous Asia.

8           On behalf of Temasek Foundation, my appreciation goes out to all who have made this programme possible, especially the team from NUS. To the delegates, I hope you had a very positive and enjoyable learning and exchange experience. We warmly welcome you to the TF alumni family.

9           Thank you and wishing all of you safe travels back home.