



**Speech by Mr Ong Boon Hwee, Board Director, Temasek Foundation at the official launch of the Temasek Foundation – Nanyang Polytechnic International Productivity & Standards Programme on Innovation and Enterprise Development for Leaders and Specialists in the Philippines
8 April 2014 in Manila, the Philippines**

Honourable Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, Secretary, Department of Labour and Employment, the Philippines,

Mr Ciriaco A. Lagunzad III, Undersecretary, Worker's Welfare Social Protection Cluster, Department of Labour and Employment, the Philippines,

Representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore,

The team from Nanyang Polytechnic International,

Distinguished Participants, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Magandang umaga po, (*Good Morning*)

I am glad to be here today at this programme-launching ceremony. Let me begin by congratulating the Department of Labour and Employment, and the National Wages and Productivity Commission of the Philippines, as well as Nanyang Polytechnic International on this significant collaboration. Temasek Foundation is pleased to be your partner in this meaningful effort to enhance Productivity, Innovation and Enterprise Development in the Philippines.

2 Building capacities, in enhancing the capability of public sector officials in administration and governance, is one of the key focus areas of the Temasek Foundation. In its journey of development, Singapore has benefitted from learning from others. We are glad to be able to likewise share our experience with our friends and neighbours in the region, contributing in ways possible to help others develop. This programme hopes to help build up a core group of productivity specialists to assist the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the Philippines. These specialists will be role models. And through their sharing of their knowledge and skills with their colleagues and peers, serve to multiply the benefits of the training. We hope this will help to spearhead the implementation of the integrated project PIE (*Productivity, Innovation and Enterprise*), and over time contribute to the growth of industries in the Philippines.

3 Our first training programme with the Department of Labour and Employment was to support their efforts to raise the country's productivity and competitiveness in the global market. The programme adapts from Singapore's model of productivity management. From feedback that I have heard from the team, I understand that the programme has been engaging and successful. Many of the participants who have completed their training are present here today. I hope you have found your training experience meaningful and I look forward to listening to your learning outcomes later today.

4 The success with the previous training programme encouraged us to do more. It led us to today's programme. The Temasek Foundation's grant of about **USD\$622,000 (S\$782,750)** will support this new training programme. The programme will share Singapore's experience in Innovation and Enterprise development with 110 productivity leaders and specialists from the National Wages and Productivity Commission, key agencies and social partners in the Philippines. The programme commenced last week, and will continue in the months ahead. I wish all participants of this programme all the best in their learning journey.

5 Beyond the learning experience of the participants, this programme in many ways reflect the warm ties of cooperation between Temasek Foundation and the Philippines. Over the last seven years, the Foundation has committed over **10 million USD** to some **16** programmes in the Philippines. Temasek Foundation was established by Temasek Holdings in May 2007, with the aim to support the human and social capital development of communities in Asia. We focus on '*Building People*' through education and health care, '*Building Institutions*' to enhance urban management and public administration, '*Building Bridges*' among regional leaders, and '*Rebuilding Lives*' of those affected by natural disasters. To date, Temasek Foundation has supported over **220** programmes across Asia, reaching out to and benefiting individuals, organisations and communities. We hope we could contribute in some ways towards aspiring others, touching lives and impacting societies, and in the process, making friends. Hence, while this is a launch of yet another programme, it is at the same time a gathering of friends who would get to know each other better through the programme

6 May I to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to some of our friends gathered here. Thank you Secretary Baldoz and representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore for being with us today. Your support and endorsement for the programme means a lot to us. I would also like to appreciate the team from Nanyang Polytechnic International. Thank you for your dedication and passion in sharing your knowledge. And finally, I sincerely wish Secretary Baldoz and your team every success as you continue to grow and strengthen your PIE efforts in the Philippines. I am confident that your effort will bear fruits over time, and I am glad we could join you in this journey through such partnership. Together, we can build a more prosperous and connected Asia.

7 Maraming selamat po. (*Thank you!*)