



SPEECH BY MR BENEDICT CHEONG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE 'GREEN BUILDING' TRAINING CENTRE TO MARK THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION – SINGAPORE COOPERATION ENTERPRISE URBAN MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA, HELD IN PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA ON 22 JANUARY 2015

Your Excellency Mr Im Chhun Lim, Senior Minister for the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Cambodia,

Dr Huy Nara, Director-General, General Department of Construction, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Cambodia,

Mr Kevin Cheok, Singapore Ambassador to Cambodia,

Mr Kong Wy Mun, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Cooperation Enterprise,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

Today marks a special occasion for all of us. We are gathered here to witness the launch of the 'Green Building' training centre. My warmest congratulations to the Honourable Minister and the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction for the successful construction of the building!

2 There is rapid urbanisation across many cities and provinces in Asia. While urbanisation brings many benefits, there are also challenges and issues such as housing, transportation and water management. Many local governments understand this. They have prioritised long-term urban planning and management to ensure their cities remain sustainable.

3 Because of these challenges, Temasek Foundation has also placed more emphasis in supporting programmes that build capabilities in urban management. An

example is this training programme that Temasek Foundation has supported with a grant of about US\$472,000 (S\$630,950). The programme helped to develop knowledge in 'green' building design and construction practices among building specialists in Cambodia. The programme has a good balance of theory and hands-on application. Participants have been able to apply what they have learnt from the Singapore trainers. We see this today in the successfully completed 'Green Building' training centre.

4 My team and I are not experts in urban management, or building and construction. We see our role as a matchmaker and a catalyst. We seek to bring people and resources together to share and learn together as neighbours and friends in Asia. Our programmes support development in Asia by **'Building People'** through education and health care; **'Building Institutions'** through urban management and public administration; **'Building Bridges'** among regional leaders and student leaders; and **'Rebuilding Lives and Livelihoods'** of those affected by natural disasters.

5 Over 7 years, Temasek Foundation has supported 11 programmes in Cambodia. I am confident that we will continue to support more programmes in Cambodia, and we will build on our strong ties of friendship and cooperation.

6 Finally, let me express my appreciation to everyone who has helped to make this programme successful. I thank the Honourable Minister who has been a staunch supporter of Temasek Foundation programmes – thank you for taking time off your busy schedule to honour us with your presence. Thank you too to Dr Huy Nara and your colleagues at the General Department of Construction for your commitment and leadership in this programme. Also, thank you to Mr Kevin Cheok, Singapore Ambassador to Cambodia, for taking time to grace this event. Last but not least, I would like to thank Mr Kong Wy Mun and the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise team for their efforts in ensuring the smooth-running of the programme.

7 I am confident that the knowledge shared through our training programme and the 'Green Building' training centre will be a model for the building and construction industry in Cambodia.

8 Thank you.