



**SPEECH BY MR BENEDICT CHEONG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TEMASEK FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL AT THE OPENING OF THE "TEMASEK FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL@10 ASIA URBAN GOVERNANCE LEADERS FORUM"
20 JULY 2017 IN SINGAPORE**

Dr Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State for Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Trade and Industry,

Dr Liu Thai Ker, Chairman, Centre for Liveable Cities

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

Distinguished leaders and specialists in urban management,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning to all of you.

2017 is a very special year for Temasek Foundation International. We are celebrating 10 years of partnerships in building people and building capabilities of communities in Asia. To commemorate this milestone, the foundation is supporting a series of leadership forums this year, which will be hosted in Singapore. Today's event is the second of the series – the **“Temasek Foundation International@10 Asia Urban Governance Leaders Forum”**.

2 Temasek, a Singapore investment company, set up Temasek Foundation in May 2007 to support the human and social development of communities in Asia. In September 2016, Temasek Foundation was renamed Temasek Foundation International to extend our reach to communities beyond Asia. Over the past 10 years, the foundation has committed about 178 million Singapore dollars towards **348 programmes** across Asia. Specifically in urban management, we have supported **34** programmes in **20** countries.

3 Partnerships are at the heart of all that we do, where we bring together Host Communities and Programme Partner Organisations to co-develop and co-implement programmes with and for the respective communities. We are deeply involved in all our programmes – from development to implementation, so that we can better appreciate the needs in the community, and ensure that our programmes remain relevant and achieve their intended outcomes and impact.

4 As we celebrate ten years of partnerships, we have been privileged to be able to accompany our host communities in their urban development journeys. Today's forum brings together many of the leaders and participants from our past programmes. This is the first time that we are bringing together so many of our past urban management programme partners together on a common platform. Our hope is to enhance learning among the network of our “alumni” by sharing the positive outcomes and achievements that you have implemented in your organisations over the years.

5 Speaking about the sharing of positive outcomes, please allow me to briefly share three such examples from our programmes over the years:

a. The Public Health Engineering Department in Rajasthan, **India** worked with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise on an urban water management capabilities programme. When they returned to Rajasthan, the officials developed a Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer transaction framework that can efficiently prepare and implement water recycling and reuse-related projects.

b. Through an urban management and planning capability-building programme, the Makassar City Government from **Indonesia** adapted and implemented projects based on case studies. For example, the city has installed a new traffic management system to better monitor road junctions following from the programme.

c. The Foundation also supports multi-country programmes that involve leaders and specialists from countries across the region. Since 2012, more than 100 officials from 10 countries in Asia have come together for the Temasek Foundation International Leaders in Urban Governance Programme. Discussions and learning exchanges on action plans continue even after the participants return to their countries. For example, the Seberang Perai Municipal Council from **Malaysia** has streamlined the city plans of three districts into one integrated master plan for the entire Seberang Perai and implemented a whole-of-government approach.

6 The host community partners highlighted above are all here today and I want to take this opportunity to thank not just them but all our partners for their support. These examples, as well as many other case studies are captured in a book you would have received as part of the forum package. We hope that you will be able to draw insights and lessons from their experiences for your own urban development and management journey.

7 The next three days will be meaningful and useful to all of you as you hear and learn from the speakers and each other. The organisers have put together a comprehensive programme, with speakers from both the public and private sectors. Some of the speakers for the forum are our past programme participants who will share experiences and learnings of their urban development journey. My team and I look forward to hearing from all of you.

8 There are many individuals who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organise the forum. Our heartfelt appreciation to Singapore Cooperation Enterprise for leading the effort, especially Wy Mun and your team for putting together such a comprehensive programme. We thank the following Singapore organisations who are also supporting us in this forum – e-Government Leadership Centre (eGL), PUB Singapore’s Water Agency and Urban Redevelopment Authority.

9 I would like to thank SMS Dr Koh Poh Koon for being with us today.

10. Thank you to all of you in the audience. You are our treasured partners and we look forward to more fruitful partnerships for the next ten years. I wish all of you an enriching and enjoyable experience at the forum. Thank you.