

SPEECH BY MR. LEE SOO CHYE, PRESIDENT, SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE
THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE AWARDS 2012
WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2012, 6.15PM
MANDARIN ORCHARD HOTEL, MANDARIN BALLROOM

Our Guest of Honour, Mr. Michael Palmer, Speaker of Parliament

Founding President, Mr. Russell Miller

Founding Chairman, Mr. Tan Kin Lian,

Honorary Chairman, Mr. Goh Kai Kui

Past Presidents of SOE

Honourees, Sponsors, Donors, Partners

My Fellow Board of Governors

Distinguished Guests

Ladies & Gentlemen

A very good evening to one all. Thank you for taking time off your busy schedule to be here today, as part of SOE's awards dinner 2012 and our 10th anniversary celebration.

Founded in 2002, Spirit of Enterprise (SOE) was born with a twin mission to:

- (i) Promote and advance entrepreneurial spirit in Singapore by honouring local self-reliant entrepreneurs operating small and medium-sized businesses; and
- (ii) Inspire Singaporeans, especially the young, to become entrepreneurs by facilitating interaction, communication and knowledge dissemination and interaction between students and the entrepreneurs.

Our young must look upon the journey as an entrepreneur as a viable career option.

Times have changed. Being an entrepreneur is no longer a road less travelled and a

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challenge that most shy away from. In today's new economic and social landscape, every individual in the organisation must think and work like an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurs are the source of wealth creation and the fountain for creativity and inspiration; they are people who started out yesterday, preserved today and set the scene for tomorrow.

In these 10 years, SOE has remained steadfast in its journey of giving back to society. Yet, the last thing we should do is to rest on our laurels and be contented with the work that has been done. As a charity organisation, SOE Board of Governors operates on a volunteer basis. We are all fervent enthusiasts who strongly believe in giving back to where we came from.

SOE provides an avenue for entrepreneurs to contribute and to share their wealth of experience with those who are interested in starting up their own business. Some programmes that we carry out with our partners to give back to society are the Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP), the ACE Mentorship programme or the NLB talks. I would like to invite all entrepreneurs seated here today to make an investment in our future, to play a part in moulding the next 10 years and more to come. SOE welcomes onboard enthusiastic members who believe that they can contribute to better serving our cause.

To our 30 honourees seated here today, my heartfelt congratulations to all of you. A big thank you for joining us here today. The Spirit of Enterprise Award is a

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testament of your journey as an entrepreneur and the impact you have left on the people around you and the society at large. We recognise your struggles, failures, joy and fulfilment in your start up journey and would like you to know that you are not alone in this success. A round of applause to our 30 outstanding Honourees for 2012 please.

Also, please join me in congratulating the winner of our Annual SOE Entrepreneurship Award, Mr. Charles Wong, CEO of Charles & Keith (Singapore) Pte Ltd. The SOE Entrepreneurship Award is the embodiment of the Spirit of Enterprise and lifelong learning. This Award seeks to recognise the recipient's entrepreneurial and learning journey and to uphold them as an inspiration for others to follow. A round of applause for Charles!

For all the events that SOE carries out, we are supported by magnanimous sponsors and donors who help to fund our community outreach programmes. Our major donors who have donated for the past 3 years and more to support SOE in her cause are:

Lee Foundation

SIM University

Dynamac Holdings Ltd

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Goh Joo Hin Pte Ltd

My heartfelt thanks to you, all other our big-hearted cash donors and sponsors in-kind who have ardently backed the cause of Spirit of Enterprise! Without your support, contribution, and conviction in the programmes that we carry out, SOE would not have come so far in its years.

I will also like to extend my appreciation to our Guest-of- Honour, Mr. Michael Palmer, Speaker of Parliament for gracing our awards dinner, as well as my SOE Board of Governors for their assiduous contribution and support to make all of SOE's programme a successful and meaningful one.

I would like to take this opportunity to specially thank my following fellow governors:

Rachel, our Vice-President, and also our Chairwoman of SOE Golf Committee for taking upon her shoulders the responsibility of organising our last 3 SOE Fundraising Golf Challenge. She was the one who took the challenge to proceed despite not being a golfer herself!

Prof. Chan for ensuring that our finances are kept on an even keel. His meticulous attention to our accounts ensures that SOE, as a charity organisation exercises prudence and channels funds to the right cause.

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Special mention to be made to Sa'at, Chairman of tonight's awards dinner, who has so selflessly forked out time, effort and money in helping SOE in so many ways. Volunteering altruistically to take on this year's rebranding project, Sa'at has time and time again mobilised his team, partners, suppliers and friends to contribute what they can to serve the cause of SOE. He has also assisted Rachel in running our Fundraising Golf Challenge, design and plan all marketing collaterals, photograph and record all SOE's major events and successfully put together tonight's dinner. A big round of applause for Sa'at please.

I would also like to thank Nicholas, Chairman of the Student Entrepreneur programme, who ensures that SOE walk the talk by paying close attention to our key beneficiary, the students! And Cheryl, Chairwoman of the SOE Book, who has for the second year produced an award worthy book which documents the stories of SOE Honourees throughout the years.

To the rest of my board members, thank you for being part of SOE's Board of Governors and playing your part to dedicate resource, time and effort so as to ensure that SOE stays true to our course.

To all ladies and gentlemen, thank you for once again choosing to be present at our awards dinner 2012. We hope that this night will be a memorable one for you. Enjoy the rest of the evening.