

SPEECH BY MR. NICHOLAS GOH
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THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE AWARDS 2013
1 NOVEMBER 2013
MANDARIN ORCHARD HOTEL, MANDARIN BALLROOM

Mr. Teo Ser Luck, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry
Mr. Thomas Fernandes, President of Spirit of Enterprise
Fellow Board of Governors,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen.

A very good evening to you.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the SOE honourees this evening. Your contribution to the community and society as an entrepreneur is an impactful one. My fellow board of governors and I, at the Spirit of Enterprise, are proud to recognise your achievements this evening.

SOE, is a platform for entrepreneurs - who have walked the journey and achieved success in their businesses, to come together and give back to society as One. Indeed, doing business is not easy. It requires passion and a good vision, hard work, determination and a positive attitude.

I could still remember back in 2010 when I was presented the SOE Award and was invited to join the SOE board of governors. I volunteered to help because firstly I felt that my company has been blessed bountifully all these years and also that i have always believed that the journey of any entrepreneur is fulfilling and inspiring, where one may learn many important life values, and that these values can be imparted to those around - who are willing.

Today we live in a world where success is often in the natural limelight of various media. With all the glamour and celebrations, we may tend to overlook the hardships, pain and emotional setbacks that these successful people have gone through in their lives.

As entrepreneurs – building a great company with great products and services with good loyal customers is important, - however what is more important is really what we do with our success and past experience to bless the lives of others who are less fortunate around us, as we pursue our journey of excellence.

While SOE constantly seeks for generous donors to support our cause, please be assured that these donations will be channelled for the right cause to support our programs and initiatives – so that we may touch more lives together.

We strive to inspire the younger generation, particularly those from lower income families, to cultivate entrepreneurial values. We believe that if these values are nurtured at an early age in the right approach, then they would be useful and may certainly benefit them in their later stage in life.

The Spirit of Enterprise (SOE) - Student Entrepreneur Programme (SEP), or SOE- SEP in short – is a SOE sponsored programme which aims to impart the basic understanding of starting and running of an enterprise, financial skills as well as hands-on experience to students aged 10 to 15, through highly engaging and fun activities. There is also a ‘Meet the Entrepreneur’ sharing session where the students will have the chance to meet with a specially invited SOE honouree to learn from him/her.

The entire programme has been purposefully geared to help students cultivate important life values, such as team work, passion and work commitment, ability to handle failures well, looking at problems as opportunities, innovation and leadership skills.

In 2005, SOE launched its inaugural Student-Entrepreneur Programme by providing seed funding and mentorship to primary and secondary schools in Singapore. We have continued our efforts in promoting entrepreneurial spirit among our younger generation over the last 8 years.

This year, SOE has carried out more than 20 SEP sessions with our partner organisations – Life Community Services Society, Pasir Ris Secondary School, AG Home, Mayflower Primary School, SengKang Secondary School, CARE Singapore and Tampines Primary School. We have achieved a **70% increase** in the number of youths we have reach out to in 2013 compared to 2012, and we hope that with your support, we would be able to touch more lives together and expand our community work further in coming years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank:

- all our partner organisations,
- the SOE Secretariat team,
- my fellow SOE Board of Governors for believing and supporting this meaningful cause,
- our past SOE honourees who made themselves readily available to share their stories with the youths in our ‘Meet the Entrepreneur sessions’,
- Mr Caleb Chan, the MD of Edu21 Consultants (who was also one of our SOE past winners and our SEP training partner)
- and Ms Serene Pan, my co-chair for SOE SEP arm for their great contributions.

Now, let’s put our hands together to give them all a round of applause.

What motivates me in being part of SOE is seeing successful entrepreneurs from various businesses and industries coming together, taking time out of their busy schedules to contribute, and playing a part to touch lives together – with SOE as that platform.

It is therefore the wish of my fellow board of governors and I that with SOE’s continued education sponsorships through partners like schools and other institutions, and perhaps in future, cash and

bursary awards for entrepreneurship competitions in schools - a greater number of students will be able to benefit from our SOE programme and eventually opt to live their own dreams.

To all our SOE honourees this evening, I would like to encourage you to make yourselves available and partner us, so that you may join us to share your inspiring stories, your experience and important life values you learnt in building your business, with our younger generation.

Thank you and please enjoy the rest of your evening.