

SPEECH BY MR. NICHOLAS GOH
CHAIRMAN OF STUDENT ENTREPRENER PROGRAMME
THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE AWARDS 2012
WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2012, 6.15PM
MANDARIN ORCHARD HOTEL, MANDARIN BALLROOM

Mr. Michael Palmer, Speaker of Parliament

Mr. Lee Soo Chye, 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 here today. Like our Guest-of-Honour and our President has mentioned, your contribution to the community and society as an entrepreneur is an impactful one. We, 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 a team. I could still remember back in 2010 when I received the SOE Award and was invited to join the SOE board of governors. I agreed to help almost immediately because I have always believed that the journey of any entrepreneur is fulfilling and inspiring, where one may learn many important life values. What counts, however, is what we as entrepreneurs do with our

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experience and our success to touch the lives of others who are less fortunate around us.

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.

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The entire programme has been purposefully geared to help students cultivate important life values, such as team work, passion, commitment, ability to handle failures, 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 the entrepreneurship spirit among our younger generation over the last 8 years. This year, together with our training partner - Edu 21 Consultants, SOE has carried out more than 10 sessions of the SEP with our partner organisations - Mayflower Primary School, CARE Singapore and Tampines Primary School.

What motivates me in being part of SOE is seeing successful entrepreneurs from various 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 my hope that with SOE's continued education sponsorships through partners like schools and other institutions, and hopefully in future cash and bursary awards for entrepreneurship competitions in schools - a

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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 humbly encourage you to make yourselves available, so that you may join us to share your story, your experience and important life values you learnt in your journey, with our younger generation. You too, can make a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the evening.