

SPEECH BY MRS. GRACE CHONG TAN, SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE PRESIDENT, AT
THE SOE FUNDRAISING GOLF CHALLENGE 2016, TUESDAY, 26 JULY 2016,
SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB, BALLROOM 2-3

This year, we celebrate the 14th anniversary of the Spirit of Enterprise's (SOE) establishment, and welcome the 7th SOE Fundraising Golf Challenge. This momentous fundraising platform brings members of the entrepreneurial community together – for not just a day of excitement and recreation, but to honour local entrepreneurs and inspire budding entrepreneurs among our youth.

I wish to extend my outmost appreciation to the partners and sponsors of this year's Golf Challenge, who continue to support our yearly programmes to sustain the spirit of Singapore's entrepreneurial culture – through both SOE's Student Interviewers programme (SIP), Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP), and SOE Awards. As a result of such efforts, Singapore is garnering a reputation as a thriving entrepreneurial hub, moving up seven places between 2012 and 2015 to rank as the 10th largest start-up ecosystem according to the international report analysing the impact of start-ups. The number of start-ups in Singapore has risen by more than 90 percent from about 2,800 in 2004 to 5,400 in 2014.

As SOE's 9th President, I am honoured to have the excellent support from our current Board of Governors and long-term partners through our institution's growth journey.

On this note, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks for the unwavering support of all friends who are proudly active change-makers and innovators in our nation.

Grace Chong-Tan

President – Spirit of Enterprise