

**Opening Remarks by Mr Tee Tua Ba, Chairman of Singapore Red Cross
at the Southeast Asia Launch of World Disasters Report 2013
at YWCA Fort Canning Lodge on 17 October 2013**

Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Colleagues from the Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies,
IFRC and ICRC

Members of the Media

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Singapore Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, thank you for joining us at the Southeast Asia Launch of the World Disasters Report. Today's launch is part of the global launch, happening across five different zones, on the same day.

We are very heartened by your interest in the report. This is the 21st issue of the World Disaster Report. Over the past two decades, it has covered topics such as forced migration, neglected crises, public health, HIV and AIDS and urban risk.

This year, the World Disasters Report focuses on technology and the future of humanitarian action. It is written by 40 humanitarians and academics – some of whom are here today – and examines the profound impact of technological innovations on humanitarian action and the resulting risks and opportunities.

We are privileged to have an impressive panel of experts who have reflected on these themes and will share their opinions with us. I would like to thank our esteemed moderator, Augustine Anthuvan, and panelists:

- Arthur Thomas (A.T.) Ball,
- Jagan Chapagain,
- Maya Arii,
- Oliver Lacey-Hall, and
- Victoria Leat

I would also like to express our utmost appreciation to Microsoft Corporation for its kind sponsorship to this event.

While Singapore is not home to natural disasters, our people respond generously to our appeals, allowing the Singapore Red Cross to embark on rapid disaster response, mid-term recovery and long-term rebuilding to affected communities around the globe. As part of the International Red Cross Movement, we pride ourselves on the ability to share information, jointly analyse situations and coordinate resources for humanitarian action and relief assistance.

Closer to home, the Singapore Red Cross is auxiliary to the Singapore Government in emergency response. In the event of a civil emergency, we augment the efforts of the authorities by mobilising first aiders and blood donors, as well as the deploying our ambulances, to support Government Health Services. Our emergency response team supports civil and blood emergency exercises for community preparedness and resilience. Our Academy trains and builds capacity to raise the level of preparedness and awareness of disasters amongst the communities at risk.

I invite you to understand and be a part of the mission of the Singapore Red Cross, if you are not yet so. There is so much we can do collectively for humanity. Please enjoy the session. Thank you.