

EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY

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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR TAN PUAY KERN
CHAIRMAN OF
CHARITREES@MARINA BAY 2016 ORGANISING
COMMITTEE
AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY CHEST
18 NOVEMBER 2016, FRIDAY, 7:15PM
MARINA BAY WATERFRONT PROMENADE**

Dr Lily Neo
Member of Parliament, Jalan Besar Group Representative
Constituency

Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman, Community Chest

Mr Steven Choo, Deputy Secretary General, Singapore Red
Cross Society

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. A very good evening, and welcome to the ChariTrees @ Marina Bay 2016 Light-Up Ceremony. We are honoured to have with us, Dr Lily Neo, MP for Jalan Besar GRC in which Marina Bay is situated. Thank you, Dr Neo, for making time to grace this occasion.

2. This is the 6th year that Community Chest has partnered the Urban Redevelopment Authority in decorating the Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade with special Christmas trees, which we fondly call “ChariTrees”. They signify the charitable spirit of giving during the year-end festive season. This year, we have 30 ChariTrees which have been adopted by our corporate partners. Some of them are here with us today. Allow me to say a big thank you to all of you. Your generous support has certainly brought hope to those in need.
3. Beyond donations, I am delighted to share that the staff of one corporate partner have gone the extra mile to volunteer their time to decorate their adopted ChariTree with our beneficiaries. About 9 volunteers from Certis CISCO Security Pte Ltd shared the festive joy by partnering 8 youths from Students Care Service to don their ChariTree with handmade ornaments using recycled materials.
4. I am also pleased to share that we have joined hands with Singapore Red Cross Society to run this meaningful project. Community Chest is happy to share our expertise in fund-raising and engagement, and we are glad that

Singapore Red Cross Society has contributed through their deep understanding of the social service sector. Together, we can mobilise our resources for better outcomes for our beneficiaries.

5. We would also like to show our appreciation to the performers this evening, namely the Singapore Police Force Band and Aikido-Shinju Ku, and to our emcee tonight, Mr Melvyn T. Pereira. They have volunteered their time and talents to make today's event a delightful one.
6. The 30 ChariTrees will remain lighted up until 27 December 2016. I urge you to spend some time reading the story featured on each tree to better understand the needs of those around us and why it is important for us to continue to lend them a helping hand. On behalf of Community Chest, Singapore Red Cross Society and all our beneficiaries, I would like to thank everyone here for your support towards building a more inclusive society.
7. Thank you and enjoy your evening ahead.