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**SPEECH BY MR GOH GEOK KHIM, CHAIRMAN, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT HUB ON 27 JUNE 2013**

Mr Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister,

Your Excellencies, High Commissioners, Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives,

Distinguished guests, partners and friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

On behalf of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, the Singapore International Foundation, the Singapore Red Cross and Temasek Foundation, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the official opening of the International Involvement Hub, or I2Hub for short. We are indeed honoured to have so many of you, our distinguished partners and friends, with us this evening.

2 For many of us here, this space is a labour of love - a project that has borne fruit after many years of planning and coordination. The idea of creating a shared community space was presented to Temasek Foundation in 2008. We seized the opportunity and began to develop this idea of creating a physical hub from which we can encourage more Singaporeans to make a difference in the region. We are pleased that our three esteemed partners – the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, the Singapore International Foundation and the Singapore Red Cross agreed to join us and be part of the I2Hub family. This is because our partners are Singapore organisations that are significant players in the area of international development and humanitarian work.

3           The Singapore Institute of International Affairs inspires Singaporeans to be more global-minded through seminars, dialogues and research which raise awareness of regional and international issues that impact Singapore and the world. The Singapore International Foundation brings world communities together to do good - by harnessing the energy and passion of volunteers, professionals, youth and artists who share knowledge, skills, experience and resources to support the uplifting of lives in communities. The Singapore Red Cross is dedicated to aid the vulnerable, to alleviate human suffering, to protect lives and dignity, to respond to emergencies, so as to build a world of empowered, resilient communities. Temasek Foundation supports the development of human and social capital of communities in Asia. We believe that the work of the four partners will collectively contribute to a more prosperous, a more connected world that is built on partnerships, collaborations and friendships.

4           As you can see, the areas of work of the four organisations are complementary and there is great synergy to be realised. It is therefore fitting and natural for us to be co-located in the I2Hub. We hope that the I2Hub will encourage more Singaporeans to make a difference in the region and the world. In tandem with this launch, a line-up of events featuring public seminars and information-sharing sessions have been specially put together. We encourage all of you to participate in the events.

5           On behalf of all the four partner organisations, I would like to thank all our partners and friends who have contributed to the setting up the hub. I would like extend my deepest appreciation to our Guest of Honour, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh for taking the time to grace the opening ceremony. ESM Goh has been a long-time champion and advocate of Singaporeans being more involved contributing to the regional and global communities. We share in his vision and will work towards realising it. We would also like to thank the following organisations that have journeyed with us to set up this hub:

- To CapitaMall Trust for making this space available to us;
- To the Economic Development Board for endorsing the concept, providing inputs and supporting our plans;
- To the Urban Redevelopment Authority for approving our plans.

Once again, thank you very much.

6            We look forward to working with all of you to help the I2Hub serve its role in Singapore. To all of you, our distinguished guests, thank you for taking the time to honour us with your presence.

7            Thank you.