

**SPEECH BY MR TEE TUA BA, SINGAPORE RED CROSS CHAIRMAN AT
THE SINGAPORE RED CROSS AWARDS CEREMONY
6 OCTOBER 2015, RED CROSS HOME FOR THE DISABLED**

President Tony Tan Keng Yam

Distinguished members of the Diplomatic Corps

Award Recipients, Volunteers, Partners

Honoured Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning. A very warm welcome to the 3rd Singapore Red Cross Awards Ceremony.

On behalf of the Singapore Red Cross, I wish to express our deepest appreciation to President Tony Tan Keng Yam, Patron of the Singapore Red Cross for joining us today. Thank you, Mr President for your support to our humanitarian mission through the years.

The Singapore Red Cross is part of the global Red Cross Movement, and at the heart of the Movement is its volunteers. From the birth of the idea more than 150 years ago, the goal of our founder Henri Dunant was to mobilise ordinary men and women to serve the humanitarian need of the day - helping the wounded and the dying in violent conflicts. Over the next 150 years, the Red Cross has grown to serve the most vulnerable in many challenging circumstances, with a presence in almost every country in the world. Although the work has become more complex and varied, the heart and soul of the Red Cross Movement, remains its volunteers.

Today, we are happy to honour our dedicated volunteers and friends. Each has made significant contributions to our work both locally and overseas, which in turn has led to the growth of the Singapore Red Cross in fulfilling its

mission. Without them and other volunteers and partners, we would not have successfully implemented many humanitarian programmes - to help the elderly and the disabled, to provide transportation to the mobility challenged, to ensure that a person requiring blood transfusion has safe and adequate blood, and to help devastated communities recover from disasters that have struck them. We have touched lives in these vulnerable communities because of the generosity and dedication of our volunteers and partners. Today, we are here to honour and thank them for their generous contributions and to celebrate their magnanimous and giving spirit.

Let me take a moment to recognise the contributions of our Distinguished and Outstanding Service Awards recipients. They are prime examples of 'professional' (or skills based) volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise - in management, in mentorship, in networking, especially in the fields they are proficient in.

- Mr Chris Liew was formerly the Accountant-General of Singapore, who upon his retirement continues to serve the Red Cross as a volunteer. In all, he has served the Singapore Red Cross for over 20 years in different financial capacities.
- Ms Rose Tan is a public relations guru who has provided counsel to the Society in brand and communications for almost a decade.
- Mr Charles Ng is a Management consultant who made significant contributions to the robust HR system that we have in place today.
- Dr David Roy Paul is a doctor who served on the Council from the mid 1970s well into the 1990s, and thereafter, as a member on the Red Cross Home for the Disabled Management Committee.

Together with our Council and Committee Members past and present, they have provided their time and expertise to consolidate the position of Singapore Red Cross as leading humanitarian organisation in Singapore, and a responsible and accountable charity. It is the contributions of these

professionals and specialists, serving in various capacities in various committees, which has enabled us to achieve a high level of competence and governance, including earning the prestigious Charity Governance Award in 2013.

The Singapore Red Cross has always strived to build strong partnerships with corporations and institutions to further the humanitarian cause. A key mission of the SRC, as the national blood donor recruiter, has been to help ensure a safe and adequate supply of blood to meet all the transfusion needs in Singapore. Our partnership with Health Sciences Authority is an important and vital one, and it has grown from strength to strength. We wish to recognise two good friends from HSA: Dr Clarence Tan and Dr Diana Teo. Dr Tan and Dr Teo were instrumental in birthing and then developing the relationship into a successful and vibrant partnership that has become model to emulate for other blood banks around the world. Dr Tan and Dr Teo will both be conferred the Singapore Red Cross Outstanding Service Award.

The work of Singapore Red Cross reaches beyond our shores. Our disaster response efforts, as well as, our collaboration for capacity building with our sister National Societies, have helped position Singapore Red Cross as one of the leading National Societies in the region for international work. In the last two years, we have grown another wing in our international work - close collaboration with International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross. Besides working together in major disaster response efforts, both the IFRC and the ICRC under the respective regional leadership of Mr Jagan Chapagain and Mr Jeremy England, have provided support towards growing Singapore Red Cross as a thought leader in humanitarian work and a regional hub for humanitarian training. With this strong foundation laid, we are confident that our relationship with the IFRC and ICRC will continue to grow. For initiating and providing guidance for these

important collaborative efforts, we are awarding Mr Chapagain and Mr England the Singapore Red Cross Distinguished Service Award.

Our efforts in developing the youth and preparing them for a lifetime of humanitarian service and leadership will continue to be a key priority for Singapore Red Cross. I am therefore particularly heartened that we are awarding the Singapore Red Cross President's Youth Award to three very outstanding young people: Han Wan Chee, Joey Lee Jia Yi, Aluquin Dominique Anne Suratos. You must aspire to continue your humanitarian journey and emerge as the humanitarian leaders of tomorrow. Put your Red Cross training to good use and continue the good work you have started.

I wish to thank all the Award Recipients for their dedication and passion in advancing the mission of the Singapore Red Cross. We appreciate your years of unstinting service and the personal sacrifices that you have made along the way. To our partners receiving the Friends of the Singapore Red Cross awards, I wish to thank you all for your immense contributions over the years. With your solid support of time, skills and resources, you too become the beacon of hope for our beneficiaries.

With all of your support, we can strive for excellence, as we continue this mission of empowering lives, fortifying community resilience, serving humanity and saving lives.

Thank you.