Remarks by
Ms Denise Phua, Mayor for Central Singapore District
At the Launch of SMU GROW

6 January 2015

Professor Arnoud De Meyer, President of SMU;

Staff, Faculty, Students of SMU;

Members of the Alumni of SMU;

Business Partners and Supporters of SMU GROW;

Media and Friends

Thank you for coming down this morning to mark this simple yet significant event.

Today, as a combined community, we pledge to grow and build a caring society through the launch of SMU GROW – an initiative led by the Singapore Management University to grow a garden of food for the community. As you would have heard in the earlier speeches and opening remarks, this initiative signals a major step for the university as it seeks to transform its education where social good is at the very heart of one's academic pursuit.

The garden is by no means large in relation to the needs of the many out there who would enjoy its produce. But it is the spirit of the effort, of bringing together people from all walks of life as 'gardeners', tending to the plants and soil so that others can be fed. It is a spirit that carries the key message, "a life is lived meaningfully, when lived for the good of others".

I am happy to be here today to share this moment with you, but more importantly, to be here to inspire more to grow with this initiative. May the seeds sown in this garden

also grow in the gardens within each of us, as we grow towards being a more caring and giving society.

Thank you.

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