

**Speech by SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer at the
ARA Asset Management – Lim Hoon Foundation Appreciation Event**

Date: 2 October 2017

Time: 11.45am-2.00pm

Venue: SMU Law School, Function Room 4.02 (Cantilever)

A very warm welcome to Mr John Lim, Mr Andy Lim, the Management Teams from ARA Asset Management and Lim Hoon Foundation, Mr Timothy Chia, member of SMU Board of Trustees, ARA and Lim Hoon Foundation scholars, faculty, staff of SMU, ladies and gentlemen.

Today marks another milestone in the partnership and friendship between ARA Asset Management, Lim Hoon Foundation and SMU.

The ARA Asset Management and Lim Hoon Foundation Scholarship programme at SMU started with a \$60,000 gift in 2009 to fund three students for their four-year study at SMU. It has now grown into a committed endowment fund of \$4 million, including the dollar for dollar match by the Singapore government. To date, a total of 28 scholars have benefited from your gift, of which 18 have graduated. And out of the 28, I believe we have 17 of them here to celebrate this special occasion - 7 alumni and 10 current scholars. I would like to ask the current and alumni scholars to please stand and join me in extending a round of applause to John, Andy, their families and the management teams.

The tremendous support by ARA and Lim Hoon Foundation to the scholars have lightened the burden on their families and ensured they can fully benefit from the holistic educational experience here at SMU. Our Emcee and Lim Hoon Foundation Scholar Gary, who is in his second year of study, spent a semester on exchange at Harvard University recently, thanks to your kind support. And I am delighted to hear that all the alumni scholars are fully employed and working towards fulfilling their career goals.

Today, we are very pleased and grateful to receive your endowed gift of an additional \$1million which will go towards supporting 12 scholars per year in perpetuity, up from the current eight scholars. The scholarship value for each recipient has also increased to \$40,000 to support each scholar's four years of study at SMU. Your kind and generous support will take our students on an educational journey that is enriching, far-reaching and relevant.

As philanthropists, the vision of John and Andy of using one's wealth to contribute to the growth of society is most inspiring. You have mentioned to me many times when we have met that setting up scholarships is more than signing a cheque. Your many unique initiatives and continuing efforts to engage the scholars exemplify your desire to impart values and change lives. Through the internship placements at your company which is available to every scholar, you have helped us provide real-world exposure and valuable industry experience to our students. You have strongly encouraged your scholars to form the Scholars and Alumni network and are helping fund their activities. This is a wonderful support network to the new scholars and for the alumni scholars to stay connected after graduation. Both the current and alumni scholars have come together to embark on meaningful community outreach activities. In addition, the entrepreneurship fund which you have set up to help budding entrepreneurs amongst the scholars, and the many company activities to facilitate mentoring and corporate networking, have been truly outstanding and remarkable.

These initiatives by ARA and Lim Hoon Foundation go a long way in helping to build the character of our students and foster a sense of social responsibility not only when they are students at SMU, but more importantly, long after they graduate. I am confident that you will find amongst our scholars many (if not all) who will continue the good work and contribute to society even after they graduate.

Let me end by once again expressing our sincere appreciation to John and Andy, and to the management teams at ARA and Lim Hoon Foundation, for your steadfast support and belief in SMU over the last nine years. Your partnership and encouragement have

contributed to the growth and development of SMU. We look forward to continuing this meaningful partnership with John, Andy, ARA and Lim Hoon Foundation.

Thank you.