

**Welcome remarks by SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer
at The Ngee Ann Kongsi Postgraduate Scholarship in Social Sciences
Presentation Ceremony**

27 April 2015 (Wednesday), 4.00pm, Li Ka Shing Library, Quiet Area

A very warm welcome to Mr Tan Kien Lip, President of The Ngee Ann Kongsi,
Committee members of The Ngee Ann Kongsi,
Distinguished guests,
Students and colleagues from SMU,
Ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon.

We are honoured and privileged to host the committee members and guests from The Ngee Ann Kongsi at SMU today to mark a very meaningful gift from the Kongsi.

Today, three of our postgraduate students pursuing the Master of Tri-Sector Collaboration Programme will be the inaugural recipients of The Ngee Ann Kongsi Postgraduate Scholarship in Social Sciences. The Kongsi, with typical foresight and generosity, has established this Scholarship in recognition of the need for more trained professionals and to attract talent to join the social services sector. This gift is especially meaningful to SMU as it demonstrates the shared vision between the Kongsi and SMU in educating and nurturing the next generation of leaders for Singapore. I would like to congratulate the inaugural Scholarship recipients, and convey our sincere appreciation to The Ngee Ann Kongsi for their generosity.

When the Master of Tri-sector Collaboration Programme was first launched about two years ago, we received applications from outstanding candidates looking to join the programme to advance their career in social services, but lacked the financial means to do so. SMU extended funding to some of these students. This postgraduate scholarship by The Ngee Ann Kongsi will further our efforts in ensuring that no deserving students

misses out on the opportunity to embark on a postgraduate education at SMU because of financial need.

SMU and The Ngee Ann Kongsi have a close and longstanding relationship stretching back to 2007 when SMU became the first university in Singapore to receive an endowed contribution from the Kongsi and named an auditorium and lecture series after them, namely The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium and the Ngee Ann Kongsi Lecture Series.

As you all know, the SMU School of Law building will be opened next year. A key feature of the new law building is the Kwa Geok Choo Law Library to which The Ngee Ann Kongsi has made a generous donation. It will be a rich repository of knowledge resource and will provide a comprehensive collection to support the teaching and legal research needs of the SMU School of Law. The Kwa Geok Choo Top Law Student Award set up by The Ngee Ann Kongsi has inspired many law students to strive for a holistic and enriching education at SMU.

We are very glad that The Ngee Ann Kongsi shares SMU's vision and mission. The award of The Ngee Ann Kongsi Post-Graduate Scholarships in Social Sciences to our three MTSC students today demonstrates the strong and collaborative relationship between SMU and The Ngee Ann Kongsi, as well as the quality and rigour of our MTSC programme, which is the first of its kind in the world.

On behalf of SMU, I would like to once again express our sincere appreciation to The Ngee Ann Kongsi for your generosity and contribution to SMU. We look forward to the continued support from The Kongsi so that current and future generations of SMU students would continue to benefit from this fruitful and impactful partnership.

Thank you very much.