

SPEECH BY MR RICHARD MAGNUS – CHAIRMAN OF TEMASEK CARES, TO LAUNCH THE TEMASEK CARES -TRANSITION TO WORK PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 22 February 2013 AT BIZLINK CENTRE

Good morning,

Mr Tan Chuan Jin, Acting Minister for Manpower and Senior Minister of State for National Development

Mr Alvin Lim, CEO of Bizlink Centre

Representatives from Northlight School, Assumption Pathway School, Employers, the media and friends

1. Thank you for taking time to be with us today to launch the Temasek Cares – Transition To Work Programme. This pilot programme is a key initiative by Temasek Cares to help disadvantaged students and those with special needs.

Meeting a Social Gap

2. Each year more than 300 students graduate from Northlight and Assumption Pathway schools. Although they did not do well during their PSLE exams, the students have picked themselves up and made the most of their second chance. Most encouragingly, many of them have been offered employment opportunities. The 9 companies who offered these employment opportunities are present today. They are:

1.Billy Bombers 2.Remnant Holding 3.NTUC Fairprice 4.Siloso Beach Resort 5.Jew Kit Excellent Food 6.Home-Fix DIY 7.DAISO INDUSTRIES 8.Holiday Inn Singapore Orchard City Centre, and 9. Paradise Group Holdings

3. These young graduates face a new set of challenges when they enter the workplace. For example, those with learning needs may need

more time and training to adapt to the new environment. Younger graduates may need guidance and counseling to overcome social, workplace and family issues. Such issues are currently not well addressed by existing employment programmes, which cater mainly to older adults and are focused only on job placement.

First-of-its-kind Programme (Pioneer)

4. The Temasek Cares-Transition To Work Programme was established to meet this gap in the landscape for reintegration of people with special needs.
5. It is the first programme of its kind to offer holistic employment support to young disadvantaged graduates. Under the programme, counsellors and specialists will journey together with the graduates and help them learn their job, work with colleagues and supervisors as well as balance their personal and family needs.
6. The programme is only made possible because of the close collaboration of the many community partners with Temasek Cares, such as the schools, Bizlink, and the employers. Thank you for helping to make a greater social impact.

TC Support for Schools

7. The programme complements many other initiatives by Temasek Cares to help disadvantaged children from Northlight and Assumption Pathway schools. These include equine therapy for improving social and communication skills, specialists and therapists for those with reading and speech deficiencies, continuing education and networking for alumni, bursaries for financially needy families and family social work for disadvantaged families.

Conclusion

8. In conclusion, I hope that students and graduates from Northlight and Assumption Pathway Schools can benefit from this programme by learning on the job and continue to grow to be self-independent and resilient in your jobs.
9. Lastly, a big thank you to Bizlink for organizing today's event.
10. Thank you, and wishing everyone a blessed Chinese New Year!