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**SPEECH BY DR LEE BOON YANG, CHAIRMAN OF SPH AND SPH FOUNDATION, AT THE SPH AND SPH FOUNDATION VIRTUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY 2020, HELD ON MONDAY, 27 JULY 2020, AT 3.00 PM**

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2020 SPH and SPH Foundation Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

Owing to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we are compelled to hold this awards presentation by a virtual ceremony. This is to better ensure the safety and health of our colleagues, award recipients and their families.

I would like to start by offering my heartiest congratulations to all scholarship recipients and their parents. You have excelled in your studies and we are delighted to provide some support as you progress on to the next stage of your education. Despite the uncertainties that swirl around us currently, you should focus on your studies. Armed with a good education, your future will be bright and fruitful.

Role of media amid Covid-19 pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about unprecedented and unimagined changes to our lives. No one has been spared the impact of this pandemic. Young or old, we all face some disruptions whether it is attending school or going to work.

The pandemic has also emphasised the important role of media in our life. Media provides credible news and information to the community. In fact, we are seeing an increase in subscriptions and readerships especially for our digital titles. More people are turning to trusted media sources for reliable information to cope with the uncertainties brought on by the coronavirus.

To fulfill our responsibility, our journalists have to work tirelessly to bring the latest news to our readers, whether it is on Covid-19 or the recently concluded General Elections. Of course, as they go about their critical work, they are also taking every precautions for their own safety and well-being. One of them is Timothy Goh from The Straits Times, a recipient of the SPH Journalism Scholarship in 2014. Timothy has been working on the frontline to provide timely updates on the coronavirus situation. His dedication serves as an inspiration for many colleagues. I hope that our two journalism scholars today will also embrace the same passion and commitment when they join the newsroom upon graduation.

#### Scholarships to children of SPH staff and newspaper vendors

This afternoon, we are also presenting 14 scholarships to the children of SPH staff and newspaper vendors. These awards serve as a form of recognition of the children's hard work and the loyal service of their parents to SPH.

One of them is Mr Tok Wee Tong from Production, whose two daughters, Dora and Doreen Tok, have been awarded the SPH scholarship for children of serving employees

under the Junior College and University category respectively. Congratulations to the Tok family and all other deserving recipients!

### Lim Kim San Memorial Scholarships

Even as SPH continues to tackle the challenges brought about by Covid-19, we will not lose sight of the needy in our community during such difficult times.

Today, we are presenting a total of 13 Lim Kim San Memorial Scholarships, sponsored by SPH Foundation. This award is given to deserving students who have shown fortitude and tenacity in overcoming personal challenges, and have demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding co-curricular activity records and active community work.

We hope that with this scholarship, you will be able to do better in your studies and at the same time remain actively involved in community service.

### Conclusion

Finally, I would like to once again congratulate all the scholarship recipients on behalf of SPH and SPH Foundation. I wish you every success in your studies and future careers!

Thank you.