

**SPEECH BY DR LEE BOON YANG,
CHAIRMAN, SPH AND SPH FOUNDATION
AT THE SPH AND SPH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
CEREMONY 2017 HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2017 AT 2.30 PM AT
THE SPH NEWS CENTRE AUDITORIUM**

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon and welcome to the annual SPH and
SPH Foundation Scholarship Awards Ceremony
2017.

Let me start by congratulating all scholarship
recipients. This year, we are presenting 4 journalism
scholarships, 16 scholarships to the children of SPH
staff and newspaper vendors and 12 Lim Kim San
Memorial Scholarships.

I would also like to congratulate all the parents
whose love, support and encouragement made

possible the scholarship recipients' outstanding performances.

The media industry transformed

Today most young people are familiar with Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp. I would not be surprised if our scholarship recipients are also very active on some if not all these social media platforms. Indeed media companies everywhere, including SPH, are facing increasing competition for audience time and attention, as well as preference for news through social media platforms.

Your interest in our scholarships gives us encouragement.

For the scholarship recipients, today marks the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship with SPH. Hence I like to briefly share with you our strategy to deal with the challenges from social media.

Faced with digital disruption, we had transformed our media business. We still publish and print newspapers. But we also offer our products and content on digital formats. Today you can read any of our newspapers online, via mobile anytime, anywhere and on any device. I may add it is not just read. We also offer videos. News is also delivered 24/7 with regular updates as each story develops. To complement our audience reach, we will have two new radio stations to add to our current three by the end of this year. We are a fully multi-media organisation.

Another dimension of our transformation is to diversify our business. Today, SPH is no longer just a newspaper publisher. Our business includes property, events and exhibitions and healthcare.

We are confident that with this transformation, SPH is well prepared and equipped to face the challenges from digital disruption. We will continue to provide Singaporeans with high quality media products and content. Our diversified businesses will contribute to the Group's growth in future.

Quality journalism is key

Even as we transform our business, we will not forget that SPH is fundamentally a media company. We will hold dear our commitment to quality and responsible journalism. The recent outbreaks of

"fake news" only serve to underscore the importance of this commitment to our readers and audience. We will continue to embrace innovation and change for our journalists to stay effective and relevant.

It is no longer enough to just report the facts.

Journalists have to dive deep into every story and ask tough questions. They have to carefully analyse every issue and offer valuable insights to readers.

With the prevalence of social media and emergence of fake news, anyone can create and share content and spread "alternate facts" easily. It is all the more important for journalists to provide readers with access to the facts and help them to analyse the implications of events and trends.

Spotlight on past SPH scholars

The SPH journalism scholarships have helped us discover talents with the potential and passion to become good journalists. I will introduce three of them today.

Danson Cheong, The Straits Times

Danson Cheong graduated from the Nanyang Technological University's Wee Kim Wee School of Communications and Information in 2014 with a degree in communication, majoring in journalism.

He is presently with The Straits Times Political Desk.

His memorable stories included the City Harvest court trial and the parking charges hike. He also won in-house editorial awards for his articles on the corruption probe of the General Manager of the Ang

Mo Kio Town Council, and an in-depth look into the government's car-lite push.

Danson believes that journalism has given him the chance to make a difference in people's lives.

Lim Zhan Ting, Lianhe Zaobao

Zhan Ting majored in social and cultural geography, with a minor in Chinese Studies at the National University of Singapore. He started on the crime beat at Lianhe Wanbao in 2013 before moving to the Lianhe Zaobao China Desk in 2016.

His was tasked with reopening ZB's Chongqing bureau which had been inactive for more than two years. As the sole correspondent, he had to build up his network from scratch. Being by nature

empathetic and sensitive to people from all walks of life, he has been able to seek out interesting stories from Chongqing.

Some of his recent stories included the unique skinny-dipping subculture in Chongqing and the emergence of mini-KTV booths around China.

Through his Chongqing experience, Zhan Ting is able to share with Singapore readers the distinctive culture and vibrancy of this bustling but under-reported Chinese megacity.

Wong Kang Wei, Shin Min Daily News

Like Danson, Kang Wei graduated from NTU with a major in journalism. He has been at Shin Min Daily News' crime and court beat for the last four years

and is also the assistant team leader for the daily's social media team. He had stints at Lianhe Zaobao's News Desk and Beijing bureau as well as the magazine U-Weekly.

One of Kang Wei's biggest stories was the Standard Chartered Bank robbery at Holland Village. He had flown to Bangkok overnight to follow up on the story's developments. He also covered the case of the China tour guide Yang Yin cheating wealthy widow Chung Khin Chin.

Kang Wei was also assigned to cover disaster reporting such as the Air Asia crash in Surabaya, Indonesia in January 2015; the Sabah Earthquake in June 2015 which claimed the lives of students from a Singapore primary school and the Erawan Shrine

bomb blast in Bangkok. These assignments imparted the importance of being compassionate to others while managing his own emotions as he pursued his story leads.

I understand that both Danson and Kang Wei are here today, while Zhan Ting is in Chongqing. Will Danson and Kang Wei please stand up to be acknowledged? Thank you and well done.

Scholarships to children of SPH staff and news vendors

As in past years, we will also be presenting scholarship awards to the children of SPH staff and newspaper vendors.

These scholarship awards acknowledge the academic achievements of the recipients, and also, the staff and news vendors who have contributed to SPH's success all these years.

This year, there are 6 junior college, 4 polytechnic and 6 university scholarship awards given out to the children of SPH staff and newspaper vendors.

I would like to congratulate the parents and their children for their academic achievements.

Lim Kim San Memorial Scholarships

This year marks the 12th year that we are presenting the Lim Kim San Memorial Scholarships, sponsored by the Singapore Press Holdings Foundation.

We are giving out 12 Lim Kim San Memorial scholarships. These deserving recipients were selected based on academic merit, participation in extra-curricular activities and community service work. They also displayed ambition, fortitude and ingenuity to qualify for the awards.

I am pleased to announce that we are awarding our 100th Lim Kim San Memorial scholarship recipient this year. We have also invited some of our past scholars to join us today.

Conclusion

The American author and educator Booker T Washington said: “The world cares very little about what a man or woman knows; it is what a man or woman is able to do that counts.”

The attainment of knowledge alone serves no purpose until the education gained is used to help lift others up and serve a greater good.

Finally to our scholars, attend to your studies.

Always strive to excel. Upon graduation, you should be mindful to use your knowledge and training to better yourself and society.

On behalf of SPH and SPH Foundation, congratulations and I wish all scholarship recipients and past recipients in attendance every success.

Thank you.