



SPEECH BY MR GOH ECK KHENG, CHAIRMAN OF THE SPEAK GOOD ENGLISH MOVEMENT AT THE SECOND INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON THURSDAY, 22 OCT 2009, 7.15 PM AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING

Mr S Iswaran, Senior Minister of State,
Ministry of Trade & Industry and Ministry of Education

Ms Ho Peng, Director General of Education,
Principals, Teachers, and Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Last year, at the inaugural Inspiring Teacher of English Award ceremony, we recognised 9 outstanding English Language teachers. We are here this evening to honour 10 others who inspire their students and who are role models to fellow teachers.

2. Of these, 2 are from primary schools, 5 from secondary schools and 3 from junior colleges and a pre-university centre.

3. More exemplary teachers will join these 19 each year. Thus, the Speak Good English Movement has plans to form an action group of Inspiring Teacher of English Award winners to tap their insights and skills. We want to make it possible for them

to share their passion and expertise not only with other teachers, but also to help the Movement inspire, impress and intoxicate the man on the street with good English.

4. Each of us who speaks fluent English can be an inspiring English teacher. By speaking it well and consistently, we create an environment where children hear good English spoken all the time. In this way, they are better able to imbibe the language. And not just children – we can also set standards for colleagues, friends and those we meet.

5. The world is our classroom, and we all know that we continue learning long after we leave school. In this world where English is used in business and to bridge cultures, we want to see Singapore sharpen its edge as a global city. We want to do this by ensuring that good English is spoken, heard and seen everywhere on our streets. We want to see the standard of English rise in Singapore.

6. The Speak Good English Movement would like all who speak English well to become role models of the language. Through teaching by example, we can inspire others to speak English better.

Thank you.