



**SPEECH BY MR GOH ECK KHENG, CHAIRMAN OF SPEAK GOOD ENGLISH
MOVEMENT AT THE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD 2010
CEREMONY AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING ON TUESDAY, 19 OCT
2010, 6:00 PM**

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

Ms Yeoh Chee Yan, Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, and
Chairman, National Library Board,

Ms Ho Peng, Director-General of Education, Ministry of Education

Principals, Teachers, and Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. The theme for this year's Speak Good English Movement is "Get It Right". The focus is on cultivating an environment where good English is widely spoken and heard. For this to happen, we need role models who use Standard English, so that those who are less proficient can learn and be inspired to improve.

2. Teachers are role models for their students, and the Inspiring Teacher of English Award recognises the influence of teachers in creating and maintaining an environment where good English is used in classrooms and schools. This year, 66 teachers of English Language, English Literature or General Paper were nominated for the Award. From the nomination forms, it was clear why many of them inspire their students and colleagues.

3. Tonight we honour 10 of the most outstanding teachers who have infectious enthusiasm, use innovative teaching methods and have the unique ability to ignite a love for the English language. They are truly inspiring teachers of English.

4. Like them, the partners of the Speak Good English Movement continue to find new and refreshing ways to engage the public. Here, I want to thank The Straits Times for co-organising the Award and the Ministry of Education for their support.

5. Besides co-organising this Award, The Straits Times has also started a new drive in its publication, Little Red Dot. The aim is to help young readers distinguish between grammatically correct English and broken English. They can also learn phonetics and pronunciation by using selected news excerpts. This will certainly make Little Red Dot an even more useful tool for learning English.

6. However, the learning of English should not be limited to classrooms. We can all work at using Standard English in canteens and staff rooms – everywhere in schools. Beyond schools, at home and in our everyday lives, the type of English we use will affect the English language environment of Singapore. Like the teachers being honoured tonight, we can all be role models of Standard English. Let's use good English and help others get it right.

Thank you.