

SPEECH BY DR TONY TAN KENG YAM, CHAIRMAN OF SPH AND SPH FOUNDATION, AT THE JOINT SPH AND SPH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY HELD ON THURSDAY, 17 JULY 2008 AT 3.00PM

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the presentation of the 2008 Singapore Press Holdings scholarships and Lim Kim San Memorial scholarships this afternoon.

As the leading media organisation delivering news and information across print, online, and broadcast platforms both in Singapore and beyond, quality journalism is vital to SPH's continued success.

The life of a journalist in today's fast-changing media landscape is exciting, challenging and rewarding. A career in journalism is like no other.

Speak to journalists and you will hear about the excitement of the job – from witnessing history being made and meeting dignitaries or celebrities, to visiting faraway places or tasting exotic food. Others describe the exhilaration of witnessing the world's major sporting events.

Just recently, our journalists who covered the Sichuan earthquake tragedy were commended for their good work. They trekked from one quake-hit area to another, filing touching human interest stories of love and determination. It was a life-changing assignment for them, as they were personally inspired by the victims' resilience and courage in the face of adversity.

I am pleased to be here today to present this year's SPH scholarship awards to seven bright and talented young people who have chosen journalism as a career. You will certainly have an exciting and rewarding career ahead of you.

I am also pleased to announce that for the first time, SPH's journalism scholarships will be open to undergraduates who are already into their second or third year of studies and we will award these in the later part of the year to some deserving candidates.

Providing mid term scholarships is another way for SPH to cast its net wider to seek out journalistic talent. This is important as there will be students who will develop their interest in journalism at some time during their university studies.

In fact, we are also offering scholarships to graduating university students who wish to pursue their Masters degree. We have one scholar today who is receiving such an award, and he is Derrick Ho Zhi Wen who will be pursuing his Master of Arts in Journalism at the University of Missouri, which developed the world's first journalism course in 1908.

While we invest in the future of SPH by identifying talents through our journalism scholarships, we have also not forgotten the contributions of our staff and news vendors who are the key partners to our success. We will be awarding to their children a total of 16 scholarships for studies at local universities, polytechnics, and junior colleges.

Today we will also be presenting the Lim Kim San Memorial scholarships sponsored by the Singapore Press Holdings Foundation.

The first scholarship awards were given out in 2006, aimed at promoting the study of languages, and awarded to needy students pursuing undergraduate studies in English language or the mother tongue at our local universities.

As with previous years' scholars, this year's four recipients have proven themselves academically and in their co-curricular activities despite their challenging family financial circumstances. We trust that the scholarship will provide them with much needed support to enable them to do even better in their studies and help them to eventually move on and establish successful careers.

It leaves me to congratulate all the scholars receiving their awards today and also their parents, who proudly witness this moment. I wish you every success in the road ahead.
