

## **SPEECH BY MRS LIM HWEE HUA, CHAIRMAN, SIMPDF AT THE SIMPDF STUDY AWARDS CEREMONY ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2022, SINGAPORE BUSINESS FEDERATION CENTRE**

Good evening, Board of Directors of the SIM People Development Fund or SIMPDF, Study Award recipients, guests, and friends.

I am heartened to be here in person to celebrate with the 31 recipients of our inaugural Study Awards (although not all are able to make it tonight). These Study Awards aim to provide financial assistance to needy and deserving students in their final year of undergraduate studies, to help empower their transition into the marketplace. It is our wish that our recipients will become Ambassadors who will pay it forward by inspiring hope and courage to others in similar situations.

A little background - SIMPDF was set up in 2020 with the goal of supporting Singaporeans from all walks of life through access to learning pathways and experiences. From young adults like our Study Awards recipients here today who are just starting out, to veterans in the workforce, SIMPDF provides opportunities to uncover one's potential and ultimately transform organisations.

Since March 2021, SIMPDF has been a registered charity with Institution of Public Character (IPC) status. We are governed by an independent board of 7 directors and I am pleased to have 3 of them here with us today – Mr Lam Yi Young, CEO of the Singapore Business Federation (who kindly opened up their office for the awards ceremony), Ms Kimsuka Narasimhan, Vice-President & Chief Financial Officer of Kimberly-Clark in Asia Pacific, and Mr Patrick Tay, Assistant Secretary-General from the

National Trades Union Congress and a Member of Parliament of the Pioneer Single Member Constituency. For completeness, the other directors who aren't able to join us are Mr Seah Chin Siong, Mr Chia Tai Tee and Mr Steven Phan.

SIMPDF's vision is to successfully bridge opportunities for Singaporeans to fully participate in the economy and our mission is to enable Singaporeans to participate in the ever-changing marketplace by realising the potential of their life skills through access to learning pathways.

We are different from most other charities in that we adopt a start-up approach. In other words, we are comfortable with uncertainty, and we explore various initiatives to help Singaporeans thrive through life, employment and challenges. Adopting a targeted approach, our initiatives are supported by research, and serve to fill the gaps that are not addressed in mainstream programmes.

In all that we do, we desire to know those we help – their names, faces and backgrounds - and journey with them in upskilling and living out their fullest potential. It is for this reason that we are gathered here this evening to celebrate our first major milestone and to cheer our recipients on, no matter how tough the going may be, now or in the future.

Have an enjoyable evening!

Thank you.