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**SPEECH BY DR HENRY TAY
CHAIRMAN OF
THE WORLD GOURMET SUMMIT (WGS) CHARITY
DINNER ORGANISING COMMITTEE
AT THE
WGS CHARITY DINNER 2010
THURSDAY, 15 APRIL 2010, 7.00PM
SHANGRI-LA HOTEL**

**Mr Wong Kan Seng,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs,**

Friends of Community Chest

Good Evening. A warm welcome to the World Gourmet Summit Charity Dinner 2010. As we eagerly anticipate the wonderful gastronomic experience to come shortly, allow me a few minutes to thank some well deserved individuals and corporations that have contributed to today's charity dinner.

2 I would first like to thank the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Wong Kan Seng, for gracing tonight's event. I would also like to

congratulate and thank the organiser, Peter Knipp Holdings Pte Ltd for holding this Charity Dinner and supporting Community Chest for the 10th year.

3 My sincere thanks to all of you who have purchased tables for tonight's dinner or made an outright donation in support of Community Chest. I see some of you have been supporting the World Gourmet Summit Charity Dinner and Community Chest faithfully through the years, and for many of you, this is your 10th year of support. We are indeed very grateful for your generosity. Special thanks also to the chefs who have prepared the feast tonight, without which the dinner would not have been possible.

Supporting the Community

4 The funds raised this evening will go towards supporting **critical social service programmes** under the care of Community Chest. These programmes are:-

- (1) provide an education for children with special needs;
- (2) keep families in need together;

(3) dignify the lives of frail, lonely elderly and;

(4) help people with disabilities lead independent lives.

5 An example would be the MINDS IDEA Employment Development Centre, which provides vocational training, sheltered employment, as well as training in social skills for people with intellectual disabilities, aged 16 years and above. It prepares them for employment and integration into mainstream society. Some of the art pieces that they have done specially for World Gourmet Summit will be put up for auction tonight.

6 Your generous support has also enabled beneficiaries from the various charities to overcome their adversity and develop their potential. Despite being visually impaired, Siti Sakinah and Benjamin Tan from Lighthouse School are given the opportunity to develop their talent in music and to play the piano. They will be performing two piano pieces for us tonight.

7 Ye Hui Qi, who has cerebral palsy, has been with the Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) TEACH ME programme since she was five years old. She benefitted from the physiotherapy and counseling sessions. An Educational Guidance Officer was also assigned to monitor her progress in studies. As recognition for her good results, Hui Qi was one of the three recipients who were awarded the "Be with Me" scholarship for her tertiary education. She will be reciting a poem to express her appreciation to all the guests here tonight for your generous donations, her counselors and tutors of the AWWA TEACH ME programme who have played a critical part in guiding and educating her. On a personal note, I appreciate the heart-breaking challenges of looking after someone suffering from cerebral palsy. Our eldest daughter, Michelle was born with severe cerebral palsy, and she was not as fortunate as Hui Qi, and passed away at the age of nine. Tomorrow, 16th April, will be her 30th death anniversary.

Highlights of the night

8 I urge you to continue supporting this evening's charity dinner by participating actively and giving generously during the auction, which will be held later tonight. This year, for the first time, we will be holding a live auction besides a silent auction. Some of the interesting auction items include :-

- (1) an exclusive customized Leica Ala Carte camera;
- (2) an exquisite Swarovski Crystal studded coffee machine;
- (3) a Mont Blanc special edition writing instrument;
- (4) a Frederique Constant watch by The Hour Glass;
- (5) and many bottles, magnum, double magnum of the finest French wine – donated by many generous and anonymous donors.

9 You may wish to note that every dollar you donate to Community Chest will go towards funding social service programmes, as fund-raising costs are covered mainly by Tote Board & Singapore Pools (Private) Limited.

Conclusion

10 I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the members of the Organising Committee - Ms Jennie Chua, Mr Eric Ang and Mr Richard Sim - who have been zealously drumming support among their network to raise funds for tonight's charity dinner. To-date, we have raised \$354,000 versus our record in 2008 of \$420,000. So, friends of Community Chest – open your hearts and empty your wallets, and let's show that not only we CARE but we also want to SHARE.

11 In conclusion, let me thank you once again for all your generous support and donations and for taking time to attend tonight's dinner. Now, let the feast begin! Bon appetit!