

# SPEECH

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**WELCOME REMARKS BY PROFESSOR CHUA KEE CHAING, PRESIDENT, SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AT THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FORWARD CITIZEN INITIATIVE ON FRIDAY, 13 JANUARY 2023, 11:00 AM AT FUNCTION ROOM, SIT@DOVER.**

**Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Second Minister for Education;**

**Mr Xie Yao Quan, Chief Executive Officer, Quantedge Foundation;**

**Directors of Quantedge Foundation;**

**Distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,**

- 1. Good morning and a warm welcome to SIT. We are very honoured today to have Minister Maliki as our Guest-of-Honour, and I thank everyone for joining us this morning for the launch of SIT's Forward SITizen Initiative.**
- 2. Conceived in support of the Forward Singapore exercise, which was launched by Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in June last year to set out a road map to refresh the social compact in Singapore, SIT's very own Forward SITizen Initiative is designed to make possible full tuition-fee support for the most financially needy of our undergraduate students.**

- 3. Almost half of SIT's students are the first in their families to attend university and many come from low-income households. The most financially needy of our students are typically Singaporean undergraduate students living in smaller HDB flats, with a monthly household per capita income not exceeding \$690. This group of students, while already eligible for the \$6,200 Higher Education Community Bursary from the Government, need additional support with the cost of their university education.**
- 4. To help them cover their full tuition fees, SIT has been actively seeking donations from our benefactors and well-wishers. Thus far, six donors have come forward to support our Forward SITizen Initiative with endowed gifts totalling \$8.7 million. These will allow us to help the most financially needy of our students, starting from the first-year cohort of Academic Year 2023.**
- 5. Our donors include The Quantedge Foundation, which has gifted SIT an endowment of \$3 million as seed funding to anchor the Forward SITizen Initiative. Five other donors, all staunch supporters of SIT students since 2013, have also pledged to support through the following bursaries and study grant, namely Dou Yee Enterprises Bursary, Kewalram Chanrai Group Bursary, KKH**

**Bursary, Kwai Fong & Raymond Goh Study Grant, and Wilmar Bursary.**

- 6. The Forward SITizen Initiative is SIT's most ambitious undertaking to level the playing field for our needy students thus far by ensuring that a quality SIT education is within their reach.**
- 7. For these students who just need that extra bit of financial assistance to realise their full potential, the Forward SITizen Initiative will be pivotal in transforming the future for them as well as their families.**
- 8. SIT deeply appreciates the generous support of our donors, and our goal is to continue working with our donors to raise the necessary funds for the Forward SITizen Initiative. We look forward to seeing more donors come forward to grow this initiative in the years to come.**
- 9. On behalf of SIT, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to our donors present today for their generous donations to make possible this new and to me, a very meaningful initiative of our university. Thank you!**

*483 words, estimated runtime – 3~4 mins*