

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR SIM GIM GUAN,  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE  
AT SSI CAREER AND EDUCATION FAIR -  
GROW YOUR FUTURE WITH THE SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR  
SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2015**

Ms Low Yen Ling, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, and  
Ministry of Trade and Industry

Dr Ang Seng Bin, Vice President, NCSS

Mr Ng Cher Pong, Chief Executive, the Singapore Workforce  
Development Agency

Partners in social service,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. Welcome to 'Grow your Future with the Social Service Sector', organised by the Social Service Institute (SSI) in collaboration with the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA). I am happy to see many of you here today. I understand that while we have a number of people who are currently working within the social service sector, the majority do not currently work within the sector. This morning, as the event title aptly describes, we want to let you know that SSI will help you grow your future in the social service sector. SSI, the human capital development arm of the National Council of Social Service, provides one-stop human capital solution

for the sector, enabling professionals to network, develop and build their careers.

2. The social service sector is an important sector, requiring competent professionals to truly make a difference to our society. Sector professionals must possess the conviction to serve in the community and take on a client-centric approach in providing professional help. Social work professionals need to be strong communicators to hold insightful and meaningful dialogues with client groups. Additionally, excellent time-management, organisational and information management skills are needed for this role. Above all, these qualities must be balanced by compassion, empathy and resilience to overcome challenges. In the last 4 years, the sector's workforce has increased significantly, giving us a sector of about 13,000 strong today. This figure will be even larger, if we include VWO employees looking after intermediate and long-term care functions under healthcare.

3. The social work profession is a fulfilling career choice as it provides you with the unique combination of purpose, power and action to make a difference to society. It develops your strengths, knowledge and ability to make a significant impact in the lives of individuals, on families and the community. Last month, Minister Tan Chuan-Jin launched a book 'Nurturing Career, Inspiring Lives' that showcases 10 stories of aspiring social workers on what encourages them to pursue a career in the sector. Please feel free to get a copy of this book from SSI booth outside.

4. SSI, a Continuing Education and Training (CET) centre appointed by WDA, offers competency-based certifiable training for sector professionals and new entrants. Today, we are launching two new Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications programmes in Social Service, details of which will be shared later. These two programmes

are articulated to UniSIM Bachelor of Social Work. While you are completing the two WSQ programmes, you can assume roles as Social Work Associates and Social Service Assistants. Experienced professionals, who are interested to take up leadership roles within the social service organisations, can apply to join in the “Sun-Ray” scheme. This scheme is administered by NCSS to attract, retain and develop quality manpower at the leadership level. These leaders, with the breadth and depth of experience will be groomed through exposure across the entire sector, and the understanding at both policy-making and execution levels.

5. You may also have heard about SkillsFuture, which was announced in Budget 2015. Various initiatives are also available for the social service sector. SkillsFuture embodies the spirit of lifelong learning, respect for skills in every job, and celebrating the skills and growth of every individual, no matter their background, age or qualifications. Singaporeans can look forward to tapping on the SkillsFuture Study Awards to support their studies. More details of the awards will be released in due course.

6. I would like to take this opportunity to thank WDA for their support of this event. SSI will continue to work with WDA to enhance the competencies of the sector professionals and new entrants, and expand the sector’s body of knowledge in its role as a one-stop human capital solution centre for the social service sector. I urge you to make full use of the Institute’s resources and learning platforms to grow your future with the sector.

7. I encourage everyone present to seize the opportunity to learn more about the social service sector, and the enriching career opportunities it presents. On this note, I wish everyone an enjoyable and fruitful time at today’s event.