



**SINGAPORE COMPACT
FOR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NVPC CHAIRMAN RADM (RET) KWEK SIEW JIN AT THE
OPENING OF THE INAUGURAL CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND
NATIONAL VOLUNTEERISM & PHILANTHROPY 2006 CONFERENCE ON 13 JULY 2006
AT SUNTEC SINGAPORE**

Our Guest of Honour, Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth & Sports.

Mr Niam Chiang Meng, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports

My Conference Co-Chair, Ms Claire Chiang, President, Singapore Compact for CSR

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now that we have put the 2006 World Cup safely behind us, welcome back to the real world and the serious business of giving in Singapore. Welcome to NVPC's National Volunteerism & Philanthropy Conference 2006.

This year, we have taken the adventurous step of partnering with Singapore Compact for Corporate Social Responsibility to co-present their Inaugural CSR conference on the same platform as ours. In so doing, we are jointly sending out a strong message on collaboration – that indeed, two are better than one in many areas of our work.

We will not pretend it was an easy ride. Effective partnerships are not made in heaven. They are painstakingly, and even painfully, worked out by mortals here on earth, each with his or her own mission and agenda to promote. But if all eyes are on the goal, which in this case is delivering a conference that speaks to your needs around the whole business of giving, whether you are from the people, public or private sector, then differences can be resolved and solutions arrived at which surpass ideas arrived at alone.

In arriving at the conference theme, this idea of doing good well was the compelling message for the non-profit sector following the charity sector shake up of 2005. It is not



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enough just to do good. We have to do a good job of doing well, if we are to sustain donor and volunteer interest. From that, it was an easy step away to consider how companies could, on their part, not just do well in their business, but also do good in the process. This is the unifying theme of our 2 in 1 conference, and you will be in for a rich 2 days ahead, thanks to our speakers, panelists and other contributors, both near and far.

It leaves me now to also thank MOS Yu-Foo Yee Shoon for opening the conference, MCYS for their constant support, our co-organising partner Singapore Compact, all volunteers, donors, sponsors and supporters for coming together to get this ambitious conference going. It has attracted some 500 participants. We could not have done it without the support of you all.

Thank you and please make the most of these 2 days.

Kwek Siew Jin
Chairman
National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre