Good evening.

I would like to thank you for joining us to honour the Extraordinary and Landmark Gift from the Estate of the late Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat to the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore. This Major Gift of $80 million will be matched, dollar for dollar, by the Singapore Government, bringing the total sum to $160 million. We are gathered here this evening to witness the signing of this Gift, and to express
our profound gratitude to the Trustees of the Estate, and the family of
the late Tan Sri Khoo, many of whom are here tonight.

We are also commemorating a second important milestone for the
GMS. Our Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Education, Mr Tharman, will
be sharing the details with us later in his speech.

The GMS was established in April 2005 as a partnership between the
Duke University School of Medicine, and the National University of
Singapore, to offer a 4-year graduate-entry medical programme
leading to a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree.

The GMS’ aims are two-fold: to be a leading medical school in Asia
training excellent doctors and biomedical researchers, and to work
closely with Duke and Singapore researchers to power Singapore’s
biomedical research initiatives.

Being a graduate school, it will admit outstanding students with a
diversity of backgrounds and degree majors. These students will
undergo the unique Duke curriculum, which has a strong emphasis
on research. The result will be the clinician-scientist, at home with
clinical care delivery, as well as biomedical research.

With the strong support from the Duke University School of Medicine,
which is one of the top medical research institutions in the world, and
working closely with other Singapore-based researchers, the GMS aims to play a large role in Singapore’s biomedical science initiatives. In particular, GMS would pursue research that will contribute to the translation of basic science discoveries into new treatments and cutting-edge therapies.

In this regard, the very generous gift from the Estate of the late Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat will provide a tremendous boost to the GMS. The intention is for the major part of this gift to be used by GMS to nurture and support talented LOCAL biomedical researchers linked to GMS, and develop world-class research programmes in areas that are of particular importance to Singapore. The expansion and strengthening of our local biomedical and clinical research talent pool is critical to the success of the biomedical sciences initiative and the development of innovative, new and better therapies.

Since its inception in 2005, the GMS has made remarkable progress.

A strong management team is in place, to develop the medical curriculum and to ensure its smooth implementation for our inaugural intake of students in August 2007.

The GMS has been actively recruiting faculty. Working closely with Duke University and NUS, and mindful of Singapore’s biomedical
strategy, we have developed a rigorous academic appointment system. To date, 12 faculty have been appointed, with more under active consideration. We believe that these faculty members add substantially to the pool of quality academic and research talent in Singapore.

The GMS is working to develop four Signature Programs in Infectious Diseases, Cancer and Stem Cell Biology, Neurobehavioural Disorders, and Cardiovascular & Metabolic Disorders. These programmes will attract internationally renowned scientists, as well as identify and develop a new generation of researchers in Singapore.

The GMS dedicated the site of its new permanent home in state-of-the-art buildings on the Outram Campus on September 1 2006. We are on track to have the GMS building completed and ready by 2009.

And we will soon have students. The GMS has received applications from all around the world. 70 have been shortlisted for interview on the basis of excellent Grade Point Average and MCAT aptitude scores. An inaugural batch of 25 will receive offers soon, and begin their studies in August 2007.

The rapid progress that the GMS has made to date, has been possible only because of the commitment, leadership and hard work
of numerous individuals and their institutions. Due to constraints of time, I can only highlight a small number.

A very critical factor is the strong, active and sustained commitment and leadership from the Duke University. In particular, GMS has really benefited from the leadership and hard work of the Chancellor for Health Affairs, Dr Victor Dzau and Dr Sanders Williams, who very capably took on the role of the founding Dean of the GMS on top of his current appointment as Dean of the Duke University School of Medicine.

We are also very appreciative of the strong support of the Duke University Board of Trustees who has shown their confidence in the GMS and the management team.

Similarly, the GMS has benefited from the strong support from the key stakeholders in Singapore, particularly the NUS and Singhealth, and from the leadership and expertise of the GMS Governing Board.

But above all, this evening, we would like to recognise the extraordinary Gift of $80 million from the Estate of the late Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat.

It is fitting here for us to pay tribute to the late Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat. He was born in Singapore in 1917. In a lifetime of
extraordinary success, Tan Sri Khoo became an industry titan, with an empire spanning banking, property, and hospitality. By the time of his passing, Tan Sri Khoo was Singapore’s richest man. Yet despite his astounding achievements, he retained an admirable humility. “There is no secret to success,” he said, “just hard work and effort.”

Tan Sri Khoo was also known for his philanthropy. He was personally and passionately interested in medicine, healthcare and education. It is indeed a fitting tribute to his life, accomplishments, leadership and generosity that the GMS will name its new signature building on Outram Campus, the “Khoo Teck Puat Building”.

To be completed in 2009, the building will house state-of-the art research, educational, and administrative facilities. It will be the permanent home of the GMS, and marks the return of medical education to Outram Campus, the site of Singapore’s first medical school.

On behalf of the GMS Governing Board and Management, the Faculty and students, I would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Ms Mavis Khoo, the Trustees of the Estate of the late Tan Sri Khoo, and the Khoo family members for their extraordinarily generous Gift.
To all our friends, colleagues, donors, and supporters who have contributed so much to GMS, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks.

I hope we can all work together to bring GMS into being, a leading medical school in Asia.

I wish you all a pleasant evening.

Thank you.

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