

**OPENING REMARKS BY
DR JENNIFER LEE, CHAIRMAN, AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED CARE
AT THE ILTC MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS
ON 27 AUGUST 2015, 10.00AM AT MND AUDITORIUM, ANNEXE A**

Good morning,

Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Health and Manpower

Representatives from Ministry of Health and Temasek Cares

Our valued partners from the Community Care sector

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Welcome to the ILTC Manpower Development Awards Ceremony 2015. I am happy this morning to applaud the lifelong learning commitment of the 77 award recipients and their organisations with us here in this auditorium. I understand that the awardees include students, administrators, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, social workers and doctors. My heartiest congratulations to each of you, including those awardees who are unable to join us due to work or study commitments.

2. More and more seniors desire to live and age well at home. However, their needs are increasing as they age and some will become more frail. How can we prepare ourselves to make their desire a reality? One way is through upgrading our skills to serve them through the delivery of even better quality care. Hence, this morning's ceremony is especially heartening for us as it is a showcase of the Community Care sector's and our care professionals' conviction in the importance of skills upgrading.

3. One trend we noted is that more care professionals are going for post-graduate training in order to take on larger roles. For example, more nurses in the Community Care sector are tapping on the Social & Health Manpower Development Programme for Intermediate and Long-Term Care (SHMDP-ILTC) to become Advance Practice Nurses (APNs). Since 2013, six nurses have undergone, or are

undergoing training to advance to APNs. They will lend a significant boost to the nursing capabilities needed to help seniors maintain and improve their health.

4. To all awardees, we look forward to your contributions to this sector after your training.

5. I would like to thank the CEOs and leaders of the various Community Care organisations for supporting the importance of manpower development, and for your presence here today. I would also like to thank the Ministry of Health, Temasek Cares and the various Selection Committee members for contributing your resources, time and expertise to build and nurture a strong core of Community Care professionals. Finally, my thanks go to the families of our award recipients for supporting their academic endeavours and their career in the sector.

6. With that, I congratulate all the award recipients once again and wish you all the very best as you embark on a fulfilling learning journey.

7. Thank you.