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Welcome Address by Mr Foo Seng Juan, President
Food, Drinks And Allied Workers Union

Dr Tan Eng Liang, Sr Minister of State (Finance), Distinguished
Guests, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the members of the Executive Council of the Union
and on my own behalf, allow me to extend to all of you a most
hearty and warm welcome to this Seminar. This Seminar is
organised with the cooperation of NTUC as a follow-up to the
NTUC Seminar on "The Next Ten Years - Job Creation or Job
Loss" held in October last year. I am very pleased indeed
to address the first Seminar organised by the Union. I am
also very encouraged by the positive responses from the
participants, which clearly shows a common concern and interest
in the subject of the Seminar, namely, "Contribution of Hotel,
Catering and Food Sector in the Economic Development of
Singapore - The Role of the Union".

As you all know, Singapore is one of the smallest countries in
the world. It has no natural resources. The economy was
depended on the entrepot trade in the past and with the steady
growth in population, more and more job opportunities are
required to be created for the young generation. It was there-
fore necessary to develop industries in the tourism, banking,
insurance or the finance sectors. The only asset of the
country is the human resources; we must utilise these resources
if we want to survive in order to maintain a high economy
growth. In this regard, a responsible trade union has an
important role to play in this economy growth. The leaders

and members of the Union need to understand the problems and prospects of the Singapore economy so that they themselves and their members will be able to make the right choices today and be prepared for the challenges of tomorrow.

As far as FDAWU is concerned, members come from the hotel, catering services and food, drinks and allied industries. It is necessary for all of us to learn how the hotel and catering industry contribute towards the growth of the economy, and what specific role and programme that the Union can undertake to upgrade its contribution towards the growth of the economy of Singapore. It is also important that the workers of these industries are in direct contact with people therefore efficient and courteous services are always the two key qualities of the workers when they deal with people of all levels. On the other hand, it is also the responsibility of the management too, to formulate a training scheme and pursue policies to upgrade the skill of the workers.

With regard to the Workshop sessions, I would like to invite your attention to two aspects, which, I presume will be discussed during the workshop. In this workshop, I would like you to focus on the scope and role of FDAWU relating to the development of the Hotel industry which it is responsible for.

This Seminar is organised mainly as a channel to create an awareness of each and every person to the future economic situation in Singapore. In 1969, the Seminar on "Modernisation of the Labour Movement" created a new modern role of the labour movement in the new political, social and economic situation. I hope this FDAWU Seminar can also lead the Union to a new phase of its development.

Many of your colleagues are anxious to share what you have learned. I believe, that only through an effective follow-up Seminar and workshops at the grass-root level will the results of the NTUC Seminar have a mutiple effect. I hope therefore that this Seminar will benefit you greatly.

With these remarks, may I wish all of you success in this Seminar and hope that you will gain as much as you will contribute to the discussion.

Thank you.