



To:  
cc: (bcc: Jeannie LEE/MTI/SINGOV)  
Subject: Speech by Dr Tan Chin Nam, 7 Dec 98, 5 pm

# Singapore Government

# PRESS RELEASE

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**Address by Dr Tan Chin Nam,  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower  
At the MOM Wishing Tree Lightup  
On 7 Dec 98, 5.00 pm**

Mr Noel Hon, Chairman of the Singapore Kindness Movement, SKM  
Members,  
Guests from the Spastic Children's Association,  
Fellow Colleagues,

1. Good evening. It gives me great pleasure to be here and to share with you the joy of being able to participate in this Christmas Wishing Tree Project. Since 1996, the MOM Recreation Club has been

organising this annual event, where the staff is given the opportunity to fulfill the Christmas wishes of under-privileged and disabled children. This year, our staff will be fulfilling the wishes of 226 children of the Spastic Children's Association. As in previous years, I am confident that our staff will once again rise to the occasion and give their full support to this initiative.

2. The Wishing Tree initiative is also in support of the Singapore Kindness Movement (SKM). The SKM is a non-profitable organisation, of which our Prime Minister is the patron. The SKM seeks to "inspire graciousness through spontaneous acts of kindness, making life more pleasant for everyone" and to realise our collective vision of a gracious society in the 21st century. As a corporate member of SKM, MOM will be organising more of such activities in support of the Movement.

3. At the launch of the inaugural Singapore Kindness Week on 8 November 1998, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said that "When the economic pie shrinks, some people will tend to look after themselves only, as they compete for jobs or struggle to keep their business alive.

Yet, it is precisely during such difficult times that kindness and consideration are needed. More than ever, we need such virtues to maintain balance and harmony in our society.” I believe that for us to thrive as a society in a sustainable manner, those who are more fortunate have the duty to assist those who are less fortunate. In this way, we can make progress together.

4. Our simple acts of contribution today will bring about a better and brighter tomorrow for many of those in need. It may well be the chance for some of you to achieve their hopes and dreams. Your participation in this activity is therefore commendable and valuable. May we all cherish this moment as we bless those who are with us today.

5. I wish you all an enjoyable time, and a Happy, Merry Christmas. I would now like to invite Mr Noel Hon to say a few words.