

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE,
DR. GOH LENG SWEE, AT THE PRESENTATION
CEREMONY OF MANAGEMENT COURSES CERTIFICATES
AT THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL ON 3.1.1964
AT 5 P.M.

Singapore has been for many years a great trading and shipping centre. As a natural development the people staffing the firms are inclined more towards commerce and transport of goods than towards industry and production.

With the advent of the industrialisation program of our Government the need for industrial managers is felt more and more to fill the posts in our factories. Therefore one of the tasks the Economic Development Board has undertaken was to organize training courses for management and industrial technicians in co-operation with public bodies and institutions interested in this subject.

The need for improvement in managerial skill is not only accepted by the Government but practical measures are undertaken to press forward with implementation.

The presentation to-day of around 500 certificates is in itself a testimony of the importance which government industry and higher institutions of learning place on this subject. The programmes of training at the management and decision levels must be encouraged and greatly expanded.

The expenditure of time, effort and money spent in management training is a human investment, an investment in our future.

We need to train our own talent and develop our own know-how. In management as well as in other fields we have to be self-reliant.

While we are grateful for aid extended to us by the United Nations, Colombo Plan and other inter-national agencies and individual states we must finally stand in our own, for our future is in our hands.

To the recipients of the certificates, may I say that with the formation of Malaysia your responsibilities will increase. We are passing now through a transition period which is complex, but hides in it the seed of great hope and opportunity. The value of managerial skill and talent is on the increase as the needs grow. Therefore keep on learning and improving your skills. They are needed now and they will be needed even more to-morrow.

May I extend my congratulations and those of the Government and wish you a prosperous future in Malaysia.

JANUARY 3, 1963.

(Time issued: 1615 hours)