

PRESS RELEASE:

SPEECH BY INCHE MOHD. GHAZALI ISMAIL,
POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION, AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY
OF THE JAPANESE SECONDARY SCHOOL ON
WEDNESDAY, 15.4.1970 AT 5.00 P.M.

Distinguish Guests, Principal, Staff and Pupils,

My wife and I are most delighted to be with you at this important function which marks a milestone of progress of the Japanese School.

It may be of interest to some of you for me to mention here that there was a Japanese School in Singapore before the last world war. This school building is still being used today and it is now a government primary school called the Stamford Girls' School in Waterloo Street.

This Japanese School, in the 1930's, was regarded as a model school because it was designed to suit its education purpose and curriculum better than the majority of schools built by the colonial government and other private organizations. Within the limited space, the building incorporated not only classrooms but also an assembly hall, a gymnasium and a roof-garden play-ground. The full programme for the intellectual, spiritual and physical development of the pupil was adequately conducted within the four walls of the School. It served as a standing show piece of the ingenuity and thoroughness of your people.

Now making a fresh start in rented premises, you must have found this limiting your style. It will not be long, perhaps, when you wish to put up a school building typically fashioned to suit your needs. Judging from the rate of growth of this new Japanese School which has trebled its enrolment since 1966, I am sure this will come to pass very soon.

This expansion demonstrates your growing faith in us that we can work harmoniously together not only in promoting industries and trade but also in Education. Under the Colombo Plan assistance programme, your government has for the last 9 years, extended to us the services

of a teacher and teaching materials to run Japanese Language courses for our Secondary School students. To-day more than a 1300 Secondary School students have completed the Japanese Language Primary Course and over 500 pupils have graduated. I feel certain that these pupils of the Japanese language classes are only too eager to have the chance of meeting Japanese students of their own age. The inauguration of the secondary Japanese school has provided this possibility for the establishment of closer ties between our young people. I hope cultural and social activities will be organized for them and we can see the realization of the "One Asia Concept" in our lifetime, as we show the other Asian nations this first step along the path towards our objective.

I wish the Japanese School in Singapore long life and continued success.
