

# *Singapore Government*

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Singapore 179369. Tel: 837 9666

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**SPEECH BY MR HARUN A GHANI  
POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE  
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AT THE  
8TH SCDF CD SKILLS COMPETITION  
ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2000 (SATURDAY)  
AT 0930 HOURS AT JALAN BAHAR CAMP**

Commissioner SCDF

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

## National Archives of Singapore

Saving Lives and Protecting Property is a noble calling. Over the last decade, the demands on emergency services around the world have undergone a tremendous change.

### **Saving Lives & Protecting Property in a Global Village**

2. Rapid advancement in information and communications technology has truly made us a global village. The task of saving lives and protecting property is now no longer confined to a nation's borders. Take the Taiwan earthquake in September last year. Emergency services from many parts of the world responded to the call for help.

3. The globalisation of emergency service means that officers may find themselves working with their counterparts from other nations and other cultures. To ensure close coordination and effective operations in times of crisis, various organisations, such as the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, have been set up to co-ordinate disaster relief efforts internationally.

4. Such international links will foster exchanges among international emergency service agencies. The sharing of information and experience with our foreign counterparts will expose us to different insights that will challenge us to think out-of-the-box, and help us continually improve the quality of our emergency services.

### ***Esprit-de-corps in Asia***

5. Today, we welcome our civil defence counterparts from Brunei, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand to the 8th SCDF CD Skills Competition. This competition will test the physical fitness levels and skills proficiency of the participants. It is also an excellent platform for interaction, sharing and bonding amongst the fire and rescue forces from the participating countries.

6. The competition is not just about winning or losing. It is about *esprit-de-corps*, building a sense of camaraderie amongst participants and having good clean fun. Competition is only enjoyable when you have friends to share in the joy of victory and to offer your words of encouragement when you fail.

7. On this note, I wish all the teams the best of luck in today's competition and a great, enjoyable day ahead.

8. Thank you.

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