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**SPEECH BY SENIOR MINISTER, MR LEE KUAN YEW,**  
**AT THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER**  
**OF CHIN KANG HUAY KUAN**  
**AT WORLD TRADE CENTRE**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 1993 AT 9.00 PM**

In the years before independence, clan associations contributed to the welfare of their clansmen. This role was taken over by the government after independence. Furthermore, with rapid social and economic development, the people's social needs changed.

Clan associations are less able to reach out to their clansmen. The public housing programme has dispersed Singapore's population. Old communities of people of the same dialect have been rehoused but dispersed. Now in Housing and Development Board (HDB) housing estates they depend on Community Centres and Residents' Committees and not clan associations.

Clan associations cannot find good younger leaders. The young are mostly English educated. They are not attracted to the old activities of the clan

associations. Therefore, the present leaders must co-opt the younger ones to reshape the clan associations and discover new activities in tune with the needs of the times.

The Chin Kang Huay Kuan is a good example of a clan association which has self-renewed and remained relevant. It injected new blood into its leadership. It has allowed members of other dialect groups to take part in its activities. It has played an active role in the many activities of the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations and helped to revitalise the clan association movement.

Clan associations should work closely with grassroots organisations like the Citizens' Consultative Committees, Community Centre Management Committees and Residents' Committees. The premises and other resources of the clan associations can be opened to these grassroots organisations to expand sports, social, recreational and cultural activities.

Finally, I congratulate the Chin Kang Huay Kuan on their triple celebrations and wish them greater achievements in their endeavours. I wish you all, especially our friends from overseas, an enjoyable evening.

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