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**SPEECH BY DR YEO NING HONG, MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS &
INFORMATION AND SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (POLICY),
AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE OF TELEVIEW
AT STAMFORD BALLROOM, WESTIN STAMFORD
ON WEDNESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 1990 AT 10.30 AM**

Babies take nine months from conception to delivery. There are the early days of excitement when it is definite that the baby is on the way. There are the moments of anxiety when things do not seem to go well. And finally, the days of impatient waiting followed by exhilaration when the baby finally arrives.

At Telecoms, we have been through the excitement, the anxiety, and the waiting. Except that it took nine years for this \$50m new-born to arrive. We have named it Teleview. We do not judge a baby by what he can do on his day of birth. We know full well it takes time for the baby to grow before he achieves the expectations of his creators. Like a new-born babe, Teleview's future potential is limitless, waiting to be achieved in the fullness of time.

Teleview provides different services for different people. It has something for everybody, fathers, mothers, and children. For fathers, Teleview provides the latest local and international news, the latest stock market price movements, business and banking information, aircraft schedules, government policies and procedures.

For mothers, Teleview can provide the above and more - the latest prices of special offers in supermarkets and department stores, magazine articles, health and household tips.

And for the children, school lessons and tutorials in an easy-to-learn fun way. And after homework is done, computer games, computer penpals and bulletin-boards to exchange information or gossips.

Teleview's up-to-date information will provide business with the competitive edge to maintain market share for their products, as well as a convenient medium to market their products and make on-the-spot sales.

Our two years of field trials with 1,000 terminals and 2,500 users have been a success. The average user makes 10 calls per month, with an average of 20 minutes per call. Beginning today, Teleview will bring the Information Age into every home and workplace. Any one can plug into the database of Teleview and access information that is useful to them in their everyday business and social lives. You can shop, leave messages for friends, or apply for a reservist exit permit, all in the comfort of the armchair at home. Teleview will do away with time-wasting queues to make enquiries, submit application forms, or pay bills. Best of all the Teleview is user-friendly. The average Singaporean will take about 10 to 20 minutes to get started. Kids may take a little less, say 5 to 10 minutes.

Teleview is Telecom's contribution to our 25th Anniversary celebrations. This technological milestone marks another major step towards our achievement of "Vision 99". It is another addition to our infrastructure to make life in Singapore more convenient, more enjoyable, and more productive.

Teleview is the first picture-quality videotext system in the world. In other words, you cannot find it anywhere else in the world today. It is another example of teamwork, of our slogan - "Together ... Excellence for Singapore". Telecoms provides the hardware and network. Private companies and organisations, government ministries and statutory boards provide the services. There are more than 70 of these service

providers. For example, we have experienced teachers from the Singapore Teachers Union and the Curriculum Development Institute of Singapore. They provide lessons in mathematics, science and English, according to the school syllabuses. This way, a good teacher's skills and experience are available not just to the children lucky enough to be in her class or school, but to all the children throughout Singapore doing that subject at that level. Computer whizkids provide computer games, riddles, and stories. Banks provide the latest in interest rates and other services that they offer. ROV provides the latest OMV's and COE's. And so on. We expect more services to be added as market demand for them grows. Indeed, if there is a service that you need and is not presently available, you can even give your feedback on Teleview itself. Some service providers may make that service available.

Teleview is Telecom's contribution to Singapore's future productivity and progress. Hence, we have kept the charges to the lowest possible, to make the services affordable.

The Teleview revolution is likely to be led by the young. The future of Singapore belongs to them. They are completely comfortable in the use of keyboards and computers. They will lead their parents by the hand into the new Information Age. Someday, Teleview will be as common as the telephone or the television in all our homes. And we will wonder how we could have lived without it.

To conclude, I congratulate Singapore Telecoms, all the service providers and participating organisations for bringing Teleview to us. It has been nine long years. But the baby has finally arrived. It is another achievement that makes us proud to be Singapore.

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