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SPEECH BY MR TAN I TONG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE TOURIST PROMOTION BOARD AT THE OPENING OF FOOD & HOTEL ASIA '82, 10.15 AM 18 MAY 1982 AT WORLD TRADE CENTRE

Good Morning, Ladies & Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to be here this morning to officiate at Food & Hotel Asia '82, the 3rd International Exhibition of Food & Drink, Food Processing, Catering and Hotel Equipment.

The first Food Asia exhibition took place in 1978 and has gradually evolved to incorporate a section on hotel equipment and technology. This is timely as the hotel industry is undergoing significant expansion due to the encouraging tourism growth in Singapore. By 1985, there will be an additional 9,265 hotel rooms available.

I understand Food & Hotel Asia '82 is the largest in the series. Total nett area booked has increased from 2,647 sq metres in 1980 to 4,492 sq metres for the 1982 show. A record number of participants have registered, 552 for this exhibition as compared with 318 in 1980.

One of the areas that will receive much interest among visitors in the next few days will be labour saving equipment. This section is very relevant as the industry is currently facing a labour shortage. I am confident that better management, positive worker attitudes aided by up-to-date equipment would help to improve the overall productivity in the tourism industry.

An educational element has been tied to this exhibition in the form of a seminar on "Food & Beverage Training" organised by the Singapore Hotel Association. Moreover, part of the proceeds of this exhibition will go to Singapore Hotel Association's education fund which is designed to upgrade skills among personnel in the hotel industry.

Finally I would like to extend a warm welcome to all foreign participants to Singapore. You will find that Singapore is a place for business and leisure.

It is now my pleasure to declare Food & Hotel Asia '82 open.

Thank you.

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