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SPEECH BY DR WAN SOON BEE, MINISTER OF STATE,
(PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE), AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
ALFA LAVAL'S R & D LABORATORY AT 11 JOO KOON CIRCLE, JURONG
ON THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER, 1985 AT 10.30 AM

I am very pleased to join you this morning for the opening of Alfa Laval's research and development laboratory in food processing technology.

This new \$2 million facility is Alfa Laval's second investment in Singapore, following the establishment of its regional engineering service centre three years ago in 1982.

With this laboratory, Alfa Laval is now able to offer a full range of engineering services, from engineering design and project management to the turnkey supply of plants for the agro-based industries in the Asia Pacific region.

Alfa Laval is a technology leader in process engineering services. The company's decision to decentralise its R & D activities and locate this first overseas R & D facility in Singapore to serve the region is an example of its thrust and foresight.

The growing affluence and changing food consumption habits in the Asia Pacific region has created a demand for foods catering to Asian taste preferences as well as convenience foods.

The market potential is huge, the door of opportunity is open, and Alfa Laval has been quick off the mark in getting into the scene.

It has brought its expertise to meet the need for developing better and more sophisticated food processing techniques.

The EDB and the government is happy that the company has chosen to locate this R & D facility in Singapore to take advantage of the easy availability of raw materials in the region.

The presence of Alfa Laval here, in turn, will benefit food-based companies in Singapore and other Asia Pacific countries. These companies may now work closely with Alfa Laval to jointly develop the technology required to create new export markets for agro-based products.

I understand that this laboratory will focus on food processing technology for soya bean and related soya products, tropical fruits and other typical Asian foods and beverages such as noodles, tea and herbal products.

The laboratory will develop its own knowhow for new processes. It will adopt or re-design existing production processes and equipment.

This kind of knowledge-based activity fits in well with Singapore's industrial development strategy.

We have the trained engineering manpower to support the continuing growth of such R & D activities.

Alfa Laval may be assured that it will have the wholehearted support of the government. Now, I have much pleasure in declaring this pioneering R & D lab open.

I wish the company every success.

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