

**SPEECH BY MR GOH CHEE WEE, MINISTER OF STATE FOR
TRADE & INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS
AT THE OPENING OF SINGPEX '94 -
7TH ASIAN INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION
ON 31 AUG 94 AT 11.00 AM AT THE COLLYER ROOM,
RAFFLES CITY CONVENTION CENTRE.**

Ladies and Gentlemen

1 I am happy to be here this morning to officiate at the opening of SINGPEX '94, the 7th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition. Singpex '94 is also the 16th national stamp exhibition held in Singapore.

2 Postage stamps have an important place in the fields of education, culture and recreation. It acts as a roving ambassador that strengthens the bonds of friendship among people. It also contributes to cultural and social development and gives much enjoyment to collectors. In fact, philately is one of the world's most popular hobbies. In Asia, stamp collecting is a very active hobby. This is evident from the participation of many overseas postal administrations and stamp dealers in Singpex '94 to tap the growing philatelic market here.

3 I am particularly pleased to note that Singapore Post is working hand-in-hand with the Telecommunication Authority of Singapore, the stamp clubs and the Association of Singapore Philatelists to promote philately in Singapore, especially among the young people. Stamp collecting is a stimulating hobby. Through stamps, we can learn about our history. Stamps capture important events in time and they are an interesting and fun way

of being in touch with our heritage. I would therefore encourage our youths to consider stamp collecting as a hobby.

4 Philately can also play a part in uniting families. Parents and children can spend quality time together learning about Singapore and the world through postage stamps. As 1994 is designated as the Year of the family, the theme of Singpex '94 "Stamp Collecting for the Family" is indeed appropriate. I congratulate the organisers in organising the numerous activities at Singpex '94 for the enjoyment and entertainment of families.

5 Schools can play a significant role in promoting stamp collection. I am indeed happy that some schools are participating in the Stamp Collecting Week activities organised by Singapore Post in conjunction with Singpex '94. These school children will have the opportunity to learn about how stamps are processed and how to start their own collection.

6 Soon we will have our own philatelic museum, which will go a long way to promote and further stimulate the interest in philately. The Telecommunication Authority of Singapore is developing the National Philatelic Museum at the former Methodist Book Room at Coleman Street. Its opening in August 1995 will coincide with the World Stamp Exhibition 1995 which will be held in Singapore for the first time. I am sure the National Philatelic Museum will not only be an important resource

centre for stamp collectors and philatelists but visitors could have an enriching time in learning about our rich heritage as depicted in stamps.

7 For example, the stamp issue "175 Years of Modern Singapore" which was issued in conjunction with Singpex '94 depicts the nation's achievements in education, transportation and trade since it was founded by Sir Stamford Raffles 175 years ago.

8 Finally, I would like to commend the TAS, Singapore Post and the Association of Singapore Philatelists for organising Singpex '94. I am told that their activities do not stop at Singpex '94, and we can look forward to next year's World Stamp Exhibition which will be of even bigger scale. We should also thank the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately, their co-ordinator, the judges and commissioners who will be working very hard over the next few days.

9 Last but not least, we must record our appreciation of the support rendered by the overseas postal administrations, stamp dealers and exhibitors.

10 It is my pleasure to declare Singpex '94, the 7th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition open.