

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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SPEECH BY CHE DAH BINTE MORAHED NOOR, WIFE OF THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AT THE OPENING OF THE JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT EXHIBITION AT SINGAPORE CONFERENCE HALL ON FRIDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1966 AT 10.30 A.M.

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I am happy to be here this morning to officiate at the opening of the Flower Arrangement Exhibition.

This exhibition is made possible by the hard work and enthusiasm put in by Mrs. K. Kim and her pupils for a most worthy cause.

The entire proceeds of the sale including voluntary contributions by the public will go to the St. Andrew's Mission Children Hospital. This will enable the institution to carry on its commendable work of providing medical facilities and nursing care. Therefore, I would like to urge all to give generously to this good cause.

Japanese flower-arrangement is an art worthy of cultivation. It is fast catching on in our Republic; its very essence lies in simplicity. Its artistry depends on the imaginative placing of flowers in the vase in the most pleasant and decorative manner. There is practically no limit to its possibilities.

The simplicity of floral arrangement has a symbolic meaning for us who are a tiny nation, whose land area is small and who lack natural resources. In the same way as Japanese flower arrangement depends not on the amount of material but on subtle use of a few flowers for maximum effect, Singapore with only 224 square miles of land-area has managed to become one of the most developed countries in Asia, largely due to the skill, enterprise and industry of her people. In national management, as in flower arrangement, it is quality, not quantity that counts.

I now have pleasure in declaring this Exhibition open.

FEBRUARY 25, 1966.

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