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Singapore Government

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**SPEECH BY MR ABDULLAH TARMUGI,
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE UBIN DISCOVERY TRAIL
ON SUNDAY 21 MAY 2000
AT 9.45AM AT PULAU UBIN**

Good morning,
Mr Raymond Tan, President of Lucent Technologies Singapore
Mr Peter Foo, President of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore
Representatives from the National Parks Board
Distinguished guests
Ladies and gentlemen.

Introduction

Pulau Ubin is a very special part of Singapore. Its idyllic pace and rustic

kampong charm will always be a magnet for nature lovers and those who seek a change from the busy streets of the mainland.

2. Each time I visit Pulau Ubin, it never fails to reveal something new and fascinating that draws me back. Today, we will disclose some of its many secrets as we take our tour of the Ubin Discovery Trail adopted by the Marine Parade Community Development Council, The Boy's Brigade and Siglap Youth Executive Committee under the National Parks Board's Adopt-a-Park Scheme.

3. The development of the Ubin Discovery Trail is another step towards active citizenship. It involves the Public sector, represented by the Marine Parade CDC and National Parks Board, the People sector, represented by The Boys' Brigade and Siglap YEC and the Private sector represented by the Lucent Technologies Foundation.

4. Although these organisations are diverse in their nature and objectives, they have one thing in common: that is to develop youths through involving them in community service.

Corporate Involvement National Archives of Singapore

5. The Marine Parade CDC has always been active in encouraging youth and student development. The Ubin Discovery Trail is one of the many programmes targeted at youths under the CDC's Partnership with Schools Programme.

6. Having developed this partnership programme, the CDC did not have to look out of the district to garner support for it. Lucent Technologies, Singapore, located within the district, at Kampong Chai Chee, responded to the CDC's appeal for sponsorship of the

programme.

7. I am told the philanthropic arm of Lucent Technologies, the Lucent Technologies Foundation, has a long tradition of investing in philanthropic initiatives that advance education, address the needs of the local communities where the company is based, and encouraging employee volunteerism.

8. The Foundation has committed US\$100,000 in support of youth development programmes by the CDC. This is the biggest single donation by an American multi-national company to Marine Parade CDC and also to any also, I am told, to any community organisation in Singapore.

9. Lucent's involvement with the community is commendable and should encourage more corporate organisations to come forward to play an active role in the community – not only in terms of contributing funds but also as volunteers.

Ubin Discovery Trail

National Archives of Singapore

10. The Ubin Discovery Trail has been developed to allow children and youths to experience and appreciate the natural and rustic appeal of Pulau Ubin, and to provide an opportunity for youths to contribute to and be involved with the community.

11. The Boy's Brigade and the Siglap YEC, through the Siglap Unlimited Adventure Club, saw it as a fun and meaningful avenue where their members could be involved.

12. Volunteer guides from The Boys Brigade and Siglap YEC and Adventure Club

will be trained by the National Parks Board to conduct tours for children, youth and families and guide them through the interesting sights and sounds of Ubin.

13. The CDC will help to reach out to as many groups and individuals as possible via the schools, Community Centres, other community organisations and corporate bodies. The members of The Boys' Brigade will conduct guided tours for primary school students in the Marine Parade District while the Siglap YEC will conduct guided tours of the trail for families and other nature lovers.

14. I am also pleased to announce that a specific trail guide for children has also been produced as part of this launch. The trail has its own mascot, Toddy the Civet, a native of Ubin, to guide visitors along the trail with interesting activities and facts about the flora and fauna of the island. This trail will increase the awareness of our children, youths and families to our natural heritage. Through participating in the Ubin Discovery Trail, I hope they will be encouraged to appreciate nature and behave responsibly towards the natural environment.

15. It is now my pleasure to the launch of the Ubin Discovery Trail.

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