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SPEECH BY MR CHAN CHEE SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (TRADE AND INDUSTRY), AT THE ASEAN JOURNALISM AWARDS 1982 PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND DINNER AT THE EXECUTIVE CLUB, OCBC CENTRE, CHULIA STREET ON 22 SEPTEMBER 1982 AT 7.30 PM

The ASEAN Journalism Awards is a commendable programme. The awards this year will provide journalists with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the energy sector. Being able to report accurately on oil and energy matters is no simple task considering the complexities of the energy industry today.

The development of energy resources in ASEAN is a subject which certainly merits closer study. The ASEAN region has bright prospects for developing its energy resources. You have heard of the large oil and gas reserves and production in Indonesia and Malaysia; gas developments in Thailand; and geothermal energy and hydro power plans in the Philippines.

As for Singapore, although we have no resources of our own, we are a long-established oil refining centre.

There is however one unchangeable fact about the energy scenario which cannot be over-emphasised. Oil is unfortunately a depleting resource. There has been much talk recently about an oil glut. But we should not be deluded into thinking that oil is plentiful and will be cheaply available. We need to impress upon the public the need to conserve energy and to use it wisely. It is remarkable how easily people forget the lessons of the disastrous oil shocks of the 70's. The press can play a big part in reminding the public how easily it could all happen again. We must all realise that, in the long term, we need to diversify our energy sources and be efficient in our usage of energy.

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I would like to congratulate the ASEAN journalists who have been selected for this award. I hope you will participate in this programme with enthusiasm and seriousness. It is important that the public be kept well informed of the energy situation. I hope that we can look forward to benefiting from the deeper insights which you will gain from this programme.

Finally, I must commend Mobil Singapore for sponsoring the annual travel awards for ASEAN journalists. Better communications through the ASEAN media will further the spirit of ASEAN cooperation.

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