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SPEECH BY MR CHAI CHONG YII, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION, AT THE OPENING OF THE 17TH SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY ON FRIDAY, 27 APRIL 79 AT 5.00 PM AT SIN CHEW JIT POH BUILDING

It is indeed a pleasure to speak at the Opening of this 17th Singapore International Student Salon of Photography organised by the Photographic Society of Nanyang University. According to the Organising Chairman, some 904 entries of all types were sent in by various participants. Out of these entries, 274 were selected for display. I am sure it will be a real enjoyment to see each and everyone of them.

Photography is an interesting hobby as well as a rewarding profession. Most of us own one or more cameras. They help us to record what we see either in colour or in black and white. As all of us usually have a short memory, most of the interesting scenes which we come across in our daily life are soon forgotten and lost. Even if we manage to recollect, it is not possible to reproduce the lively details. But with the help of photographs, we can easily do so. Modern photography has helped us to create an additional storage space for our brain in the form of photographs, slides, films and even video tapes. The useful role played by photography in our life is like that of a magnetic disc to a computer.

Modern photography can now do a lot for us. We can photograph every detail of what human eyes can see. We can also photograph many things which we normally cannot see with our naked eyes. In addition, its ability to reproduce perfect copies at fast speed has played a very important part in the advancement of modern science and technology.

Modern photography is still developing very fast. Judging by the new features added to models of cameras produced every year, I believe photographic industry is still in its youth. There is a lot

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more to be discovered, and invented. While we are viewing the beautiful exhibits put up today, we must not forget what photography can do to improve our life. Those of you who have a keen interest in this field will find it fruitful to pursue further.

Finally, it is my pleasure to declare this International Student Salon open.