

TEXT OF A SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE MR. CHEW  
SWEE KEE AT THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION  
AT THE GEYLANG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, SIM'S  
AVENUE, AT 2 P.M. ON 23RD DECEMBER, 1957.

First of all I wish to congratulate the Geylang Community Association in taking the initiative in arranging this exhibition of drawings, paintings, needlework, handicraft and cookery by their members and also by the residents of Geylang. A community centre, as the name suggests, is a centre where the members of the community around it should discuss their own problems and welfare and thereby contribute to the wellbeing of the vicinity. But, of course, to merely discuss problems and welfare will be restricting the growth of other interests in life in this interesting world. I am therefore extremely glad to see that efforts are made by this centre to interest not only their own members but also the residents of this area in things that make life fuller and more beautiful.

Even more significant is the fact that the things in the interests of which efforts are being made are art. No more suitable subject could have been chosen for this centre for this occasion where members of the various communities and races live. Art is international and has no barrier. It is a common language in the appreciation and the creation of beauty. Some people may doubt whether cookery is an art. I can assure you that the preparation of good food for the stomach is an art much more important than anything else in life. After all, one must eat and eat well in order to feel well and live well. And here again, cookery should know no barriers. We all aim at good and wholesome food.

I know that most of you who are here this afternoon are anxious to go round to see the exhibits rather than to listen to a long speech. I therefore would not like to hold up the proceedings too long so that all of us can go round and enjoy the beautiful things on display. I would like once again to congratulate the Geylang Community Association and particularly the members of their committee for doing such good work as to interest the people living in this area in some of the finer things in life. I now have pleasure to declare the exhibition open.

DECEMBER 23, 1957.

(Time issued 1600 hours).