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SPEECH BY MR WAN HUSSIN ZOOHRI, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(HEALTH AND CULTURE), AT THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGE'S
13TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AT DOVER ROAD
ON MONDAY, 5 MARCH 1984 AT 6.45 PM

Twelve years is a fairly long time in the history of an amateur arts festival. Yet the annual Festival of the Arts of the United World College of South East Asia has not only survived but also grown in scope and stature.

In doing so, it has kept pace with cultural developments in Singapore. The late Seventies and the early Eighties have seen important developments in the arts in Singapore, including more active government promotion and support. The Singapore Cultural Foundation, the Cultural Medallion Award, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the biennial Festival of Arts and the Drama Festival all started during this period. There has also been an increase in the visits of well-known foreign artistes and cultural troupes to Singapore.

Singapore's open door policy on trade, industry and communication has resulted in the establishment of expatriate communities here who bring with them not only technical knowhow but also their cultural heritage. Our people benefit from interaction with their diverse and rich cultural background.

The various expatriate schools in Singapore, which are also open to the locals and the other communities, have contributed to a better understanding among different races

and cultures. The United World College is a prime example. Its annual Festival of the Arts is an important cultural event. Its scope and its cosmopolitan character suit our multi-racial society.

There is no royal nor privileged class on this island to patronize the arts. But there are business firms which are willing to be sponsors. But the most important factor is the people's desire to express their emotions, their joys, their aspirations in words, in music or in paint. Recent years have shown an increasing interest among Singaporeans in the arts and in cultural pursuits. They are eager to learn and to experiment. The UWC's annual arts festival no doubt makes a contribution in arousing interest and promoting appreciation of the arts in Singapore.

I congratulate the organizers of the 13th Festival of the Arts, whose task, I believe, is made tougher each successive year by the need for constant upgrading of standards. It is a splendid endeavour, which has attracted wide participation from diverse groups outside the College's confines.

I wish the College many more successes in its endeavours.

It is now my pleasure to declare the Festival open.

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