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SPEECH BY DR ONG CHIT CHUNG, PARLIAMENTARY  
SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND LABOUR,  
AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BUKIT BATOK, AT THE  
OPENING OF THE CAREER '93/AHEAD '93 HUMAN  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MEGA FAIR, ON 10 MAR 1993,  
AT THE IMM EXHIBITION HALL AT 10.30 AM.

Mr C C Chiu

Chairman, Career '93

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Singapore is a city state with a small domestic market.

Our economic prosperity has depended very much on our ability to attract foreign multinational corporations. Our economic fortunes are also very much tied to the markets abroad which constitute the

potential market and demand for our products. This strategy, has so far worked well for Singapore. But the ground rules are changing.

2. Firms no longer have a simple choice between exporting goods to foreign markets or establishing production facilities locally.

New patterns of industrial linkages have emerged and companies now interact on a global scale. Success in today's international climate demands highly specialised yet closely linked groups of global business executives with the skills,

knowledge and sophistication to operate in such an environment. What does this mean for us?

3. While it is still important for us to continue to rely on foreign multinationals to fuel our economic growth, we need, at the same time, to nurture Singapore companies to establish linkages outside our limited domestic market.

Growth in Singapore would be slower because of our more mature economy. Singaporeans will increasingly have to turn their sights outside Singapore if they want to have an income growth higher

than the domestic growth. It is time we learn to soar with our own wings.

4. Singapore has to go global.

Singaporeans are bringing their expertise, their skills and their money to invest in countries around the world. There are Singaporean programmers on the cutting edge of technology in the Silicon Valley, Singaporean investors building hotels in Beijing, Hanoi and Phnom Penh, and Singaporean businessmen buying up and running supermarkets in Sydney.

5. Our initiative and enterprise have become too large for our little island.

The whole world has now become our market as well as our hinterland.

Singaporeans have become a part of the international network of communications, technology, trade and investments. We are not just Singapore Incorporated, but Singapore International Incorporated.

6. As Singapore goes international, we cannot afford to be parochial in our outlook. Our educational system must prepare students to take on the world in the international marketplace.

7. We need to globalise the outlook of our students. The students should learn to think globally and have a world view. Students should develop an interest in what is happening in other countries and have a good grasp of their geography, history and economics. For example, if resources permit, students should be encouraged to go overseas, to overseas Outward Bound Schools, on tours or on short attachments. At present, some of our tertiary students are attached to companies in Singapore for a short working stint during their vacation. This could be extended to include

overseas attachments, especially in multi-national companies with operations overseas.

8. Students could also be taught to develop an appreciation and understanding of the cultures of other countries.

This would be useful as Singaporeans go abroad to work. It would help Singaporeans to better understand the different cultures of other countries and the ways of conducting business.

9. Our students should also learn to adapt to foreign postings, as part of their job enhancements.

Currently, the term "expatriate" is associated with a caucasian from the UK or USA staying in a company-leased apartment and driving a company car.

Soon, we will have to get used to the idea of the "expat" as a Singaporean manager working in Africa, Latin America or the Middle East. At present, there are some Singaporeans who are posted overseas.

Some enterprising Singaporeans entrepreneurs have also ventured abroad.

We should further encourage this trend of



working and investing overseas. It is understandable that working abroad would entail some sacrifice. The Government is helping by establishing Singapore Clubs and Singapore schools overseas, and also making it easier for the children of "expat" Singaporeans to come back to study in NUS and NTU.

10. Many of our students who have received their 'O' and 'A' Level results will be contemplating their career goals over the next few weeks.

A paper qualification does not mean the end of education. Quite the contrary, it

should mean that you are on a perpetual quest and lifelong hunger for more: more ideas, more knowledge, more dreams and more challenges. This career exhibition is therefore timely. And I hope you will also consider taking up the challenge of venturing abroad, either to work or to do business.

11. On this note, I declare the Exhibition open and wish you every success. Thank you.

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Misc Disk 4:Career