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Singapore Government

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**SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT), AT THE OPENING OF THE
4TH ASEAN TRAVELLING EXHIBITION OF PAINTING
AND PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ART GALLERY
ON SATURDAY, 12 JANUARY 1985 AT 5.30 PM**

I am delighted to officiate at this opening of the 4th ASEAN Exhibition of Painting and Photography. On behalf of the Singapore Government which is coordinating this project, I warmly welcome our friends from the ASEAN member countries. I bid a special welcome to the delegates from Negara Brunei Darussalam who are participating in the project for the first time.

Since its inception in 1980, the ASEAN Exhibition of Painting and Photography has gained credence as a major regional arts event showing the unique and diverse talents of our artists and photographers. It has fostered a sense of fraternity among our artists, photographers and arts personnel. The Symposium has facilitated fruitful exchanges on the trends and developments in our countries.

Singapore is rostered to host two other ASEAN cultural projects this year - the ASEAN Youth Music Workshop and the Festival of Performing Arts. This exceptionally active year appropriately ushers our entrance into a new vision of a city of cultured people in pursuit of excellence. We hope to create a culturally vibrant society in which a stimulating environment encourages our people to develop their talents to the fullest in the fields of art and culture.

The themes for the Exhibition and Symposium are especially meaningful to us at this time. While the Exhibition reflects the current approaches and aspirations of our artists, the Symposium complements this by prompting us to question the future direction of the arts in our society, the relevance of our traditions and the influence of international trends. As our local artists attempt to evolve a local artistic tradition, they too would have to grapple with these same issues. The prospects for the future look exciting considering the wealth of artistic experiences and heritages possessed by our countries.

I congratulate the artists and photographers whose works are represented in this exhibition, and thank the governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand for their co-operation in making this event possible. Finally, may I wish all the delegates and those who are participating in the Symposium every success in your deliberations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to declare open the 4th ASEAN Exhibition of Painting and Photography.

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