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SPEECH BY TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN OF SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL AT THE ESSO SPORTS SCHOLAR AWARD PRIZE PRESENTATION AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM THEATRETTE, KALLANG, ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 1984 AT 4 PM

I am happy to be here this evening to meet the various winners of the Esso University Sports Scholar Awards and the Esso Sports Awards.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate the 26 awardees; three are receiving Esso University Sports Scholarships while twenty-one are receiving Pre-University and Technical Institution Scholarships.

By winning the award, you have covered yourself with honour and brought a good name not only to the institution you come from, but also to the sports you represent. Having won these awards, the test is in you continuing to be active in sports long after you have left school or university.

I would like to share with you some recent survey findings carried out by the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) concerning participation and non-participation among young people.

The SSC survey shows that the majority of young people between 15 and 24 years old are very active in sports. For example, 70% of the total number of

participants of the National Jog/Walk, 98% of the National Swim and about 75% of the different inter-constituency tournaments are young people below 24 years old.

This is a good sign. It indicates that in the future, we can expect that there will be a larger population of people especially those 25 years and above, who having formed the exercise habit, will be active in sports and recreation.

I am aware that the out-of-school environment may not be as conducive as in schools and universities to encourage people to take part in sports. For example, research shows that there are a lack of facilities, sports clubs and friends with whom you can practise sports with.

If the situation is not changed, many of you, I am told, will be dropping out of sports after your studies. This is evident in one of the findings of the recent National Household Sports Survey. The finding indicates that about 29% will drop out of sport after they leave school and 38% after they start to work.

I can assure you that the SSC will not spare itself to do its best to provide more opportunities and to inform the general public of opportunities so that they may be able to continue taking part in sports and recreation long after they have left school.

You also would have to do your part. Let me give you some advice.

First, be a member of a sports club. There is a constituency sports club in every constituency which you can join. Then there are People's Association Youth Clubs in every community centre. Also there are many recreation clubs which include sports in the employment sector which offer membership.

Second, be prepared to make new friends in your clubs. If possible, get your friends to join the same club.

Third, make use of available public facilities in the community for example, the community centres, and SSC facilities. Use them creatively and you will enjoy being active in sports.

Esso in setting up the Scholarships acknowledge that our country with limited sports resources deserves assistance. This year, through the Sports Aid Fund, university scholarship assistance have been extended to two former Esso Sports Scholars. Oon Jin Teik and Chan Mui Pin, both swimmers studying abroad, are receiving a grant of \$4,000 each. This is yet another laudable extension of community service of Esso.

I therefore thank Esso for their contribution of \$22,300 today and for their support during the past years. I hope the awardees will appreciate Esso's contribution by continuing to pursue excellence in studies and sports.

Thank you.