

**EMBARGOED TILL 8 PM, 27 NOV 2014**

## **A TRIBUTE TO OUR MTI PIONEERS**

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) hosted a Tribute Dinner today for our Pioneer Generation to thank them for their efforts towards nation-building. Hosted by Minister Lim Hng Kiang, the dinner was attended by 685 pioneers, including distinguished guests like MTI's former Ministers, Mr S Dhanabalan (1992-1993), Mr Yeo Cheow Tong (1994-1997) and Mr Lee Yock Suan (1997-1999).

2 Pioneers across MTI's 9 statutory boards and Department of Statistics enjoyed the evening with special performances from staff. There was also a tribute video featuring 25 pioneers who shared stories of their work in early days of independence. (Please refer to [Annex A](#) for the event's programme, and [Annex B](#) for quotes from our pioneers.)

3 In his speech, Minister Lim Hng Kiang attributed our "economic miracle" to the hard work, perseverance and good policies by our pioneers. Drawing lessons from the past 50 years, he illustrated examples of how our pioneers had built strong institutions, undertook policy innovation and maintained convictions to think long-term to bring Singapore to where she is today.

4 Ahead of the dinner, 65 pioneers had gone on a bus tour featuring two of Singapore's key developments, Jurong Island and Sentosa, on 5 November 2014. Other than witnessing the fruition of their hard work and contribution to the economic development of Singapore, these pioneers also appreciated the opportunity to interact with their colleagues from other agencies. (Please refer to [Annex C](#) for more details of the bus tour.)

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**  
**27 NOVEMBER 2014**

### **Media Contact**


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**EVENT PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
6.30pm	Arrival of Pioneers
7.30pm	Arrival of Minister Lim Hng Kiang
7.50pm	Opening Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Song by JTC/Ms Hilda Chang</li> <li>• Performance by SDC/A-Trek Percussion Team</li> </ul>
7.55pm	Delivery of Speech by Minister Lim Hng Kiang
8.00pm	Cake-cutting Ceremony by Minister Lim Hng Kiang, Second Minister S Iswaran, and 3 Former Ministers, accompanied by 11 Pioneer Representatives
8.10pm	Commencement of Dinner
8.20pm	Screening of Tribute Video and Live Sand Art Performance
8.30pm	Photo-taking Session with Minister and Second Minister
9.55pm	Closing Item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Song by SDC/ Mr Eddy Ali</li> </ul>
10.00pm	End of Event

**PIONEERS' QUOTES**

 <p><b>Ms Chan Poh Tian, 60</b> Senior Personal Assistant Competition Commission of Singapore (CCS)</p>	<p><i>"I feel privileged to be part of CCS's pioneer batch in laying the strong foundation to make Singapore competitive and realise the vision of a vibrant Singapore economy."</i></p>
 <p><b>Mr Tan Wah Kia, 60</b> Manager, IEPD/ Household Surveys and Expenditure Statistics Department of Statistics (DOS)</p>	<p><i>"Every Census (of Population) comes with different operational issues. We do what we can to make sure that the Census is carried out correctly and smoothly."</i></p>
 <p><b>Mr Seow Chew Hong, 64</b> Executive Officer (Senior), Research and Statistics Unit (RSU) Economic Development Board (EDB)</p>	<p><i>"I really think EDB did a great job in the economic transition. When I started working in the 1970s, a lot of jobs in the industries are labour-intensive and (produced) low-end products. If we look at today's industries, they are actually high value-added products and more technology advanced [sic]. This is a great achievement for EDB to transform the economy."</i></p>
 <p><b>Mr Yeo Yek Seng, 63</b> Deputy Chief Executive, Regulation Division Energy Market Authority (EMA)</p>	<p><i>"I am heartened to see that Singapore's power system has been developed to a state where we have reliable and secure electricity supply."</i></p>

 <p><b>Ms Doreen Lim, 62</b> Senior Executive, Middle East and Africa Group International Enterprise (IE) Singapore</p>	<p><i>"I have always wanted to work in an organisation that drives trade."</i></p>
 <p><b>Mr Tan Suan Yong, 74</b> Former engineer, JTC Corporation</p>	<p><i>"Some 50 years after all the hard work put in by JTC, EDB and all the pioneers, Jurong is now a vibrant town and industrial estate with all sorts of amenities and recreation facilities, high rise apartments, shopping malls and good transport connectivity etc. Jurong is now the 'Wow Wow West!'"</i></p>
 <p><b>Mr Edward Khoo Chee Seng, 63</b> Architecture Director, Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC)</p>	<p><i>"Back then, I had to provide master planning and design inputs for new developments and oversaw the monorail system project by reviewing consultants' proposals. It was definitely challenging, but looking back, I feel privileged to have had contributed to Sentosa's development over the years."</i></p>
 <p><b>Mr Fung Mok Wing, 61</b> Director, Partnerships for Capability Transformation, SPRING</p>	<p><i>"Seeing how my role has transformed over the past 24 years, from providing the building blocks to companies, to strategically nurturing and growing Singapore's enterprises, it has been a meaningful journey for me. The future is bright for our SMEs and SPRING remains committed to our mission to help SMEs grow."</i></p>
 <p><b>Ms Angela Teo, 63</b> Receptionist, Singapore Visitors Centre Singapore Tourism Board (STB)</p>	<p><i>"The management here at STB hasn't changed their mandate in the last 41 years that I have served. They are always friendly and caring towards the staff. Although I am seated at the reception on the first floor, I have never felt excluded from being part of the STB family. The mission of STB- very broadly, promoting Singapore to the world comes across even more now in the work that we do, with more staff, more work streams, more attractions and destinations."</i></p>

**ANNEX C**

**A TRIBUTE TO MTI PIONEER GENERATION: BUS TOUR ON 5 NOV 2014**



*Our pioneers cheering for the camera at the Faber Peak.*

Spirits were high as 55 of our pioneers within the MTI family gathered on 5 November for a bus tour of Singapore's key developments – Jurong Island and Sentosa. Specially organised by JTC ahead of the Tribute Dinner, the excursion lent an excellent chance for our pioneers to interact with one another, as well as to witness the fruition of their hard work and contribution to the economic development of Singapore.

**Jurong Island: The heart of Singapore's energy and chemicals industry**

The day started bright and early at the JTC Summit with our pioneers visibly excited; and they had every reason to be so. Gazetted as a Protected Area since October 2001, Jurong Island has been off-limits to visitors, and this was an once-in-a-lifetime trip. The hour-long ride brought our pioneers through Jurong Island's key developments, including refineries, crackers and the Jurong Rock Caverns Gallery.



*Pioneers gathered at the Jurong Rock Caverns Gallery for a tour explanation.*

For some, like Mr Ramli Bin Mohamed Sadli, the visit was nostalgic and closer to heart, as he was one of the pioneers who had worked on the Island itself. As a Technical Executive with JTC back in 1972, he had supervised construction sites and reclamation works to ensure a home for companies on the Island. Revisiting again now had him exclaiming, *“The Island has grown so much from the small islands in the 1970s!”*

**Sentosa: The state of fun**



*Recalling fun-filled memories of the past when families took cable cars from Sentosa’s ferry terminal to Mount Faber.*

Continuing onto Sentosa, the tour brought the pioneers through key attractions like Sentosa Golf and Tanjong Beach. For those who had not visited newer developments like Sentosa Cove and Capella Singapore, it was also an eye-opening experience as they marvelled at the extensive changes on the island from its early days as a sparsely populated fishing village and one-time military fortress during WWII to one of Asia’s leading leisure and lifestyle destinations now.

Mr Eddy Bin Ali, who has been with Sentosa for almost 37 years, captured it best – *“Sentosa is a place where you don’t feel the pressure... you get to meet all sorts of people (and) that’s the most wonderful thing about working in Sentosa.”*

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