

**D(SG)'s Opening Remarks at Opening Reception
of Visual Art Exhibition “Joy to the Words” (字得其樂)**

On 21 July, 2017

at The Arts House, Singapore.

Cultural Counsellor Mr Que Xiaohua (關小華) (Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Singapore), **Mrs Chan** (Wife of Artist, the late Mr Sun Chan 陳伸), **Hikoko** (Artist of this exhibition), **Colin** (Mr Colin Goh, CEO of the RICE company), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

- Good evening! Welcome to you all to the opening reception of “Joy to the Words” visual art exhibition. It is the first of a series of exhibitions organised by the HKETO in Singapore to mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) this year.
- We are indeed very much honoured to co-present with Artwow the Chinese-character artworks of the late Mr Sun Chan 陳伸 (1932 – 2017), who sadly just passed away in March. So this exhibition is a tribute to Mr Chan, whose works offer an interesting way to experience the exquisite

Chinese characters. It allows people to appreciate the Chinese language in a new way, and hopefully will also inspire everyone to look at their own culture with fresh eyes.

- Mr Chan's works have been hailed for their originality and inventiveness, and have earned him many fans around the world, both young and old. While Mr Chan's playful patterns of vibrant colours and distinctive forms can be appreciated simply for their visual appeal, they also engage viewers who can read Chinese characters in word-guessing games, sparking curiosity and evoking flights of imagination. Mr Chan's art works also provide a fun way for children to learn Chinese characters, as seen in many children's workshops that have been held around the world.
- This Exhibition, featuring more than 40 pieces of selected artworks of the Father-and-Daughter Art Team of Mr Chan and his daughter Hikoko, explores the merry theme of Mirage, Treble and Rainbow. These works include the newest visual representations of one of humanity's oldest scripts by Mr Chan as well as some recent works by Hikoko. No doubt Hikoko has inherited the talent of her father, and I am sure she will bring her father's legacy to a whole new height.
- Hong Kong is a platform for not only local but also international artists to showcase their creativity and talent. The effort of Hong Kong artists not

only makes Hong Kong become one of the dominant players in the world art industry, but it also gains important recognition for Hong Kong's growing position as an international cultural capital. Every year, Hong Kong is proud to host many arts and cultural activities with both international reach and local aromas, manifesting the diversity and vibrancy of Hong Kong's cultural life. The Hong Kong Arts Festival, which is celebrating their 45th year this year, presented over 1,400 acclaimed artists from home and around the world in 119 performances in 2016, encompassing opera, music, theatre and dance. They included 15 world premieres and 12 Asian premieres. Other prominent annual events include the Chinese Opera Festival, International Arts Carnival, Le French May and, in alternate years, the New Vision Arts Festival and World Cultures Festival, attracting tens of thousands visitors around the world.

- Here in Singapore, thanks to the support of all of you and our interlocutors' in various sectors, since April this year, the HKETO in Singapore has already organised a series of events to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the HKSAR, including the debut of theatrical performance "The Golden Cangue" in April, The "HK Phil tour 2017" in May, a well-responded Gala Dinner at Gardens by the Bay and a street-dance drama "Danz Up 2.0" presented by the Hong Kong Arts Festival in June. From July to August, we have a bundle of three exhibitions. After the "Joy to the Words"

exhibition this week, starting next Friday we will have a three-week installation art project “Tian Tian Xiang Shang” by famous Hong Kong artist and experimental art pioneer Danny Yung at Raffles City, followed by a month-long exhibition of old Hong Kong photos taken by a Singaporean Lee Fook Chee in 1950s, which will also be held here in The Arts House starting from 3 August. I hope you will enjoy them.

- Finally, I would like to extend our gratitude to Artwow Group for presenting their artworks in this exhibition; and also our event partners, The Rice Company, and the Promote Mandarin Council. Without them, this exhibition would not be the same. Please give them a round of applause. I wish "Joy to the Words" a resounding success and all of you a delightful evening. Please take your time to enjoy the exhibition, thank you!

Ends