

# Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

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SPEECH BY DR OH CHIN HOCK, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (CULTURE) AND MP FOR LENG KEE, AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE LENG KEE ESSAY COMPETITION, ORGANISED BY LENG KEE CC YOUTH GROUP AND SPONSORED BY SIN CHEW JIT POH, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE "PROMOTE THE USE OF MANDARIN" CAMPAIGN AT THE SIN CHEW JIT POH PROMOTION CENTRE, ON SUNDAY, 13 JAN 80 AT 2.00 PM

I am very pleased to be here this afternoon to officiate at the prize presentation ceremony for the Leng Kee Essay Competition. The Competition which was held in conjunction with the current "Promote the Use of Mandarin" campaign has attracted a good number of entries. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Leng Kee Community Centre Youth Group for organising this activity in support of the Campaign, and to thank Sin Chew Jit Poh for its sponsorship.

There are two important aspects in the promotion of Mandarin or any language. There must be ample opportunities for those who do not know the language to learn it. The other aspect is to foster the growth of a language environment in which Mandarin can be further nurtured and developed through usage.

Opportunities can easily be provided for anyone interested in learning Mandarin. The Ministry of Culture, in consultation with various Ministries and Statutory Boards, is developing two types of Mandarin courses for use in the public service. To assist officers in the performance of their duties, short Mandarin courses based on terminologies peculiar to the work situations of the Ministries or

Statutory Boards ..../?

Statutory Boards are being developed. The course materials include translation of technical terms and phrases from English into Chinese with Hanyu Pinyin. They are then cyclostyled and given to the Ministries/Statutory Boards for their use.

The Ministry is also developing a general conversational Mandarin course for all who wish to learn. The aim of the course is to help the learners to acquire fluency in speech and accuracy in pronunciation. The text of such lessons consists of practical words and phrases frequently used in conversation. The topics are common place situations and the text is in Chinese, English and Hanyu Pinyin. All the lessons are transcribed into cassette tapes so that they can be used for self-study, particularly in the learning of the pronunciation and tone.

Part I of the general Conversational Mandarin course has been completed. The study kit, comprising a booklet entitled "Conversational Mandarin" - Book 1 and three cassette tapes is available at the Educational Publications Bureau and its branches. The same course material will be used when classes for the civil service commence on Monday 14 January 1980. Some 3,400 officers in the civil service will be attending the conversational Mandarin classes which will be held thrice a week at 24 training centres. Each session will be of an hour duration. Time-off during office hours will be given to officers to attend classes. Priority is given to Chinese officers who have dealings with the dialect-speaking public but also are unable to converse in Mandarin or do not know enough Mandarin for the work situation to attend the course. The classes will be taught by trained teachers made available by the Ministry of Education. For the convenience of these officers, the

~~Mandarin classes will be conducted at 28 centres (See attached list).~~

The People's Association will also make use of the syllabus and conduct Mandarin classes for members of the public at community centres. The medium of instruction will be in English, Hokkien and Cantonese. A nominal fee will be charged for these courses.

As a further step to promote the learning of Mandarin, the same course material will be adapted by RTS for television presentation. The television series will be preceded by another series on Hanyu Pinyin. The series on Chinese Phonetics is designed specifically to help beginners to acquire accuracy in pronunciation. It will be broadcast over the English service and telecast over television simultaneously.

A concerted effort must be made to change the dialect-speaking environment particularly in the home, the hawker centers and the market place. The creation of a Mandarin speaking environment not only reduces the burden of learning additional languages and dialects, it reinforces the learning process and adds life to the language. All Chinese Singaporeans who know Mandarin should therefore make conscious attempt to speak the language.


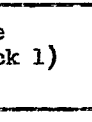
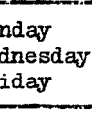
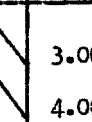
To conclude, I would like to congratulate all the prize winners of this Essay Competition.

For online reference  
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**LOCATION OF TRAINING CENTRES  
FOR THE CONVERSATIONAL MANDARIN COURSE  
ORGANISED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

Centre	Venue	Day	Session	
			AM	PM
1. CPF BUILDING 32nd Floor 79 Robinson Road Singapore 0106	Conference Room Ministry of Finance (Budget Division)	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
		Wednesday		
		Friday	9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00
2. TRAFFIC POLICE STATION Maxwell Road Singapore 0106	Briefing Room	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.30-4.30
		Wednesday		
		Friday	9.30-10.30	4.30-5.30
3. FULLERTON BUILDING 2nd Floor Fullerton Road Singapore 0104	Conference Room	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
		Wednesday		
		Friday	9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00
4. MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS (HQ) Pearl's Hill Singapore 0316	Seminar Room A of the Training & Research Section Social Welfare Dept	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
		Wednesday		
		Friday	9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00
5. CENTRAL POLICE STATION Bu Tong Sen St Singapore 0105	Briefing Room	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.30-4.30
		Wednesday		
		Friday	9.30-10.30	4.30-5.30
6. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Maxwell Road Singapore 0106	Recreational Centre MND Basement Carpark	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
		Wednesday		
		Friday	9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00
7. PRINCESS HOUSE Ministry of the Environment Princess House Annexe (Grd Flr) Alexandra Road Singapore 0315	Hawkers Dept Meeting Room	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
		Wednesday		
		Friday	9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00

Centre	Venue	Day	Session	
			AM	PM
8. WORLD TRADE CENTRE Maritime Square Singapore 0409	(a) Postal Department Conference Room (8th Floor)	Monday Wednesday Friday	8.30- 9.30	
	(b) Sewerage Department Conference Room H (9th Floor)	Monday Wednesday Friday	8.30- 9.30 9.30-10.30	3.00-4.00 4.00-5.00
9. REGISTRY OF VEHICLES Middle Road Singapore 0718	ROV Enforcement Officers' Restroom	Monday Wednesday Friday	8.30- 9.30	3.00-4.00 4.00-5.00
10. CITY HALL 2nd Floor St Andrew's Rd Singapore 0617	(a) Surrender Chamber	Monday Wednesday Friday	8.30- 9.30 9.30-10.30	
	(b) Public Service Commission Library	Monday Wednesday Friday		3.00-4.00 4.00-5.00
11. NATIONAL MUSEUM Stamford Road Singapore 0617	Theatrette	Monday Wednesday Friday	8.30- 9.30 9.30-10.30	
12. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION 5th Floor Kay Siang Rd Singapore 1024	Room 510	Monday Wednesday Friday	8.30- 9.30	
13. POLICE ACADEMY Thomson Road Singapore 1129	Classroom Block	Monday Wednesday Friday	8.30- 9.30 9.30-10.30	3.30-4.30 4.30-5.30
14. GEYLANG POLICE POST Still Road Singapore 1542	Briefing Room	Monday Wednesday Friday	8.30- 9.30	4.30-5.30
15. ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL Alexandra Rd Singapore 0314	Conference Room	Monday Wednesday Friday	8.30- 9.30 9.30-10.30	3.00-4.00 4.00-5.00
		Monday Wednesday Friday		3.00-4.00 4.00-5.00
16. CHANGI HOSPITAL Halton Road Singapore 1750	Lecture Room (Main Block)	Monday Wednesday Friday		3.00-4.00 4.00-5.00

Centre	Venue	Day	Session	
			AM	PM
17. KANDANG KERBAU HOSPITAL Hampshire Road Singapore 0821	Lecture Theatre	Monday		3.00-4.00
		Wednesday		4.00-5.00
		Friday		
18. TAN TOCK SENG HOSPITAL Moulmein Road Singapore 1130	(a) Culture Laboratory	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
		Wednesday	9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00
	Friday			
	(b) Hall in Housemen's Quarters 3, 4 & 5	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
Wednesday		9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00	
Friday				
19. SINGAPORE FAMILY PLANNING & POPULATION CENTRE 26 Dunearn Road Singapore 1130	Maternal & Child Health Services (HQ) Lecture Room	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
		Wednesday	9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00
		Friday		
20. SINGAPORE GENERAL HOSPITAL Outram Road Singapore 0316	(a) Conference Room (Block 1)	Monday	8.30-9.30	
		Tuesday	9.30-10.30	
	Friday			
	(b) Lecture Room Medical Unit III	Monday	8.30-9.30	2.30-3.30
		Tuesday	9.30-10.30	3.30-4.30
		Thursday		
(c) Lecture Hall Dept of Pathology	Monday	8.30-9.30		
	Wednesday	9.30-10.30		
Friday				
21. INSTITUTE OF HEALTH 226 Outram Road Singapore 0316	Lecture Hall	Tuesday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
		Wednesday	9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00
		Friday		
22. MIDDLETON HOSPITAL Moulmein Road Singapore 1130	Lecture Room in Ward 6	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
		Wednesday	9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00
		Friday		
23. MAXWELL ROAD OUTPATIENT DISPENSARY Maxwell Road Singapore 0106	Conference Room (1st Floor)	Monday		3.00-4.00
		Wednesday		4.00-5.00
		Friday		
24. TOA PAYOH HOSPITAL Toa Payoh Rise Singapore 1129	Lecture Room II	Monday	8.30-9.30	3.00-4.00
		Wednesday	9.30-10.30	4.00-5.00
		Friday		

Centre	Venue	Day	Session	
			AM	PM
25. INSTITUTE OF DENTAL HEALTH 5th Floor Hyderabad Road Singapore 0511	Lecture Room 3	Monday Wednesday Friday	8,30-9,30 9,30-10,30	3,00-4,00
26. BEDOK POLYCLINIC Blk 212, Bedok North Street 1 Singapore 1646	3rd Floor	Monday Wednesday Friday		3,30-4,30
27. WOODBRIDGE HOSPITAL Jalan Woodbridge Singapore 1954	School of Psychiatric Nursing	Monday Wednesday Friday	8,30-9,30 9,30-10,30	3,00-4,00 4,00-5,00
28. TOA PAYOH CENTRAL POST OFFICE Blk 187, 344 Lorong 6 Toa Payoh Singapore 1231	Toa Payoh Central Post Office	Sunday	9,30-11,00 11,30-1,00pm	

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