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**WELCOME REMARKS BY MR TAN PHENG HOCK, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
AT THE SINGAPORE HUMAN CAPITAL SUMMIT 2009
29 SEPTEMBER 2009, 0940 HOURS
RAFFLES CITY CONVENTION CENTRE, SINGAPORE**

Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong,
Minister for Manpower Mr Gan Kim Yong,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning and a warm welcome to the Singapore Human Capital Summit 2009.

When the Singapore Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) organised the inaugural Summit last year, we set out with the objective of creating a platform for leaders to come together to discuss the leadership and human capital challenges in Asia, and to share useful strategies and practices. This year, we are delighted to welcome over 800 delegates from over 20 countries across five continents. Your presence here today reflects the growing importance of human capital to Asian companies and organisations. It is also an affirmation of our effort.

This year, we have a distinguished line-up of some 50 global and regional thought leaders, industry captains, practitioners and academics, who will speak on a variety of topics ranging from talent attraction to cross-cultural management. There will be a Knowledge Showcase, featuring useful examples of successful practices and collaborations by businesses, professional service firms and government agencies in human

capital development. In addition, findings from three Asia-centric research projects will be unveiled at this year's Summit.

This year's Summit will also feature, for the first time, the presentation of the Asian Human Capital Award. This award recognises companies in Asia with innovative people practices that have achieved significant business impact. A total of 44 entries were received from seven countries across Asia for this prestigious award. We hope you can join us at the award ceremony this evening. Those of us who have heard from the inaugural award recipient, Accenture Services Limited India, last night, would have certainly been inspired by their story.

I am confident that this year's Summit will deepen our understanding of the human capital issues facing Asian organisations, and provide us valuable insights on how we can devise better strategies and practices to tackle such issues. It is also my hope that we can continue this discourse after the Summit. Some of us may wish to capitalise on the various programmes that are being organised by enrolling our organisations, for example, in the on-going research projects, such as the Hot Spots programme, where to-date we have participation from nine organisations with 28 teams. Others may wish to take part in the upcoming forums and master classes, including the Distinguished Human Resource Visitors Programme organised by the Ministry of Manpower.

On this note, I would like to thank the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, for gracing the Summit. Let me also thank our speakers and facilitators for generously contributing their time and knowledge. Our gratitude also goes out to our partners and sponsors for helping us make this Summit a reality.

Finally, let me wish all of you two fruitful days ahead. I hope each of us will walk away from the Summit inspired by the stories we hear,

armed with valuable insights and ideas, and ready to return to our organisations to harness our greatest asset – our People!

Thank you.