SPEECH

Hon. Alain Wong Yen Cheong, M.S.K

Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms
&
Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management

Prize Giving Ceremony for the
ELS Award 2016 for the Public Sector

Thursday 27 October 2016
13:15 hours
Conference Room,
Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms

- Mr Pather, Senior Chief Executive, MCSAR
- Mrs. Capery, Permanent Secretary, MCSAR
- Representative of the UNDP
- Members of the ELS Steering Committee
- Staff of the Ministry of Civil Service and AR
- Participants
- Members of the Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen
Good Afternoon,

I am pleased to be with you today on the occasion of the Prize Giving ceremony of the **E-Learning System (ELS)** Award 2016 for the Public Sector.

**63 entries were received** for this competition, and there are **two winners amongst us today**. I seize this opportunity to congratulate the winners, for the efforts and determination they have demonstrated. **There is no doubt that you have had to make a lot of sacrifices, and these have not gone unrewarded.**

The E-Learning System Award reflects the commitment of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms **towards the effective development of our human resources.** Our people are our major resource and Government is leaving no stone unturned to invest in their training and development.

Training and Development has now become an inescapable feature in our endeavour to create a modern and efficient public service and achieve excellence in the delivery of services. It is a vital tool for development and innovation as it moulds the thinking of employees leading to remarkable performances.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Government has taken the commitment to bring transformational change in the Civil Service to render it more
responsible and responsive. The Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms is sparing no effort to provide training opportunities to public officers to equip them with the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies to help them perform their duties more effectively, more efficiently and in a more customer-friendly manner.

In line with its vision to achieve excellence, the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms is striving to modernize the Civil Service, to embrace best practices and to ensure good governance. This vision cannot be realized unless we develop a skillful and competent human resource base. Knowledgeable workers represent the brainpower and the intellectual capital required to ensure and sustain the competitive advantage of our public sector organizations. Employees at all levels should therefore increasingly play a proactive role in their own professional development by continuous learning to improve their performances at work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The winners for the E-Learning System Award 2016 for the Public Sector will participate in the “Collaborative Innovation in Service Delivery” workshop to be held from 1-3 November in Singapore. Government, civil society and private sector often do not work together collaboratively for reasons that are both intrinsic and
extrinsic to them. Obvious differences in ethos and purpose often translate uneasy alliance to deliver public goods. But **when the balance between collaboration and competition is right, the result for citizens can be remarkable: blending relationships, democracy and productivity to drive social purpose.**

The **winners of the E-Learning System Award 2016 will therefore have the opportunity to identify synergies, challenges and lessons in building collaborative approaches to public service delivery.** I therefore wish them to have a fruitful workshop, and I am convinced that **when they come back they will have enhanced ability to develop cross-sector and cross-agency collaboration in different context,** and will have insight on cutting edge efforts in Singapore designed to build social capital and improve public outcomes through collaboration.

I would also like to put on record **my appreciation of the collaborative partnership which exists between the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms and the United Nations Development Programme.**

With these few words, I thank you all for your kind attention.