

**Speech by Mr Heng Chiang Gnee, Chairman of Sembawang Shipyard Pte Ltd on the occasion of Green Wave Environmental Care Project for Schools Award Presentation Ceremony
29 November 2004, Tudor Ballroom, Goodwood Park Hotel**

Good afternoon,

Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Education, Alliance Partners, Judges, Honourable guests, Principals, teachers, students, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of Sembawang Shipyard, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to this Award Presentation Ceremony on our Green Wave Environmental Care Project for schools and tertiary institutions. Today's award ceremony marks the second year of the Green Wave competition which was launched in January 2003.

I would like to thank the Minister for gracing this afternoon's ceremony despite his very busy schedule. Your presence, Mr Minister, is deeply appreciated.

The Green Wave is not merely a competition. It is aimed to be an educational promotion of creativity and innovative thinking among our student population in the area of environmental care and protection. Through our Green Wave competition, we offer students a platform and induce them to learn and share

their ideas on environmental concerns and issues. It is our hope that through the Green Wave project, we will be able to motivate our students to be passionate about innovation using either simple ideas or advanced technologies that can truly improve our environment for the benefit of ours and future generations to come.

For 2004, we received a total of 126 entries from the four levels of competition and we are indeed heartened to note the substantial efforts and hard work put in by the students in sharing with us their interesting ideas on a wide range of environmental concerns such as water conservation, waste management, air and pollution control, and preservation of wild life in Singapore. An example of the innovative ideas that we have seen in the entries submitted, was from a tertiary team which came up with a new separator device for ballast water system for the marine industry. The team applied the idea of using centrifugal force as a method of separating solids from liquid for high volume water ballast system. Although this method is used in the chemical and biotech industries, it is relatively new for the marine industry and has good potential for further evaluation and pursuit. We also saw a team from the secondary level coming up with interesting and creative board games to promote awareness of the effects of water pollution and how each and every one can contribute towards better water management. There are indeed many other interesting ideas which the students proposed through their

projects and I understand that several of the teams are here this afternoon to share with us their creative ideas at the exhibition marquee. Let me add that the panel of judges assessed that the standard of the entries this year is higher than last year and hence, have recommended that more awards be given out this year! We are very much encouraged by this positive development as we sincerely believe that the Green Wave competition will challenge our students, daring them to think innovatively on their lifelong journey of responsible involvement in environmental care and protection. If the projects can be commercialised, it would certainly boost our national effort to build a more entrepreneur culture.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to announce that a distinguished Advisory Panel will be set up by mid 2005. This panel of advisors will be invited from key educational institutions, statutory boards, and reputable commercial firms actively involved in environmental care and protection. We will announce the list of advisors once the panel is formed. The key objectives of the Advisory Panel will be to set the directions, give maturity to the competition and provide hands-on advice on the organization of the competition such that the competition gets progressively better each year. We are confident that with the guidance of the Advisory Panel, we will be able to achieve our set target of introducing the Green Wave Competition to all students in the ASEAN region by 2008.

We have many people to thank for the progress of the Green Wave project. On behalf of Sembawang Shipyard, I would like to thank all who have contributed towards the success of the Green Wave Environmental Care Project for schools and for making today's ceremony possible.

In particular, we are grateful to the Ministry for Education for the strong support of this meaningful project when we first discussed the project with the Curriculum Planning Division way back in 2002. Without the Ministry's guidance and proactive assistance in facilitating this project, our Green Wave Environmental Care Project for schools would not be what it is today.

We are also encouraged by the continued strong pledge of support from our alliance partners namely, Shell International Trading and Shipping and BP Shipping, who are co-sponsors for the top prize awards at the JC/ITE and Tertiary levels of competition. Being oil majors with highly developed environmental care programmes and stringent standards, we have indeed learnt and benefited from their expertise in the area of environmental protection. In fact, the Fleet Managers of both Shell, Mr Erick Weston, and BP, Mr Tony Sullivan, have flown into Singapore specially for this ceremony. We are most grateful for your strong support.

We have also witnessed the strong enthusiasm, encouragement and support, with good ideas and suggestions from our distinguished panel of judges, who are senior staff, professors and institution directors from the Ministry of Education, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, National Institute of Education, National Environment Agency, National Parks Board, Singapore Environment Council, Singapore Polytechnic and Heads of Departments of Schools.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to all the schools' principals, heads of departments, and teachers for encouraging their students to participate in the competition

Not forgetting, we wish to thank the stars of today's show, our students, who have responded enthusiastically to the competition. We hope that you have enjoyed the competition as much as we have in organising it.

To all the winners, congratulations! You have done well and I hope that you will continue your pursuit to seek out innovative and interesting ideas for the betterment of our environment. To those who did not win this year, please do try again next year.

To the shipyard's Community and Environment Care Committee, thank you for your dedication and hard work and more importantly, for your firm belief that through our effort, we can make a difference and contribute to our community.

Finally, we thank you again; Minister, for your support and for doing us this great honour in gracing this occasion and to present the awards to the winners.

I now have the honour and pleasure to invite our Guest of Honour, Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam to address us. Minister please.