

**Speech by Ms Wong Lee Lin, Executive Director, Sembawang Shipyard Pte Ltd the occasion of Green Wave Environmental Care Project for Schools Award Presentation Ceremony
6 December 2005, Tudor Ballroom, Goodwood Park Hotel**

Good morning,

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, His Excellency Dr Ozichi Alimole, Nigerian High Commissioner, Advisory Board members, Alliance Partners, Judges, Honourable guests, Principals, teachers, students, members of the Press, colleagues, and friends.

A warm welcome to all the happy faces here. Today's award ceremony marks the third successful year of the Green Wave competition which we launched in January 2003.

When we started the Green Wave in 2003, we did not see it merely as a competition but as a meaningful and effective platform to reach out to our student population, encouraging them to develop a keen interest in environmental care and protection, and motivating them to think creatively on sustainable practices to better the environment for Singapore and our planet.

This year, we received a total of 257 entries from four levels of competition compared to 121 in 2004 and the number of student participants has increased two-folds, from 503 to 1,012 in 2005. We are indeed encouraged by the keen enthusiastic interest, participation and the quality of the submissions this year from the students as they continue to share their ideas on various aspects of environmental conservation and protection. If the Greenwave Competition can, over the years help to encourage our students in developing a proactive interest and involvement in environmental care and protection, then the Greenwave has achieved its goal.

In the past 3 years, the involvement from like-minded individuals and organisations, who share the same passion that we have for the environment, has helped to grow and raise the standard and profile of the Greenwave competition.

In particular, we are grateful to the Ministry for Education, Ministry for the Environment, the National Environment Agency, Singapore Environment Council, National Parks Board, National University of Singapore, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic for their strong support and assistance to make this competition effective. To our illustrious judges from the various institutions of learning and from commercial companies, thank you, you people are great. We also thank our alliance partners, Shell Shipping & Trading and BP Shipping, co-sponsors of this competition for their continued support and encouragement of this meaningful environmental outreach project. Our sincere

appreciation to all the schools' principals, heads of departments, and teachers for encouraging their students to participate. Many thanks for the dedication and commitment of our Greenwave lead co-ordinators, Miss Wang Hui Ping and Mr. Gerard Theseira for their good work. Most of all we thank our Minister for taking the time to grace this occasion and to see the exhibits done by the students. Dear Minister, you will not regret your time here after you have witnessed the enthusiasm of our students today.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to advise that as organiser of the Green Wave, we continuously look at areas of improvement, with the aim of making the competition better and more challenging each year. We have formed a distinguished Advisory Board to guide us. We also set up a Green Wave IDEA Implementation Committee in our shipyard, whose key task is to review all the winning projects or prototypes created by our students with the potential of being developed into useful products for household and commercial use. We see this as an important step to continue the good ideas of our students and work towards transforming their ideas into productive use. While we continue to spread the need for environmental care and protection, our message which I would like to share with you today is that we have to get personally involved in environmental conservation and protection on a sustained basis. In Singapore, whenever there is a problem or an issue, we often ask "What is the government going to do about it?" Well I have news for you... when it comes to environmental conservation and protection, it is not only the responsibility of our government, our companies or our schools, or our neighbours, it is our personal responsibility to be actively involved in the protection and enhancement of our environment and it will have the greatest effect if we are able to start when we are young. It is also our duty, the duty of the current generation working in government and commercial companies to educate the next generation on protecting our natural beauty and our earth's resources. I recall on one business trip many years ago when I was a lot younger, there were several members in the shipyard team to Japan for the launching of our Floating dock and Mr Lee Ek Tieng, at that time was our Chairman and he later became the Perm Sec for the Environment and Head of the Civil Service, was one of the members. As a much younger lady then, I was more eager to see the beauty of Mount Fuji, the kimono-cladded ladies, the castles, gardens, the discos and the shops but Mr Lee was constantly bringing to my attention the problems created by pollution and less efficient use of land...it was throughout the week long trip..."Leelin, look at the polluted canals, look at the destruction of the greenery, look at the dumping of the garbage and look at the smog from the factories.....", Gee Wheez, after 2 days. I tried my best to avoid him because as a young person, you prefer to see the beauty rather than the ugliness that modernisation has caused. However, I could not escape from Mr Lee's concerns on how the environment can be better protected and used but at the end of the trip, I realised that he was trying to educate this former young person on environmental care and protection.

I would urge all students to have a passion for the conservation of our environment, be more hands on, be involved in environment protection and have a personal

responsibility which will develop into corporate responsibility when many of you become leaders of companies and our government. Practise waste recycling at home and in your schools, use water efficiently and do not pollute our country or the countries that we visit. Develop ideas on how we can cut down carbon dioxide emissions through perhaps energy efficient technology, how we can have better usage of our land, the more efficient use of oil and renewal energy sources, how we can manage waste without discharging into the environment or redesign our transport system to reduce the pollution. As a Singaporean, I am proud that our country has developed by leaps and bounds but have our people become more environmentally conscious? I hope so though I am not too sure when I see Orchard road malls covered with litter and wasted food early on a Sunday morning or some of the housing estates where residents appear to be getting careless about keeping their environment clean.

If you have not seen the “Earth from the air” photographic exhibition by Yann Arthus Bertrand along Orchard Road mall, please do take time to see not only the artistic works of a genius photographer but the theme that the great natural beauty of our planet can only be preserved through our personal choice to be actively involved in sustainable development, that is, development of our land and economy that meets the needs of our generation but does not destroy nor compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Dear students and friends, be the change agent for the environment, be personally involved and get your friends and neighbours interested in it too. If each and every one of us is involved, our country and our planet will continue to enjoy the great beauty and the rich resources of our planet for generations to come.

Now it leaves me to congratulate all the winners. You have done well and I hope that you will continue your passionate pursuit to seek out innovative and interesting ideas for the betterment of our environment, most of all, keep the passion alive in you for caring for our environment as you grow and mature into adulthood.

Thank you for your attention.

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