

**SPEECH BY GUEST-OF-HONOUR MR TEO SER LUCK,
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR THE MINISTRY OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH AND SPORTS AT
THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF “*BEAUTY IN ASIA*”
ON 2 MAY 2007 AT 7.00PM
AT THE ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM**

Mr Michael Koh, CEO, National Heritage Board

Ms Priscylla Shaw, Chairman, Asian Civilisations Museum,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening,

1 Last week, I attended the beauty pageant, Miss Singapore Universe 2007, where a new beauty queen was crowned. Today, I am happy to be here to officiate at the Opening of the “Beauty in Asia” Exhibition. Perhaps, this is not a coincidence!

2 “Beauty” is a highly subjective concept. Ideas, perceptions and definitions of beauty can differ widely from person to person. While there may be many opinions on what is beautiful and what is not, I believe most people will agree with the popular phrase “Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder”. In fact we could say that “Beauty” is an evolving notion, Beauty transcends physical appearance. Beauty is ageless and timeless.

3 I applaud the ACM for putting together such a thought-provoking exhibition. I trust that the exhibition will be an eye-opener that will shed light on “What is beautiful” and therefore also the opposite perception, “What is ugly”.

4 I understand there are some 300 paintings, sculptures, ornaments, and accessories in the exhibition, drawn not only from the ACM’s own collection, but also borrowed from museums in India and Ireland, and private collections in the USA and Singapore. The exhibits are arranged in four thematic sections. They are Ideal Beauty, Quest for Beauty, Celebration of Beauty and Spiritual Beauty.

5 At the MCYS, our vision is to nurture inspired and committed youth who will make a positive difference to Singapore. I see the “Beauty in Asia” exhibition as a clever and catchy way to interest our youths in coming to the museum and learning more about their Asian heritage. I hope that the exhibition will capture the imagination of Singaporeans in general and help us to appreciate better the similarities as well as differences between the cultural values of our different communities.

6 It now gives me great pleasure to declare the exhibition open.

7 Thank you.