



**UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE 2016 ALUMNI DINNER IN
SINGAPORE**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS
23 JULY**

**PHILIP GREEN
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER**

CHRISTOPHER; SHANDRE; GENEVIEVE THESEIRA-
HAESE, THE LADY MAYORESS OF ADELAIDE;
PROFESSOR NANCY CROMAR, PRO VICE-
CHANCELLOR (INTERNATIONAL) THE UNIVERSITY OF
ADELAIDE; DISTINGUISHED GUESTS; ALUMNI; LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE THIS EVENING.

I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU ABOUT HOW FINE AN
INSTITUTION THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE IS, OR
ABOUT ITS MANY LINKS WITH SINGAPORE.

OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS WE WILL BE
SEEING HOW COMPREHENSIVE THOSE LINKS ARE.
NOT ONLY TONIGHT, BUT ON MONDAY AT THE
UNIVERSITY'S AUSTRALIA-SINGAPORE
RELATIONSHIP CONFERENCE, AND THEN THAT SAME
EVENING WHEN SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S MINISTER FOR
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND TOURISM, THE
HONOURABLE LEON BIGNELL MP, BRINGS TOGETHER

BUSINESS PEOPLE FROM ACROSS SINGAPORE AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR ANOTHER GALA EVENT.

I AM SURE EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM KNOWS THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, HIS EXCELLENCY DR TONY TAN, IS AN ALUMNUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

ALONGSIDE OTHER SINGAPOREAN LUMINARIES SUCH AS MINISTER FOR TRADE S ISWARAN, HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE PETER ONG AND GIC PRESIDENT LIM SIONG GUAN, AMONG MANY OTHERS, PRESIDENT TAN'S VERY PERSONAL BOND WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND THE STATE ARE JUST ONE OF MANY CONNECTIONS.

TONIGHT, I AM GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE BROADER WEB OF ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, SPECIFICALLY THROUGH THE COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP, WHICH OUR GOVERNMENTS RECENTLY SIGNED, AND THE SINGAPORE-AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, OR SAFTA.

SAFTA AND THE CSP – AS IT IS NOW KNOWN – WILL BE EXPLORED IN MORE DETAIL DURING THE PANEL DISCUSSION LATER THIS EVENING, BUT I WANTED TO PAINT SOME BROAD BRUSH STROKES TO GIVE YOU A SENSE OF JUST HOW IMPORTANT THIS DEVELOPMENT IS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

FIRST, THOUGH, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT WHERE SINGAPORE AND AUSTRALIA STAND TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A BIT OF CONTEXT.

ALREADY, OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE VERY CLOSE.

SINGAPORE IS AUSTRALIA'S FIFTH-LARGEST TRADING PARTNER AND OUR LARGEST IN ASEAN. IT WAS LAST YEAR OUR SECOND-LARGEST SOURCE OF INWARDS FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT BY FLOW. AT ONE POINT IT WAS OUR LARGEST SOURCE OF FDI IN COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE.

BY WAY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THE ICONIC MYER CENTRE IN ADELAIDE'S RUNDLE MALL WAS LAST YEAR PURCHASED BY SINGAPORE'S STARHILL GLOBAL REIT. LAST YEAR SINGAPOREAN INVESTORS BOUGHT THE QUEST APARTMENTS COMPLEX AT QUEST APARTMENTS COMPLEX AT MAWSON LAKES.

AND THE DEALS AREN'T ALL ONE WAY. SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPER COMMERCIAL AND GENERAL TWO MONTHS AGO ENTERED INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH SINGAPORE'S CAMBRIDGE INDUSTRIAL TRUST TO DELIVER PROJECTS SUCH AS THE \$1 BILLION WEST PROJECT AT ADELAIDE'S FOOTBALL PARK AND THE \$250 MILLION CALVARY HOSPITAL PROJECT.

IN PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS, THERE ARE NUMEROUS TWO-WAY CONNECTIONS. OUR TOURISM RELATIONSHIP IS ONE. THE EASE OF TRAVEL BETWEEN EACH OF THE MAINLAND STATE CAPITALS AND SINGAPORE MAKES THIS PLACE A NATURAL HUB FOR AUSTRALIAN TRAVELLERS AND AUSTRALIA A POPULAR DESTINATION FOR SINGAPOREAN TOURISTS.

OUR EDUCATION RELATIONSHIP IS ANOTHER. THE ALUMNI CONNECTION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE IS SUBSTANTIAL, SOLID AND VITAL. THE ASIAN LEADERS EDUCATED AT AUSTRALIAN

UNIVERSITIES IN THE 50S, 60S AND 70S UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN CONTINUE TO BE GREAT FRIENDS IN THIS REGION.

THE AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS NOW STUDYING AT ASIAN UNIVERSITIES – INCLUDING AT NUS AND NTU VIA SCHEMES SUCH AS THE NEW COLOMBO PLAN – SHOW A PATH FOR THIS DEEPER INTEGRATION WELL IN THE FUTURE.

IN DEFENCE MEANWHILE, OUR COOPERATION GOES BACK TO THE EARLIEST YEARS OF SINGAPORE'S NATIONHOOD, INCLUDING THROUGH THE FIVE POWER DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS.

TODAY, HOWEVER, THAT DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP IS SO MUCH GREATER WITH REGULAR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DEFENCE EXCHANGES, REGULAR JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES AND DEEP COOPERATION IN DEFENCE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INTELLIGENCE.

WITH SINGAPORE NOW DEVELOPING MORE AND BIGGER TRAINING AREAS AND FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA, THAT PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO A NEW LEVEL.

DEFENCE THOUGH IS ONLY ONE OF EFFECTIVELY FOUR PILLARS IN THE COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – SIGNED VIA A JOINT DECLARATION BY PRIME MINISTERS ABBOTT AND LEE IN JUNE 2015, PART OF OUR CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND OF COURSE 50 YEARS OF SINGAPORE'S INDEPENDENCE.

THE OTHER PILLARS, WHICH I WILL EACH TOUCH ON, ARE IN TRADE AND ECONOMICS; INNOVATION; AND

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE LINKS. SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN EACH OF THEM.

TRADE AND ECONOMICS IS AN OBVIOUS PLACE TO START AS THIS IS WHERE A LOT OF THE PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS BEEN AND THIS IS WHERE THE SAFTA COMES INTO PLAY.

ONE OF THE KEY OUTCOMES OF THE CSP IS A DEAR PLAN FOR THE FREER MOVEMENT OF BUSINESS PEOPLE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH WILL BE ENSHRINED IN THE SAFTA, NOW IN ITS THIRD REVIEW.

AT A TIME WHEN MUCH OF THE WORLD IS HESITATING AT GLOBALISATION, WE ARE EMBRACING IT.

AND WE EMBRACE IT NOT JUST BECAUSE WE ARE NATURALLY OPEN, TRADING AND MULTI-CULTURAL SOCIETIES – THOUGH THAT INCREASINGLY RARE ASPECT IS VERY IMPORTANT – BUT BECAUSE TRADE AND MIGRATION WORK FOR US.

IN THE BILATERAL CONTEXT IT WORKS FOR US ESPECIALLY, AS YOU – THE ALUMNI OF AN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY IN SINGAPORE AMPLY KNOW. THE FREE MOVEMENT OF TRADE AND PEOPLE BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND AUSTRALIA IS OF MUTUAL, AND MUTUALLY-REINFORCING BENEFIT.

THIS IS BECAUSE, AT A FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL, THE SINGAPORE AND AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP IS CHARACTERISED BY MUTUAL COMPLEMENTARITIES. THAT MEANS MUTUAL

COMPLEMENTARITIES IN TERMS OF INDUSTRIES, COMPETENCIES, SKILLS AND ENDOWMENTS.

AUSTRALIA WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH SINGAPORE IN SHIPPING OR INTERNATIONALLY-CONNECTED AIRPORTS. SAVING FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF ANTARCTICA, OUR GEOGRAPHY MAKES THIS IMPOSSIBLE.

SIMILARLY, SINGAPORE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH AUSTRALIA ON AGRICULTURE AND PRODUCING FOOD AND WINE OF REMARKABLE QUALITY. WITH SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN THE CENTRE OF THAT STORY YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT THERE WILL BE A READY MARKET IN SINGAPORE FOR DECADES TO COME.

IN OTHER ECONOMIC SPHERES MUTUAL COMPLEMENTARITIES DEFINE OUR RELATIONSHIP, AND IN AREAS THAT, AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU MIGHT NOT EXPECT.

TO CONTINUE THE AGRICULTURAL THEME, TAKE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GRAIN FOR EXAMPLE. SINGAPORE HAS THE LOGISTICS CAPABILITIES AND THE GLOBAL SHIPPING GIANTS. AUSTRALIA HAS SOME OF THE WORLD'S BEST GRAIN HANDLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SKILLED PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN GET HIGH QUALITY PRODUCT FROM THE Paddock TO THE PLATE.

OR TAKE THE EXAMPLE OF THE PHARMACEUTICALS INDUSTRY. AUSTRALIA HAS THE TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE, SINGAPORE HAS THE COMMERCIALISATION CAPACITY.

THERE IS A RICH CROSS-FERTILISATION OF TRADE, CO-INVESTMENT, DEALS AND SHARED R&D BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THIS SPACE. A SWATHE OF MOUS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES' UNIVERSITIES, AS WELL AS THE LEAD GOVERNMENT SCIENCE AGENCIES – AUSTRALIA'S CSIRO AND SINGAPORE'S A*STAR. AND THAT BRINGS ME TO THE NEXT PILLAR OF THE CSP, INNOVATION.

INNOVATION IS VIRTUALLY INCONTESTABLE AND WHILE IT CAN RESULT IN TEMPORARY DISRUPTION, I THINK ALMOST EVERYONE CAN AGREE THAT IT'S A GOOD THING TO PURSUE.

BUT WHY IS IT IN THE CSP? SIMPLY IT'S BECAUSE FOR TOO LONG AUSTRALIA'S INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS HAVE BEEN ORIENTED TO PLACES LIKE LONDON AND SILICON VALLEY, RATHER THAN IN OUR ASIAN NEIGHBOURHOOD WHERE FRANKLY MOST OF THE WORLD'S GROWTH IS GOING TO COME FROM IN OUR LIFETIMES.

IN RECENT DECADES SINGAPORE HAS EMERGED AS A KEY NODE, IF NOT THE KEY HUB, FOR INNOVATION IN ASIA.

UNDER THE CSP, WE WILL BE LEVERAGING THAT ADVANTAGE BY LAUNCHING A RANGE OF NEW INITIATIVES THAT WILL ALLOW SINGAPOREANS AND AUSTRALIANS TO EXPLOIT THE MUTUAL COMPLEMENTARITIES THAT EXTEND TO INNOVATION.

WE WILL BE LAUNCHING A “LANDING PAD” IN SINGAPORE TO HELP AUSTRALIAN START-UPS LINK INTO ASIAN SUPPLY CHAINS, CUSTOMER BASES AND CAPITAL NETWORKS. IT WILL LOOK SOMETHING LIKE

A CO-WORKING SPACE OR ACCELERATOR, BUT WITH A DISTINCTIVE AUSSIE FLAVOUR. THE LANDING PAD WILL BE MANAGED BY AUSTRADE, WHICH IS ALSO OPENING LANDING PADS IN TEL AVIV, BERLIN, SHANGHAI AND, SILICON VALLEY.

FINALLY, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED TO A JOINT STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ON INNOVATION. AS MOST IF NOT ALL OF YOU WILL KNOW, OUR TWO PRIME MINISTERS ARE PRETTY SMART, NERDY GUYS. I AM SURE THEY WOULDN'T MIND ME SAYING SO. OUR TWO PRIME MINISTERS LOVE SCIENCE, INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND – SO I AM TOLD – THE WEARING OF APPLE WATCHES.

PRIME MINISTER LEE FAMOUSLY CODES AND EVEN WROTE A SUDUKO SOLVING PROGRAM IN C++. HE IS WELL KNOWN FOR BEING THE SENIOR WRANGLER IN MATHEMATICS AT TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

PRIME MINISTER TURNBULL WAS A PIONEER IN THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA, BEING AN EARLY FOUNDER-INVESTOR IN OZEMAIL, ONE OF OUR FIRST INTERNET PORTALS. PRIOR TO ENTERING POLITICS HE WENT ON TO START OTHER SUCCESSFUL TECHNOLOGY FIRMS AND HAS DONE MUCH TO PUT PLACES LIKE SYDNEY FIRMLY ON THE GLOBAL INNOVATION MAP, PARTICULARLY IN SECTORS SUCH AS FINTECH, BIG DATA AND MEDICAL DIAGNOSTICS.

BY LAUNCHING A JOINT STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ON INNOVATION, UNDER THE CSP, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE ENSURING THAT THE SERENDIPITY AND ENERGY THAT HAS DEFINED THE EMERGENCE OF INNOVATION IN AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE IS ENGRAINED IN THE MACHINERY OF

GOVERNMENT – NOT SO THAT IT IS STIFLED, BUT SO IT CONTINUES TO BE FRONT OF MIND IN EVERYTHING WE DO AND SO THAT THE BUDDING LINKAGES WE WILL SEE THROUGH OTHER INITIATIVES LIKE THE LANDING PAD WILL BE FOSTERED AT A VERY SENIOR LEVEL AND EXTENDED THROUGHOUT THE RELATIONSHIP.

AND FROM TOP-DOWN TO BOTTOM-UP THIS IS A NATURAL PLACE TO TALK ABOUT PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE LINKS.

UNDER THE CSP, AUSTRALIA IS PILOTING AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR SINGAPOREAN STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA. AS YOU ALL KNOW, GLOBAL CAREER EXPERIENCE AND GLOBAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE IS BECOMING VITAL TO SUCCESS IN INCREASINGLY GLOBALISED CAREERS.

IT STARTS EARLIER, HOWEVER, THAN AT THE AGE WHEN STUDENTS TYPICALLY EMBARK ON INTERNSHIPS AND THIS IS WHY WE ARE ALSO ENGAGING SINGAPOREAN SCHOOLS IN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S BRIDGE PROGRAM – WHICH STANDS FOR BUILDING RELATIONS THROUGH INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND GROWING ENGAGEMENT.

ELSEWHERE, WE ARE ENHANCING THE CULTURAL RELATIONSHIP VIA THE CREATION OF THE AUSTRALIA-SINGAPORE ARTS GROUP. UNDER INCREASED FUNDING, MEANWHILE, THERE WILL BE MORE SINGAPOREAN ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS VISITING AUSTRALIA AND HIGHLIGHTING SINGAPORE'S RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND THERE WILL BE MORE AUSSIES HERE.

SOME OF YOU LAST YEAR WILL HAVE SEEN “50 BRIDGES” SHOWCASE WE AT THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION WANTED FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY LAST YEAR. WE HAVE ANOTHER TREAT IN STORE, ALBEIT OF AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT NATURE. THE AUSTRALIAN WORLD ORCHESTRA – THE PREMIER ENSEMBLE OF TOP AUSTRALIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC TALENT FROM SYMPHONY AND PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRAS ACROSS THE WORLD – WILL BE PERFORMING HERE IN SINGAPORE FOR AN EXCLUSIVE CONCERT ON OCTOBER 1.

UNDER THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PILLAR, WE ARE ALSO EMBARKING ON A RECIPROCAL WORK AND HOLIDAY-MAKER PROGRAMME, WHICH WILL ALLOW MORE SINGAPOREANS – IF THEY WISH – TO JOIN THEIR GERMAN AND SWEDISH COLLEAGUES IN PICKING FRUIT AND DRIVING COMBI VANS UP AND DOWN THE QUEENSLAND COAST. IT WILL ALSO ALLOW MORE YOUNG AUSTRALIANS TO COME TO SINGAPORE, INSTEAD OF PLACES LIKE LONDON AND NEW YORK, TO START THEIR CAREERS AND ENJOY THEIR UNIVERSITY GAP YEARS. I SUSPECT, SOMEHOW, THAT YOU WILL SEE MORE SINGAPORE-AUSTRALIAN MARRIAGES IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, FURTHER ENHANCING OUR PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES.

BY MAKING IT EASIER FOR SINGAPOREANS AND AUSTRALIANS TO VISIT EACH OTHER’S COUNTRIES – SOMETHING THAT IS ALREADY VERY EASY, BUT THERE ARE ISSUES TO IRON OUT – NATURALLY THE CSP IS FOSTERING AN INCREASE IN COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR BORDER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. IT WILL NOT SURPRISE YOU THAT THERE IS ALSO NOW A DIALOGUE AND

COLLABORATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BETWEEN OUR TOURISM AUTHORITIES AS WELL.

WITHIN THE ECONOMIC AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PILLARS I SHOULD ALSO TALK BRIEFLY ABOUT WHAT'S IN IT FOR UNIVERSITIES.

FIRSTLY, SINGAPORE IS INCREASING RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY QUALIFICATIONS IN LAW, MEDICINE AND ALLIED HEALTH. WE ARE ALSO IMPROVING OPERATING CONDITIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES WITH A CAMPUS IN SINGAPORE.

SINGAPORE AND AUSTRALIA ARE PUTTING GREATER EMPHASIS ON SUPPORTING MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN OUR MAJOR PROFESSIONS. PRIORITY IS BEING GIVEN TO ACCOUNTANTS AND ENGINEERS – AND I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU HAVE THESE QUALIFICATIONS – SO THAT AUSTRALIAN AND SINGAPOREAN FIRMS IN THESE INCREASINGLY GLOBAL PROFESSIONS CAN ACCESS EACH OTHER'S PROFESSIONALS MORE EASILY.

THERE WILL ALSO BE GREATER CERTAINTY FOR AUSTRALIAN AND AUSTRALIAN-TRAINED LAWYERS AND LAW FIRMS IN SINGAPORE, WHICH I KNOW WILL APPEAL TO ANOTHER SUBSTANTIVE NUMBER OF YOU IN THIS ROOM.

THERE ARE MANY MORE TECHNICAL OUTCOMES OF THE CSP WHICH I COULD LIST AT LENGTH, BUT THERE IS A PANEL LATER ON AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOUR MAIN COURSE TO EAT.

IN CLOSING THEN, I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH THE WORDS OF PRIME MINISTER TURNBULL, WHO DESCRIBED THE CSP AS A "MASSIVE UPGRADING" OF OUR RELATIONS, AND PRIME MINISTER LEE, WHO SAID "THIS IS A WIN-WIN DEAL THAT WILL CEMENT RELATIONS AND BENEFIT AUSTRALIANS AND SINGAPOREANS FOR YEARS TO COME".

THE COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IS A SUBSTANTIVE, DYNAMIC AND EXCITING NEW CHAPTER IN THE SINGAPORE-AUSTRALIA STORY. I HOPE THAT YOU, THE ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE IN SINGAPORE, WILL WANT TO SHARE IN THAT NEW FIELD OF AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE RELATIONS.

THANK YOU FOR COMMITTING TO THAT BY BEING HERE TONIGHT AND FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

CONGRATULATIONS ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR ON ALUMNI RELATIONS AND THANK YOU AGAIN.