

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that 19 years have passed since our non-profit organization was formed in 1991 as a result of a Community Project, spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Raffles City. I am proud that today the DAS has gained recognition for its expertise in helping people with dyslexia and special learning difficulties not only in Singapore, but in Asia!

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the Rotary Club of Raffles City who have been responsible in transforming the Club's Community Project into an Association, and for providing the continuity of their services as members of the present Executive Committee of the DAS. Through this commitment, a substantial sum of SGD201,215 was donated to the DAS in August 2008 when the Club organized a fund-raising event in collaboration with the Club's 29th Installation of President and Board of Directors, 2008-2009. The Gala Dinner was graced by His Excellency, President S R Nathan and Mrs S R Nathan, whose presence had certainly contributed to the success of this event.

Sir Jackie Stewart, the legendary Formula 1 racing driver, President of Dyslexia Scotland Association and a mentor of the DAS has also been most supportive of our efforts. Sir Jackie judged a children's art competition which was organized for dyslexic children by the Royal Bank of Scotland during his visit to Singapore in September 2008. Sir Jackie again took the opportunity to motivate the children to focus on their strengths to make their dream a reality when he conducted a golf clinic for dyslexic children on 24 September 2009. More importantly, it is through Sir Jackie's help that the DAS has commenced discussions with the Ministry of Community, Youth and Sports to improve our preschool service for dyslexic children.

A special 'thank you' is also in order for the generous contributions which were received with much gratitude throughout the year:

- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, SGD10,000
- The Grace Shua and Jacob Dallas Charitable Trust and its Committee of Advisors, Mr Joseph Grimberg, Mrs Norma Palmer and Mr Frank Benjamin, SGD10,000
- Power Partners, SGD 5,000

In the past year, the support of the National Council of Social Services has been immense, as through their Civic and Community Space Scheme, the DAS was able to obtain prime space to set up new centres in the Jurong Point and Parkway Parade shopping malls. The opening of our learning centres in void decks in Tampines and Woodlands would also not be possible without the help of the Housing Development Board. It is also with great pleasure that I announce that the setting up of our new Parkway Parade Centre will be part-funded by the Singapore Totalisator Board Social Service Fund.

I would like to thank Ms Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State for Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Education for gracing us as our Guest of Honour for the Special Needs Officers Graduation Ceremony in November 2008 as well as our Student

Graduation Ceremony on 6 June 2009; Mr Hawazi Daipi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Health and Member of Parliament for the Sembawang GRC who was our Guest of Honour for our Woodlands Centre Official Opening Ceremony on 30 May 2009 and Mr Michael Palmer, Member of Parliament for Pasir Ris – Punggol GRC who was our Guest of Honour at the DAS Public Forum at Sengkang Community Club on 6 September 2008. Most of all, I would like to thank our beloved patron, Mrs Goh Chok Tong, for her kind assistance in facilitating a SGD450,000 donation from the Lee Foundation which allowed the DAS to set up our new Dyslexia Centre in Jurong Point.

In its plan to grow and reach out to the needs of dyslexic students on a more intensive level, the DAS has proposed to the Ministry of Education, Singapore, the development of a school which would be dedicated to provide specialist learning support to dyslexic students and incorporating the MOE curriculum. This will be one of the key projects of the DAS in the coming year.

Finally, I would like to commend all the staff of the DAS for their excellent contributions in realising our corporate mission – helping dyslexic people achieve. We look forward to your continued support for another successful year!

Dr Jimmy Daruwalla

President

26 September 2009