

President's Message

This year the Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) celebrates its 21st anniversary. We have come a long way since DAS was first initiated as a Community Service Project of the Rotary Club of Raffles City. I am very pleased to note that today, the DAS has grown into an organization with ten centres, over 2,300 students enrolled and is recognized for its work and expertise in the field of Dyslexia not only in Singapore but internationally!

Our achievements and success would not have been possible without our supporters and donors. I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Education (MOE) for their continuous support since 1995. We are glad to have hosted Ms Sim Ann, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Law when she visited DAS in November 2011 and Mrs Loke-Yeo Teck Yong, Director, Education Services Division, MOE who was our Guest of Honour for our student graduation ceremony on 2 June 2012. For FY 2011-2012, the MOE Grant for dyslexic students attending classes at DAS Learning Centres amounted to \$6,567,846. It has always been our aim to keep our fees affordable and our services accessible to parents and their children. I note that the last increase of our term fees was in January 2006 despite our fast expanding services and increasing operating costs. All these would not have been possible without the support and funding from MOE.

We have also received great support from the National Council of Social Services (NCSS). Through the NCSS-managed Civic and Community Institution (C&CI) Space Scheme, the DAS was able to set up learning centres in popular shopping malls such as Bishan Junction 8, Jurong Point and Parkway Parade. Under the C&CI scheme, we will also be getting an additional unit in Bishan Junction 8 in Term 2 2013, we will also set up another centre at the Chinatown Point, scheduled to be operational in early 2013. It is also through NCSS that DAS was nominated to be one of the beneficiaries of the President's Challenge, and a substantial sum was donated to the DAS over the years. We are most grateful to His Excellency President Tony Tan for his support.

Many thanks to the tremendous support of the Singapore Totalisator Board, The Royal Bank of Scotland, NTUC Income and Mainly I Love Kids (MILK) to name a few. They have supported our work and donated generously to the building of our learning centres and our programmes. NTUC Income OrangeAid fund for example supported our preschool programmes, and the MILK Fund for our assessments. Thanks to them, many more children are able to benefit from our services.

A special 'thank you' to our Exco members Cynthia and Eric and their team of DAS staff for organizing and putting up a very successful 21st Anniversary Gala Dinner and raising over \$1.3 million not forgetting all other Exco members who generously made personal contributions and encouraged their friends to support DAS. We would like to also express our gratitude for the generous contributions to our 21st Anniversary Gala Dinner from the following:

Malkani Rajesh Kishor
NTUC Income - Orangeaid
OCBC Bankers - Global Trading and Global Investment Banking
Milk Fund
SM Jaleel Foundation
Lee Foundation
Dr Rosslyn Sou-Fong Leong
Hong Leong Foundation

and the many more individuals and organizations who have supported the work of DAS in one way or another throughout the years.

Above all, I would like to thank our ever supportive patron, Mrs Goh Chok Tong and our Advisor Dr Lee Wei Ling for their continued unwavering support for the DAS. A special 'thank you' to Mr Lee Kuan Yew for kindly autographing his "My Lifelong Challenge: Singapore's Bilingual Journey" books to support our 21st Anniversary Gala Dinner.

Finally, I would like to commend the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Robin Moseley and his team in DAS for their excellent work once again, in furthering our mission - *Helping Dyslexic People Achieve*.

Dr Jimmy Daruwalla
President

11 September 2012