

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The FY 2013/14 has once again been a most eventful year for the DAS. The DAS has now grown into a sophisticated organization with multiple programmes in thirteen centres. Student enrollment has now crossed 3,000 students and we have over 240 full time staff.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and members, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Robin Moseley, our former Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who has retired on 31 August 2014. Robin, who joined the DAS as CEO in September 2002, has made a tremendous contribution to the DAS. He has been a visionary and out of the box thinker who has initiated many programmes and services at the DAS and has been key in bringing DAS to where it is today. I would also like to congratulate Mr Lee Siang, who was the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for assuming the CEO position, effective 1 September 2014. Siang is also a long serving and dedicated staff having joined the DAS in December 2001. I have every confidence that Siang will lead the rest of the staff well and continue to build upon the success of the DAS to meet the needs of dyslexic people.

DAS' work and achievements would not have been possible without our wonderful supporters, donors, volunteers and parents. I would like to thank the Ministry of Education (MOE) for their continuous support over the years and providing the MOE Grant for dyslexic students attending classes at DAS Learning Centres which amounted to \$7.8 million for FY2013/2014. If not for the MOE Grant, the DAS would have to charge higher fees in order for our services to be sustainable. It is our aim to keep our fees affordable and our services accessible to parents and their children.

Besides MOE, we also continue to receive strong support from the National Council of Social Services (NCSS). DAS has benefited much from the NCSS-managed Civic and Community Institution (C&CI) Space Scheme, this enables the DAS to set up learning centres in shopping malls such as Bishan Junction 8, Jurong Point, Parkway Parade and Chinatown Point.

The President's Challenge again has been a great supporter, donating substantial sums to the DAS over the years. Many thanks too to the generous support of the Singapore Totalisator Board, StarHub, and NTUC Income OrangeAid to name a few. I must also highlight the most generous donation by Mr Rajesh Malkani to building our new Chua Chu Kang Centre which started receiving students in January 2014. Mr. Malkani is the Head of Private Banking for South East and North East Asia at Standard Chartered Private Bank and has made this donation in memory of his late mother, Mrs Ratna Malkani, who inspired him to give back to society. Mr Malkani is the first individual to have sponsored a DAS Centre and we thank him on behalf of the children residing in the Chua Chu Kang vicinity.

It is through these generous funding and donations that many more children are able to benefit from our services. We must also not forget the many more individuals and organizations who I am unable to name all and thank enough for supporting the work of DAS in various ways.

I would also 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. Last but not least, I would like to congratulate the team of dedicated people in DAS for their excellent work in furthering our mission - Helping Dyslexic People Achieve.

Looking forward, the DAS will continue to focus on quality and sustainability of our services. The DAS will continue to invest resources and efforts to secure funding and donations to support a comprehensive and holistic range of programme and services. This is in order that the DAS can reach out to more people with dyslexia and related learning needs and serve them better.

Dr Jimmy Daruwalla
President
8 September 2014