Speech for Mr Kwee Liong Keng, 
Chairman of Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund 
Dec 5\textsuperscript{th}, Istana: Launch of WKWSCI

President SR Nathan and Mrs Nathan,

Mrs Wee Kim Wee and family,

Mr Koh Boon Hwee, Chairman of NTU Board of Trustees,

Dr Su Guaning, President of NTU,

NTU benefactors,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,
It is a privilege to be able to launch the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at the Istana this evening – thank you President Nathan.

Dr Wee Kim Wee once said with his characteristic humility, “The only university I have attended is the university of life.”

This was, of course, not a reflection of any lack of intelligence or ability. He grew up in a different era, when family hardship prevented many talented Singaporeans from pursuing the luxury of a university education.

Times have changed. Today, Singapore can afford to educate its young to their fullest potential. Indeed, global economic competition is such that we cannot afford not to maximize all educational opportunities.

And the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund will further promote this important national cause. I am pleased to announce that, to date, the WKKLF committee has raised over $27 million from more than 760 generous donors, including some 300 NTU alumni. Donations range from $5 to $5 million, representing gifts made by a wide range of the community – from ordinary Singaporeans coming from all walks of life, to organizations big and small, underlining the great fondness that we all have for Dr Wee’s memory.
It is especially appropriate that the endowment will go to the School of Communication and Information, which will now carry the Wee Kim Wee name.

Dr Wee was not just an accomplished journalist but also a great communicator. He was also gifted with the x-factor that made anyone comfortable in his presence – even when he was occupying the highest office in the land. He exuded integrity, humility, sincerity and a love for public service. These are timeless legacies for NTU's the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

We therefore thank Mrs Wee Kim Wee and the Wee family for supporting our vision, and for helping us put together the Wee Kim Wee commemorative book, titled *On the Record*, which you will receive later.

The Journalistic Legacy of Dr Wee Kim Wee is published by NTU for this special occasion, with Dr Wee’s former colleague and friend, Peter Lim, as Editorial Consultant.

Our sincere thanks to President Nathan, the Patron of the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund who has guided us through the various stages of producing the book. He has also kindly consented to sign several copies of the book for the leading donors to the Fund, as well as honouring the school’s renaming and the book’s launch by agreeing to officiate at the joint ceremony. To top it all, President Nathan has
written a Foreword for the book that is one of the most readable section of the book.

We are very appreciative of the more than 760 donors who have given to this Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund campaign. Tonight, we will recognize your generosity in the Honor Roll of Donors in this evening’s program.

Donors who contributed $5,000 and above will also be recognised on the new Donor Wall at the entrance of the School, which you may have noticed in the multi-media video presented earlier this evening. The Donor Wall will also recognize such contributions made to the School prior to this Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund campaign.

In a few moments, President Nathan will present signed copies of the book to donors who contributed $100,000 and above.

My heartfelt thanks and gratitude to donors who have made leadership gifts in this campaign: especially the Lee Foundation, Singapore Totalisator Board, Tanoto Foundation, Kim Seng Holdings Pte Ltd, Singapore Press Holdings Ltd, Mr Goh Cheng Liang, Kim Leng Tee Investments Pte Ltd and the F&N Group

My personal thanks to members of the fundraising committee who have played an important role in this fundraising campaign: Mr Willie Cheng, Ms Jennie Chua, Mr Patrick Daniel, Mr Stephen Lee, Mr Sim Kee Boon and as well as key NTU officers who are crucial to this
effort: Dr Su Guaning, Chair Ang Peng Hwa, Founding Dean Eddie Kuo, Mr Anthony Teo and especially Mrs Marina Tan Harper for her hard work.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Mr Sim Kee Boon and Ms Jennie Chua for their personal guidance to me.

We extend our special thanks to satellite organizations that have so kindly provided the networking and coordination for the distribution of campaign materials throughout Singapore, so that all can honour the legacy of Dr Wee Kim Wee and play their part for the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund.

With everyone’s dedicated efforts and generous donations, the Wee Kim Wee School will have, in perpetuity, 2 professorships, and numerous bursaries, scholarships and awards of excellence. In addition, the School will be able to mount new and innovative programmes that allow the School to maintain a strong margin of excellence as the premier communication school in the region and beyond.

It is noteworthy that your generous gifts will support the students and “software” to make the School more vibrant and alive, and to give our graduands the opportunity to be inspired by the “heartware” of Dr Wee Kim Wee.
Future generations of students at the Wee Kim Wee School will not just benefit from the funds alone. I am sure that it is the desire of our donors that the School also draws inspiration from the life and work of Dr Wee Kim Wee, treasures his legacy of public service, and ultimately live up to his name.

To our President Nathan, the Wee family, all donors, the Legacy Fund-raising committee members, satellite organization members and tonight’s organizing committee members, I would like to thank all of you once again, for your generous support in making Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund a success.

On behalf of all of us, it is my pleasure to present the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund to the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.