Good morning to everyone. On behalf of Shinnyo-en Singapore, I would like to thank everyone for your presence at the launch of the Shinnyo-en Singapore-Wee Kim Wee SCI Scholarships.

Last November, when Ms Wee Eng Hwa first mentioned the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund to our visiting representative Bishop Isao Ito, we were touched to learn of how Nanyang Technological University had decided to rename your School of Communication and Information after the late Dr Wee to honour Singapore’s beloved former president, diplomat and journalist.

Known widely in the Japanese diplomatic circle for his integrity and dignity since his appointment as Singapore’s Ambassador to Japan and throughout as President, Dr Wee had been a dear friend of the Japanese people. Stories of his humility and empathy for the common man despite his high office continue to impress our countrymen. In his later years, we were personally indebted when he extended his warm friendship to Shinnyo-en members. He had often shown a sincere and keen interest in the welfare of humankind as he shared with us his lifelong rich experiences.

As a Buddhist organization, Shinnyo-en places special importance on the Buddha’s final discourse – which is the practice of truthfulness and compassion in one’s life. Putting these ideals into practical perspective, our Founder, the late Shinjo Ito had worked with others in a spirit of goodwill. Now global-wide, our work includes philanthropy and the peaceful exchange of religious ideas. Under the current leadership of the Founder’s successor Shinso Ito, Shinnyo-en has opened its doors further to people of all faiths and backgrounds.
As a part of the global community, we believe we have a personal role and responsibility in contributing to the quality of life in the world, and so choose to actively participate in its improvement through education and inter-cultural communication.

In keeping with this emphasis, Shinnyo-en has made endowments to such distinguished institutions of higher learning as Columbia University, Princeton University and Stanford University in the United States.

We recognize NTU as a premier institution in this region and we further identify with you a common mission as you aim to develop the best school of journalism. Today, our humble donation to the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, marks not just our first major step towards community service in Singapore, but also affirms our commitment to continue the good work of an extraordinary man.

We are deeply honoured for this opportunity to name a scholarship and certainly hope that your students, besides pursuing academic excellence, will also be nurtured to share Dr Wee's passion for socially responsible journalism and become individuals who embody human goodness, graciousness, compassion and love for fellow citizens of the world.

Thank you very much