

**WELCOME REMARKS BY MS TAN POH HONG,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
AGRI-FOOD AND VETERINARY AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE,
AVA FOOD INDUSTRY CONVENTION 2015
29 OCTOBER 2015
ORCHARD HOTEL, SINGAPORE**

Mr Lawrence Wong
Minister of National Development

Mayor Teo Ho Pin
MP for Bukit Panjang SMC,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to all of you, and welcome to AVA's 2nd Food Industry Convention. We are indeed privileged to have the Minister for National Development, Mr Lawrence Wong as our Guest-of-Honour for today's convention. Thank you very much, Minister for taking the time off your busy schedule to grace this occasion.

2 The Food Industry Convention is a biennial event organised by AVA and it highlights the important role of the local food industry in ensuring Singapore's food security. It brings together leaders, experts and stakeholders from across all sectors of the food industry in Singapore to exchange ideas and insights. I am delighted to see many familiar faces from the various local food industry sectors, local research institutions, as well as colleagues from government agencies this morning. This year, I would also like to welcome some new stakeholders joining us for the first time; one of them is the Restaurant Association of Singapore. Thank you all for taking time off your busy schedules to be with us today.

4 Singapore imports more than 90% of our food from 160 countries worldwide. We are therefore very vulnerable to food supply shocks and disruptions. It is thus important for us to strengthen Singapore's food security, and keep tabs on global outlooks and trends on the future of food supply. At the same time, we must look at how food supply can remain sustainable through innovative solutions.

5 One of the ways to ensure we have enough food coming into Singapore is through effective management of our food supply chains. We need to be cognisant of, and address the logistics and distribution challenges along the supply chain.

6 Hence, our theme for this Convention - "A Business Perspective to Food Security – Strengthening the Food Supply Chain". We have with us, industry members with diverse expertise in food supply chain management to share their experience. My thanks go to the speakers, Mr Hsing Ho, Group MD, Dupont ASEAN; Mr Bennett Neo, CEO YCH Group; Mr Bruce Blakeman VP of Cargill Singapore and Mr Kenenth Goi ED of Acelink; and also the Moderator, Prof Annie Koh of SMU. I hope you will gain some insights from their sharing on best practices in the management of the food supply chain risks and use them to help you prepare your organisation for the future.

7 2015 is an eventful year for Singapore as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee. It is a year of celebration, reflection and commemoration. We have therefore prepared a short video to feature some of Singapore's Food Pioneers. It showcases how these food pioneers have evolved, transformed, and grew together with our nation in the last 50 years. We want to thank all of our food pioneers and local food industry players, who have through their hard work and innovation, contributed to Singapore's food security.

8 I would also like to express our thanks to our industry partners, who have provided valuable inputs and worked with us through various platforms eg business clusters, taskforces and working groups over the last two years. I look forward to our continued partnership in ensuring food security for the nation.

9 On this note, I hope this Convention is an excellent place for us to start reflecting on our progress, seek out areas for improvements and chart new directions in our pursuit for food security.

9 Thank you and I wish all of you a rewarding time at our Convention today.