

[DRAFT] TALKING POINTS FOR GENERAL SECRETARY, SINGAPORE KINDNESS MOVEMENT, DR WILLIAM WAN AT THE NATIONAL KINDNESS AWARDS CEREMONY ON 21 DECEMBER 2020

(ONLINE VIDEO)

Introduction

- 1.** Thank you Dr Maliki for joining us today. Welcome, award recipients, teachers, principals and fellow students!
- 2.** It gives me great pleasure as we come together today to celebrate your commitment and dedication to build a kinder school and society, in the past year.
- 3.** 2020 has been a significant year and milestone for all of us as we celebrate 30 years of nurturing kindness in schools. This would have not been possible without the 160 schools and more than 1800 students and teachers who have contributed to the cause of kindness. These inspiring individuals will be receiving their awards today.
- 4.** Even though this year's awards ceremony was postponed and is now virtual, our joy and gratitude to all of you, is equally overwhelming.

2020 in a nutshell

- 5.** COVID-19 has disrupted every aspects of our lives, but at the same time, it has brought out the best in many of us.
- 6.** From having to adapt to school calendar alterations because of home-based learning, to practising restraint from social mixing, you have proven yourselves fighters, emerging from this situation, stronger.
- 7.** In the past months, we have seen many acts of kindness from individuals and ground-up movements. Many people have also been doing their part, from our essential workers, to ordinary citizens, and even students and teachers like yourselves.

8. Some have even gone beyond the call of duty to help others in need. A good example is SBS Bus Captain Sam. He witnessed a motorcyclist who skid and fell in the middle of the junction during a heavy downpour. Bus Captain Sam stopped his bus mid-service to assist the fallen rider without hesitation. His act of selflessness serves as an inspiration and reminder to all of us that we are all in this together. ¹A little act of kindness can support others through tough times like these

Kindness in the new VUCA world

9. For the longest time, we have talked about the VUCA world. A world of volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity.
10. However, as we learn to live and adjust our lifestyles in this new normal, we should look at redefining what VUCA means.
11. **Vigilance**- Being Vigilant does not only require us to be alert to our surrounding. We also need to be vigilant within ourselves, to see how can contribute positively to the world we live in.
12. **United**- To be united, we need to stand in solidarity against discrimination across all languages, races and religion to win as one united people.
13. **Compassionate**- We all have the capacity to be compassionate and it is vital for us to use this skill. Empathise with others by feeling and understanding the pain and suffering others are going through.
14. **Adaptable**- Lastly, we need to be adaptable as we navigate through this ever-changing world that we live in. It is important to find and adapt to new ways of showing care and concern to one another as the world continues to digitalise, especially with the current safe distancing measures.

¹ <https://mothership.sg/2020/09/sbs-bus-driver-help-motorcyclist-rain/>

Kindness is all around us.

- 15.** You may not know it, but all of you here have practiced and embodied the new VUCA values without knowing, through your projects.
- 16.** For example, ambassadors from **Sengkang Green Primary School** adapted to the current situation by displaying their acting skills in a video campaign that encourages others to be kind, caring and responsible in different situations that they find themselves in, even with safety measures in place². Through this initiative, students learnt how they should behave around others and how they can continue to show care and concern to others in this new environment.

Conclusion

- 17.** I believe that it is through serving others that you become a better person, in other words, be other-centered. I am sure most of you will agree that the deepest sense of satisfaction comes from the knowledge that you have done something to improve another person's life.
- 18.** We believe that kindness is in everyone and we can unlock it to start, show and share it to everyone. Kindness is a personal choice, regardless of the situation.
- 19.** It is this choice that defines your character and values as the true measure of our success is the greatness in being kind.
- 20.** As we start 2021, let us all be greater versions of ourselves, and in turn, be part of a greater society.
- 21.** To our partners, thank you for your partnership through the year. Their learning journey would not have been possible without your guidance and mentorship.
- 22.** Finally, to our award winners, congratulations on your achievement and thank you for showing everyone that even students like yourselves can step up to spread kindness.

² This video also included the ways they could do so even with safety measures in different situations such as the importance of wearing a mask, the wipe down routine and practicing good habits in the new normal.