

**SPEECH BY DR CHAM TAO SOON, ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE
SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS, AT SPH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2011 AT 10.30 AM**

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for your attendance at this AGM.

Before we commence the business of the meeting, let me give an overview of SPH Group's performance in the past year.

I'm pleased to report that SPH has once again turned in a commendable performance in the last financial year in the wake of an uncertain economic climate.

SPH's group revenue was \$1.25 billion. It was the seventh consecutive year that it has crossed the \$1 billion mark. This was a result of higher advertisement revenues, robust growth in rental income and continued progress in our exhibitions and online businesses.

The group's operating profit was \$409 million. Net profit attributable to shareholders was \$389 million, down \$109 million as FY 2010 had benefitted from the \$154 million profit from the Sky@eleven project.

SPH's newspaper and magazine business continued to buck the global trend of a decline in print with a year-on-year growth of \$39 million to \$1,013 million. Print advertising revenue rose by \$42 million, boosted by strong display advertisement sales.

Our circulation figures remain strong with total circulation ending at 981,339 for FY 2011, which is a slight decline of 0.2 per cent. The Straits Times registered a year-on-year growth of 0.6 per cent to 354,654 copies. The Business Times' circulation also increased by 1.5 per cent vis-à-vis the previous financial year, while Tamil Murasu enjoyed a robust growth of 15.3 per cent to 16,747 copies.

Several products including The New Paper on Sunday and U-Weekly were given a new look and newsier content to stay competitive in the fast-changing media industry.

New print products were introduced to cater to varied audiences, including Thumbs Up Junior, a fortnightly Chinese publication for primary 1 and 2 students; Victory Trail, a bilingual racing guide; and Wellness No.1, an English language health magazine.

SPH continued to accelerate its growth in digital media with the launch of The Straits Times iPad application and the enhanced iPhone application. The Business Times Weekend also launched its iPad application in celebration of The Business Times' 35th anniversary.

In addition to The Straits Times, there are now iPhone apps for Stomp, The Straits Times RazorTV, AsiaOne, Soshiok.com, omy.sg and The New Paper with audience numbers growing consistently, and revenue from mobile advertising rising over 40 per cent year-on-year.

SPH continued to expand its businesses beyond print and online media.

The Clementi Mall, which was officially opened in May this year, enjoys 100 per cent tenancy. Paragon at Orchard Road also continues to attract 100 per cent occupancy and strong visitorship.

Sphere Exhibits, our events and exhibitions arm, has grown from strength to strength. Its subsidiary Exhibits Inc. has hosted several well-known exhibitions such as COMEX and IT Show, while its other subsidiary, BizLink Exhibition Services, organises successful shows like the Singapore Gifts & Premiums Fair and Franchising & Licensing Asia.

On behalf of the SPH board, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to our board member Mr Yong Pung How, who has decided not to stand for re-election at this Annual General Meeting. We have benefitted greatly from his wisdom and guidance.

I would also like to welcome Dr Lee Boon Yang, who joined the SPH board on 1 October 2011. With his vast experiences and excellent track record, I am confident he will be able to steer SPH to greater heights.

Last but not least, I thank our management, staff, unions, business associates and also all of you, our shareholders, for your unwavering support this past year.

The projected economic outlook may look uncertain with the continuing debt crises in the United States and Europe. However, with your continued support, I am confident that there is no challenge too big for us.

Thank you.
