

Success stories

While Asia has the advantage of numbers, it also has the ability to produce pioneers to change the world, Temasek chief tells SMU graduands.

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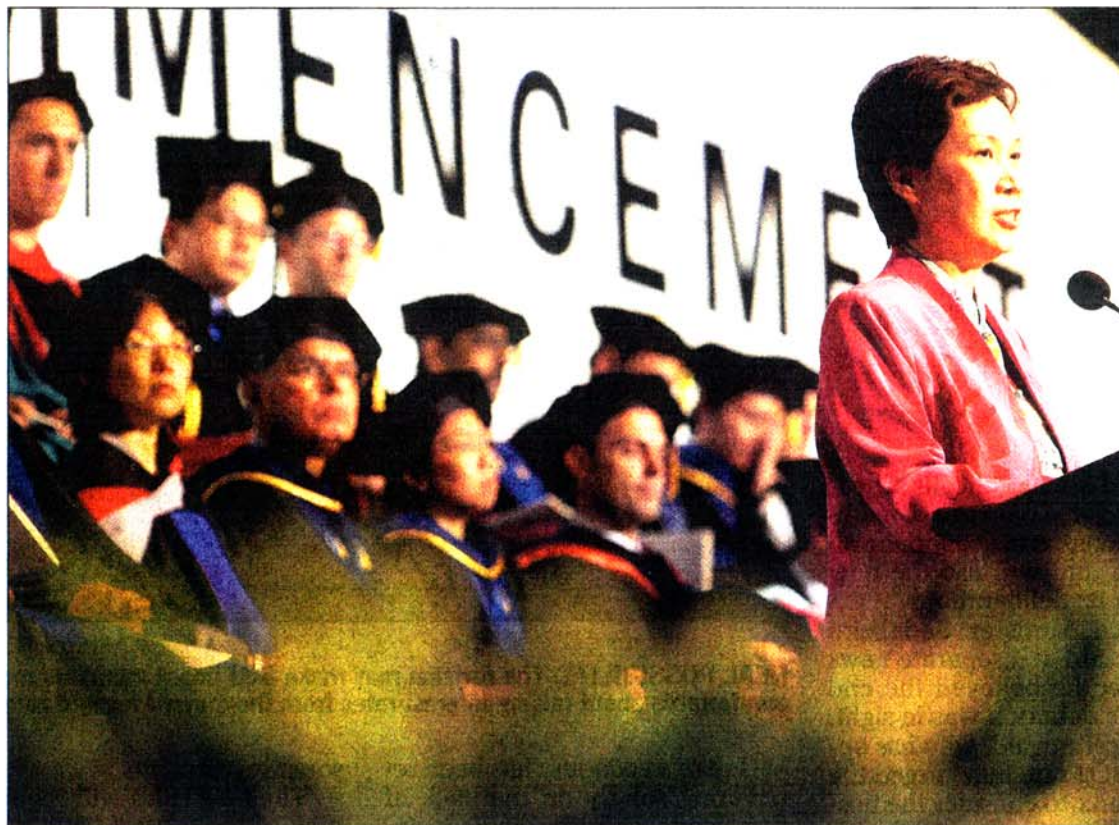


PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER: Each success story eventually boils down to the single individual who strives to make things happen, says Ms Ho in her commencement speech.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Asia's dramatic progress is also the result of "many who used the power of one in the interest of the larger good. Each of us carries with us the power of one - the power to decide and make a choice, to make a difference".

MS HO

Asia's 'power of one' can benefit world: Ho Ching

BY GRACE NG

ASIA'S vast numbers have created a wealth of opportunities for entrepreneurs in the mould of Mr Bill Gates, but the region also has "the power of one" - the ability to produce pioneers to change the world.

This was the message from Temasek Holdings chief executive Ho Ching to 628 Singapore Management University (SMU) graduands at their commencement ceremony yesterday.

The graduands were decked out in black ceremonial robes and accompanied by family and friends crowded into the convention hall at the two-hour ceremony at the Suntec City convention centre.

These graduands, the third batch to complete their university education at SMU, "have received the precious gift of education", said Ms Ho in a 15-minute speech.

Dressed in a pink suit, she noted that Asia, with its population of billions, has the advantage of large numbers, magnified by the investments that have been made in the education of the younger generation.

However, "each success story

eventually boils down to the single individual" who strives to make things happen, added Ms Ho.

Successful entrepreneurs such as Microsoft founder Mr Gates are prime examples of pioneers who will "shape and be shaped by a rapidly changing and maybe turbulent world", she said.

Another pioneer was one of the founding fathers of modern Singapore, Mr S. Rajaratnam, who expressed his idealism and hopes for his new nation in a pledge that he wrote for the Republic. He became the first foreign minister of Singapore and later its senior minister.

Asia's dramatic progress is also the result of "many who used the power of one in the interest of the larger good", said Ms Ho.

Professor Howard Hunter, SMU president, reminded the class of 2006 that they had a vital role as alumni of the university and also encouraged them to contribute funds to build up the university and help needy students.

He also noted that SMU will set up a series of golden, cast-iron plaques in the centre of the SMU's Campus Green to mark a graduated class.