

**EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY**  
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**SPEECH BY DR TONY TAN KENG YAM, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (NRF), AT THE NRF CLEAN ENERGY PHD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY ON THURSDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008 AT 12PM AT EQUINOX, SWISSOTEL THE STAMFORD**

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Clean Energy IAP members

Parents and Scholars

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today is indeed a very special and proud moment for the inaugural batch of NRF (Clean Energy) PhD scholars – Darryl Wang Kee Soon, Joel Li Bingrui and Zheng Cheng and their parents.

My most sincere congratulations to all of you.

Having passed through stringent selection criteria, the scholars are, without a doubt, the cream of the crop among their peers.

When they complete their studies, they will be returning to the driver's seat of one of Singapore's key new growth areas.

We look forward to having them lead Singapore in exploring new frontiers in Clean Energy research.

The phrase “People matter” may sound like a tired cliché, but I believe it is a philosophy that is important to any organisation and industry.

People are key to the success of every organisation.

People who have drive and passion, who have access to the right resources, will be able to grab opportunities, make full use of them and create breakthroughs in whatever they do.

Today, talent has become the bottleneck for many countries and companies everywhere.

This is particularly so for the global clean energy industry, which is experiencing tremendous growth at 30 to 50 per cent annually.

Parents and scholars, you will also be glad to know that we are seeing very good growth in the industry locally.

To be able to compete in the global market, Singapore has to differentiate itself by training an elite pool of talent well-versed in technology and innovation.

This is one of the key reasons why we decided to have the NRF (Clean Energy) PhD Scholarships programme.

We know that for a robust Clean Energy ecosystem to be in place, manpower development is vital.

This year we awarded scholarships to three applicants out of the 36 who applied.

We are targeting to award more than 100 scholarships under the programme, which will run for a total of five years.

Darryl, Joel and Zheng Cheng, we are glad you showed us how passionate you are about the Clean Energy industry.

We know you will be well-positioned with the right knowledge and tools to power this industry forward when you return from your studies.

With the rapid growth of the solar industry in Singapore, you can be sure to return to many exciting job opportunities in locally-based solar companies and research organisations.

Once again, congratulations and I wish you all the best in your exciting journey ahead.

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