

**Opening Remarks by Permanent Secretary for National Research and Development, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan at the Joint 5<sup>th</sup> Primer in Paediatric Nephrology for Asia and IPNA-ASPNA Master for Junior Class. 21 August 2024.**

Professor Yeoh Khay Guan, Chief Executive, National University Health System

Professor Lee Yung Seng, Group Chief Paediatrics, NUHS

Professor Franz Schaefer, President, International Pediatric Nephrology Association

Professor Arvind Bagga, Secretary-General, Asian Pediatric Nephrology Association

Professor Jason Choo, President, Singapore Society for Nephrology

Professor Yap Hui Kim, Organising Chair

Good morning and a warm welcome to the many physicians who have travelled to Singapore to be here today.

2 It gives me great pleasure to join you at the Joint 5<sup>th</sup> Primer in Paediatric Nephrology for Asia and 5<sup>th</sup> IPNA-AsPNA Master for Junior Classes.

3 I had the pleasure of opening the 3<sup>rd</sup> Primer six years ago in 2018. I am pleased that the primer has not only survived the COVID-19 pandemic but has also grown from strength to strength with the support of charitable donors as well as local, regional and international professional organisations.

I would also like to pay a special tribute to Professor Yap Hui Kim who has been the main driving force behind this very important programme.

4 As Professor Yap had shared with me, there are now more than 150 doctors and healthcare professionals from the region attending the primer, which has grown to include hands-on practical dialysis and point-of-care ultrasound workshops, in addition to 3 days of interactive lectures on all major aspects of paediatric nephrology.

5 I believe that this carefully curated mix of academic and practical components is a major feature of this programme, and a key reason for its usefulness and relevance. In addition, the programme is also an important platform for physicians and health professionals from our region and beyond to meet, interact and get to know each other. These human and professional relationships and networks are very valuable for advancing the practice and outcomes of paediatric nephrology in our region.

6 The organising committee has brought experts in Paediatric Nephrology from North America, Europe and across Asia to speak on a range of topics. From causes of kidney diseases to the management of chronic kidney disease and its complications, and even studies on kidney replacement. I would like to thank our distinguished speakers and experts for generously sharing your expertise and experience.

7 The primer is an avenue where all of us can learn from one another. There will be opportunities to collaborate and apply the principles, evidence and recommendations that have been presented in our local context to treat children with kidney diseases in our region.

8 I would like to congratulate Professor Yap and her team for organising yet another excellent primer. I wish you an enriching learning experience over the next few days, and an unforgettable time in Singapore.

Thank you.

**END**