

**SPEECH BY MS NANCY CHIA, PRESIDENT OF HANDICAPS
WELFARE ASSOCIATION AT THE 24TH WHEEL, WALK OR JOG
ON SUNDAY 6TH JULY AT THE @ BOTANIC GARDENS (Jacob
Ballas Children's Garden)**

A warm welcome to:

Mr George Yeo, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

**Mr Pow Tien Tee, Regional President and Managing Director of
Infineon Technologies Pte Ltd**

**Mr Andrew Chong, Vice President of Infineon Technologies Pte
Ltd**

**Dr Daniel Wong, Regional President & Managing Director of
Qimonda;**

**Associate Professor Roy Chan Kum Wah, Medical Director of
National Skin Centre**

Mr Ng Lang, Chief Executive Officer of National Parks Board

Distinguished Guests, Sponsors, Donors, Supporters, Partners,

**Volunteers, Members and all friends of Handicaps Welfare
Association or HWA in short.**

A very good morning to all.

1) I am very happy to see so many of you here today, especially for this meaningful community event Wheel, Walk or Jog, now in its 24th year. The WWJ event is not only a healthy outing, it is also a platform to express our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all our donors, sponsors, supporters and volunteers for their generous contribution of time and money for the past many years.

2) We also hope that through this WWJ event, people with physical disabilities are able to get together with the non-disabled for a day of fun and activities, in line with our mission to integrate the physically challenged into mainstream society.

3) Of course, we could not have organized this event successfully if not for the support of our many sponsors.

Special mention must be made of our longtime partner in the WWJ event. That is Infineon Technologies Asia Pacific Pte Ltd. Infineon has been our main sponsor for the WWJ event for the past 15 years. Together with its subsidiary company, Qimonda, they have helped us in our efforts to uplift the lives of people

with disabilities. On behalf of the Association, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the management and staff of Infineon and Qimonda.

4) I must add that Infineon's commitment to HWA has gone beyond sponsorship of this event. For the past six years, it has helped HWA members to achieve their dreams through the presentation of the Infineon Inspiration Award. This special award, valued at \$10,000, has given a person with disability to reach for a goal – be it in sports, education or the arts. Since its inception in 2003, six members had benefited and their lives enhanced after receiving this Inspiration Award. You can read about their achievements from the panels that are placed around the vicinity.

5) We are also very fortunate to have with us for the first time two national bodies - the National Parks Board and the National Skin Centre. We are indeed lucky to be the adopted charity of NParks, without whose sponsorship of the venue, we would not even have had access to this beautiful Jacob Ballas Children's

Garden, which I understand is specifically for children below 12 years old. I also understand it is the first time that NParks has allowed a walkathon to be held here.

6) We are blessed too for being selected the beneficiary of National Skin Centre's fund-raising project this year, in celebration of its 20th anniversary.

As its adopted charity for 2008, the National Skin Centre is supporting HWA as co-organiser of WWJ and has rallied over 300 of its staff including doctors and nurses, to participate in the event. Furthermore it has pledged \$80,000 as sponsorship funding for another major HWA project that will be held in early 2009.

On behalf of HWA management, staff and members, I would like to congratulate National Skin Centre on its 20th anniversary celebrations and extend our deepest gratitude for your support.

I am also pleased to note that management and staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which too adopted HWA as its beneficiary charity for the past three years, are joining us for the walk today.

7) This year's WWJ has a very specific objective. We hope to raise at least \$300,000 to finance our new Rehabilitation Centre, to be established in Jurong Point Shopping Centre by end of this year. This is to meet the increasing demands of physical therapy by our physically disabled people in the west. This is also a milestone for HWA and we are all very excited about it.

8) Raising funds has become a very challenging task not just for voluntary welfare organisations but also for the donor, who has to spread his or her contribution to benefit as many people as possible. We are aware that the recent disasters in the region like the cyclone in Myanmar and Sichuan earthquake has put a heavy burden on our donors and sponsors. Our hearts go out to the victims of the Myanmar cyclone and Sichuan earthquake.

9) Despite this, we continued to receive support. This shows that Singaporeans will definitely answer calls for help, be it for fellow Singaporeans or our friends overseas. There is no doubt that raising funds is becoming very challenging. However, I am confident that we will be able to reach our target and continue our efforts in enhancing the quality of lives of people with disabilities.

10) With that note, I hope everyone will have fun today. And remember, together, we can help the cause of physically disabled people in our community.

Thank you.