

INSPIRING LEADERSHIP, NURTURING THE FUTURE



Development Programme for centre leaders. We also gave out 24 ECDA Awards to educators and centres for their exemplary achievements and contributions to teaching and learning, as well as innovative practices.

Needless to say, we were delighted with the turnout of some 1,500 educators for the professional conference and over 10,000 children and their families for the educational exhibition. At the conference, we also celebrated the conclusion of Start Small Dream Big 2017 — 34,000 children from over 550 pre-schools contributed more than 1 million hours in community services and raised over \$200,000 in cash donations for the President's Challenge beneficiaries and other community organisations.

The success of the Early Childhood Conference is due to the unstinting support of the early childhood fraternity, families and our community partners. We thank everyone who contributed to this conference.

In this fast-paced globalised world, we need everyone — educators, centre leaders and parents — to take up the leadership mantle to nurture our children to embrace the future with confidence and resilience. As John Quincy Adams puts it, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

Let's all play our part in nurturing the future!

MR EUGENE LEONG

Chief Executive Officer
Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA)

Early childhood educators, parents and, of course, our young children, are beneficiaries of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's recent announcements in his National Day Rally speech in August. There will be many more affordable and quality pre-school places throughout Singapore. The set-up of a new National Institute of Early Childhood Development will further enhance the quality of early childhood care and education. Educators can also expect even more rewarding career and professional development pathways in future.

To support these changes, leadership plays an even more critical role. Reflecting this, the theme of this year's Early Childhood Conference in October was "Inspiring Leadership: Nurturing the Future". During this annual high point for our sector, we issued a fresh call for nominations for ECDA Fellows, and launched a new Professional



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