

Citation on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong for Admission to Honorary Fellowship, Academy of Medicine, Singapore

Kwong-Ming Fock,¹*FAMS*

Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs Lee

Minister for Health, Mr Khaw Boon Wan

Minister of State for Health, Mr Heng Chee How

President of the Congress and Master, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, Prof Dato' Khalid Kadir

Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore, Prof Ho Lai Yun

President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, Prof Grace Tang

Visiting Presidents of Overseas Colleges

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today marks a very special and significant occasion. The Academy of Medicine Singapore celebrates its 50th Anniversary or "Golden Jubilee". Founded in 1957, the Academy of Medicine is the professional body representing the interest of medical specialists in Singapore. It is committed to postgraduate medical education and training, continuing professional development, ethics and professionalism. The Academy has continued to grow from strength to strength since its inception. From a modest beginning with 34 founding members, it now has over 2000 Fellows. In the last 50 years, the Academy has also conferred 38 Honorary Fellowships to distinguished individuals who have made a contribution to the life or work of the Academy or to the advancement of its vision, mission and strategy. This year being the Academy's Golden Jubilee, the Council is privileged and deeply honoured that Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has agreed to accept its Honorary Fellowship.

Mr Lee studied at the University of Cambridge, where he graduated with First Class Honours in Mathematics, and subsequently at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, where he obtained a Master's degree in Public Administration.

After graduating from Cambridge, Mr Lee joined the SAF and held various staff and command posts. He was the first Director of the Joint Operations and Plans Directorate, and Chief of Staff of the General Staff. In 1984, he left the SAF to serve the country in another capacity and was elected as a Member of Parliament. In his 23 years in government, Mr Lee has held various appointments including the Minister for Trade and Industry, the Minister for Finance, and the Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Mr Lee was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in 1990, and in August 2004, succeeded Mr Goh Chok Tong as Prime Minister of Singapore.

The Government has played an important role in ensuring a high standard of healthcare in Singapore. It has restructured public hospitals to be more efficient and responsive, and produced doctors who uphold high professional standards of competence and integrity. It has helped to keep basic medical care affordable with a comprehensive financial framework, including compulsory savings, catastrophic medical insurance, subsidies for lower-class wards, and a state-funded medical safety net. On the whole, Singapore spends less in healthcare compared to other developed countries. But it has been able to maximise its resources with an efficient healthcare system that delivers high standards of care, and among the best health outcomes in the world, be it in infant mortality, life expectancy or other indicators.

Ladies and gentlemen, in recognition of Mr Lee's continued efforts to further raise the standard of medical excellence in Singapore, the Academy is proud to confer the Honorary Fellowship on him.

Prime Minister, we welcome you as a distinguished member of our Academy.

Mr Master, it is my honour to present to you Mr Lee Hsien Loong who is a most worthy recipient of the Honorary Fellowship of our Academy.

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* Delivered on 19 July 2007, at the opening of the 41st Singapore Malaysia Congress of Medicine in Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore