

Mr Simon Ho

Organising Chairman, AUIAC 2008
President, Australian Alumni Singapore

Fellow Alumni and Friends

As President of the Australian Alumni Singapore (AAS), I am happy to be closely associated with the Journey in organising the Australian Universities International Alumni Convention (AUIAC) 2008 which is being held in Singapore for the very first time.

The AUIAC has been receiving strong interest from graduates of Australian Universities since its inception more than 10 years ago. The AUIAC has also provided excellent opportunities for these graduates to connect with business leaders and professionals.

We have great support from our Patrons - His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia; The Right Honourable Pehin Sri Dr Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, AO, Chief Minister of Sarawak; and Dr Tony Tan, Chairman of National Research Foundation, Singapore, and Chairman of Singapore Press Holdings.

We are indeed honoured to have President S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore, as Guest-of-Honour at the Gala Dinner on 12 June 2008. We also want to thank Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong for gracing the Welcome Dinner on 10 June 2008, and we are grateful to Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Education, for delivering the Keynote Lecture at the Opening Ceremony on 11 June 2008. In addition, we would like to thank Dr Tony Tan for having given tremendous encouragement and advice to my Organising Committee.

Similarly, we wish to thank His Excellency Mr Miles Kupa, Australian High Commissioner to Singapore, for his participation in AUIAC 2008.

Among our many foreign guests, I would like to specially thank the Chief Minister of Sarawak, The Right Hon Pehin Sri Dr Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, AO for his generous support and contributing greatly to the success of the event; the Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, the Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Dr George Chan; the Sarawak State-Secretary, the Honourable Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot; the Honourable Mr Paul Braddy, Chairman, Queensland Education and Training International Board, Queensland Government, as well as Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of Australian Universities for participating in AUIAC 2008.

Not forgetting our other fellow Alumni Associations, thanks to the President of Malaysian Alumni Association Council (MAAC), Puan Sri Datin Seri Susan Cheah; the President of Sarawak Alumni Graduates Association (SAGA), Mr Louis Ng; the President of The Federation of Australian Alumni Associations Hong Kong (FAAAHK), Mr David Chan and President Alumni International Singapore (AIS), Mr Mohan Balagopal for supporting this event.

Last but not least, I wish to thank members of the Management Committee AAS and AUIAC 2008 Organising Committee for their untiring efforts and a job well done, and not forgetting all participants present at AUIAC 2008.