

Annex D

Background Information of Mrs Loke-Yeo Teck Yong

Mrs Loke-Yeo Teck Yong, 50, is currently Divisional Director of the Education Services Division at the Ministry of Education. She joined the Education Service in 1990, and has held various school leadership appointments and senior appointments in MOE HQ.

2. Mrs Loke has contributed significantly to MOE's drive to uplift the quality of kindergarten education in Singapore. She was instrumental in leading the pioneering work in the set-up of 15 MOE-Kindergartens (MKs) to-date, including the operations, programming, curriculum development and teacher professional development for all MKs. In particular, she oversaw the development and piloting of teaching and learning resources with a distinct Singapore flavour, ensuring their relevance and direct connection to the Singaporean child's life experiences. Mrs Loke also put in place appropriate in-house training courses for all MK teachers to ensure a common understanding of the principles behind the two flagship programmes under the MK curriculum – the Starlight Literacy Programme and the HI-Light Programme¹, and ensure fidelity in their delivery.

3. Beyond the MKs, Mrs Loke has also contributed to the levelling up of the quality of pre-school education in general through overseeing the design and delivery of a comprehensive kindergarten curriculum for the sector and sharing of good practices with the pre-school sector, e.g. sharing of Big Books for English Language and Mother Tongue Languages to support children's development of language and literacy skills, and nurture early childhood bilingualism. She also led the Ministry in forging strong partnerships with external agencies and key stakeholders to achieve synergies in developing curriculum resources for the pre-school sector. Mrs Loke's work in MOE also extends to overseeing support for students with special educational needs as well as psychological assessment and research.

4. Mrs Loke is a President's-cum Overseas Merit Scholar in teaching who graduated with a Bachelor of Science (First Class) in Economics and Mathematics from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London in 1989. She also completed a Master of Philosophy in Economics at the University of Cambridge and a Master of Education at Harvard University in 1994 and 1999 respectively.

5. She is married, and a mother to two children aged 17 and 15.

¹ The Starlight Literacy Programme aims to nurture early childhood bilingualism and is offered in both English and the three official Mother Tongue Languages. The HI-Light Programme supports the holistic development of children through integrated learning experiences.