

## **MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2009**

### **AMBASSADOR OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED STATES**

#### **CHAN HENG CHEE**

I am delighted to express, on behalf of the government and people of Singapore, our support for the International Education Week 2009 and its theme for the year, "Creating a Vision for a Better Future".

In this increasingly globalised and interconnected world, it is crucial for any child not only to learn to find his or her own sense of identity and purpose, security and confidence; but also be able to relate to and communicate effectively with others with an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of perspectives, customs and values.

The cornerstone of Singapore's survival and progress, as a small country with no natural resources, has been its ability to develop its human talent. Our education policy is geared towards preparing our students to think multi-dimensionally and to be equipped to engage the world. Creativity, broad-based knowledge, language proficiencies, info-communications competencies as well as strong ethical values are greatly emphasized in our schools.

There is a diverse mix of schools as well as educational programs in Singapore offered by both local and foreign institutions, including many U.S. universities. Singapore welcomes opportunities for educational exchanges and outreach to foster further opportunities in global learning and research. My Embassy would be pleased to assist with any enquiries.

I would like to wish the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education every success in organising International Education Week and all participants a very fruitful and enriching week.