

**Speech by Singapore Red Cross Chairman, Mr Tan Kai Hoe at the International Bazaar on 18 November 2023, at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza at 10 am**

Your Excellency, President Tharman Shanmugaratnam,  
Patron of the Singapore Red Cross

Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and Friends from the Embassies

Mrs Genevieve Peggy Jeffs, Organising Chairperson,  
Singapore Red Cross International Bazaar

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you. First, I would like to express our appreciation to our President for gracing this International Bazaar as our Guest of Honour. We are holding the International Bazaar after a six-year hiatus and I am very pleased and grateful that we have such strong support from the community, both in terms of the crowds that have gathered here, as well as the stall holders that have come forward to support this event.

The International Bazaar is a signature fundraiser of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The first International Bazaar in Singapore took place almost 3 decades ago. Amid all that we are facing in the world today, the organising committee has thoughtfully themed this year's Bazaar as 'One World United in Humanity'. The theme could not be more apt, as we mobilise the power of humanity and the spirit of solidarity to help carry us through the changes and challenges ahead.

The IB Organising Committee has done a great job to make this event possible. Please join me in thanking Mrs Genevieve Peggy Jeffs and her Committee Members - Benedict, Anna, Elaine, Lisa and Roxanne, for their tireless contribution and hard work in the months leading up to this moment.

Today, we present, as we heard just now, over 80 stalls and a silent auction aiming to raise half a million dollars to support vulnerable communities in Singapore. All funds from coupon sales and successful bids will go towards programmes and services that are run by the Singapore Red Cross for the local community, for people who have fallen through the cracks - including the elderly who live alone; persons with disabilities; lower-income families, their children and youth; and migrant workers.

We deeply appreciate the diplomatic community, businesses, civic groups, schools, performing groups, donors, sponsors and volunteers for their immense effort behind today's fundraiser. This is indeed a labour of love, and an excellent showcase of 'One World United in Humanity.'

We hope everyone will enjoy the wonderful array of stalls, performances and auction buys, in support of our humanitarian mission and our local causes.

Thank you very much. Please enjoy yourselves and have fun today!