



CITIES OF LOVE AWARDS VIRTUAL CEREMONY

23 OCT 2020, 2 PM TO 4 PM

OPENING SPEECH BY MR. TAI LEE SIANG, FOUNDER, CITIES OF LOVE

2020 has been an unprecedented year of turmoil, upheaval and dramatic change. We witnessed lives lost, lives fallen ill, lives locked down. It has been unimaginable and still is! However, it has brought fresh attention to the new normal of a sustainable world in some aspects. We've learned to appreciate the blue sky and clear water, while the disappearance of traffic jams seems blissful. Though we don't like the inconvenience of wearing masks, yet we still enjoy and desire a cleaner and healthier environment. While we complained that we were too busy at work to have a work-life balance during pre-Covid days, now we suddenly enjoy working from home and treasure the time to spend with our loved ones.

The positive outcomes of overcoming challenges during Covid-19 that I have described to you were some of the visions we had when our Cities of Love book was first written. We wrote about family-oriented cities where live-work-play exists within a short walking distance from our homes. Our homes are the best places to innovate when fully interconnected with digital technology. All cities must have minimum green space standards to ensure conducive spaces evenly dispersed across the cities for people to unwind without feeling congestion - does it sound like social distancing? If cities heed the call to be sustainable and loveable, I believe we can cope with the pandemic in a better shape.

COLA exemplifies some of the most excellent solutions that people groups and individuals have created and executed on their own initiative. This year, 14 projects won the Cities of Love Awards. These are the results of people who have a vision about sustainability, and they passionately invest their own time and resources to realise them. In 3 years, we have given out 52 awards and all of you are heroes although some of you may think that your projects are insignificant. Let me assure you that it is through efforts like yours, we can bring positive change to the social, economic and environmental aspects of our society in time to come.

On this note, I would like to express our appreciation to our jury members, Ms Esther An, Dr Terrence Tan and Mr Allen Ang. They have been very encouraging. Lastly, I would like to thank our promotion and media partners who jointly make the Awards a memorable success. I wish you all the best and continue to do your part for the sustainability of this nation!

Mr Tai Lee Siang

Founder

Cities of Love