

“Tell-A-Tale” Children’s Storytelling Competition 2018/19

Final Round cum Award Presentation Ceremony

1 June 2019 (Saturday)

Speech by Ms CHAN Shin-kwan

Member of the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research

Dr. Priyanka JAIN, distinguished guests, jury panel members, teachers, parents, and students,

Good afternoon! It is my great pleasure to join you all at the Final Round cum Award Presentation Ceremony of the “Tell-A-Tale” Children’s Storytelling Competition 2018/19 to see the wonderful performance of students and share the joy of winners.

2. I like telling stories, and love listening to stories even more. I guess it may be the same for many of the teachers, parents, and students here today: we prefer stories to obvious but harsh truths. We could reflect on a story through the encounters of its different characters, and decide how we feel or what we think of its meanings. Stories are an indispensable buddy for children. Educational and meaningful stories help us build not only positive values and attitude but also reading, comprehension, and creative skills.

3. The Standing Committee on Language Education and Research, or SCOLAR in short, strives to create and nurture a facilitating language learning environment in and beyond school classrooms for students to be biliterate and trilingual. We hope to give students pleasurable learning experiences for arousing their interest, developing appreciation as well as boosting their confidence in using the languages. Apart from

sponsoring this meaningful project, SCOLAR also promotes language education in schools and the community through organising various creative and fun-filled activities. One example is the “World Book Day Fest” event we organised in collaboration with the Education Bureau in late April. Built also from stories, the event was themed “Folktaleoscope” this year with an array of inspirational games and activities for participants to discover the collective wisdom of ordinary folk.

4. I gathered that the “Tell-A-Tale” Children’s Storytelling Competition has received very encouraging response from the school community. About 2 100 students from 21 schools have taken part in the storytelling workshops, 450 students of which have plucked up the courage to participate in the intra-school preliminary round of competition. Some of you have made it to the final round today after two rounds of elimination. While the stories narrated in the competition have been prepared for you by the organiser, it is your interpretation and delivery that left an imprint of the story on audience’s mind. In everyday TV programmes or movies, you may notice that people tend to always use PowerPoint to aid presentations at meetings. I think that, apart from projected images, the tone and body language of the speaker are also useful tools in making presentation. I noted that many students have made their intonation, body language, and even the expression in your eyes perfectly today, which I believe to be the sweet harvest of many, many hours of practice. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the students, teachers, and parents for your effort and time devoted to this competition. On behalf of SCOLAR, I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the organiser, Teacup Productions, for organising such a meaningful activity enabling children to learn biliteracy and trilingualism in an entertaining way.

5. Although there will only be one champion in the competition, I believe that every one of you must have gained something special along the way. I hope that all of you will continue to take part in different competitions or activities proactively. Expand your horizon by reading more, trying more, and imagining a bigger world. Even if there are no awards, I believe that you are already a winner in some ways.

6. Lastly, may I also wish all of you good health and happiness. Thank you.