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**KEYNOTE SPEECH BY PRACTICE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FOO SEE LIANG,
CHAIRMAN OF PSB ACADEMY ACADEMIC BOARD, AT THE ANNUAL PSB
ACADEMY GRADUATION CEREMONY 2008, ON 9 OCTOBER 2008, THURSDAY,
AT SINGAPORE CONFERENCE HALL**

Dr Steve Lai, CEO of PSB Academy

Distinguished Guests,

Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good afternoon to all of you

1. It is my pleasure to be here with you today, at this grand celebration which marks an important milestone of your life. On behalf of the PSB Academy Academic Board members, I congratulate you on your achievements.
2. Graduation ceremonies are very special moments for me. Over the years, I have attended many graduation ceremonies, but I have never attended any of my graduation ceremonies when I studied in Australia, UK and U.S. Seeing all of you in your elegant graduation gown, holding your scroll and smiling brightly in front of the camera bring me back to memory lane to relive this joyful occasion.
3. Today, I would like to talk about, not the 5 Cs, but the 3 Gs. G is for graduation, it is also for Gratitude, Goodbye and Gusto.
4. Today, we look back and give thanks to those who made today's possible, that is Gratitude. At this ceremony, we celebrate your academic success, but

it is also a time to say goodbye to each other as you take flight to pursue your careers and ambitions. As we enter tomorrow, we must maintain and further develop our gusto¹ to manage different kinds of challenges that can come to us.

Giving thanks

5. Firstly, **Gratitude**. Give thanks to those who made your aspirations come true and today's event a reality.
6. There is a Chinese proverb on teachers. It says: "**teachers open door, but you must enter by yourself.**" All of you are here because you have successfully gone through PSB's door of knowledge and learning. This journey is made possible through your determination, hardwork and passion for learning; and, the dedication and guidance of your lecturers as well as support and encouragement from your families and loved-ones.
7. Graduands, your lecturers, families and friends are here today to share in your joy. Please join me to thank them for being essential pillars to your academic success. [*Applause*]

Goodbye but not forever

8. Next, graduation ceremony marks the end of your formal education at PSB. Today, you are bidding your classmates and lecturers goodbye. In Dr Lai's speech, he alluded to the shared experiences and friendship you have fostered that will leave enriching and fond memories of your stay at PSB.

¹ Zest; keen interest; enjoyment; piquancy – agreeable pungent, sharp, appetizing, stimulating.

9. As you say goodbye to each other and close the chapter as classmates, a new chapter unfolds as all of you are now part of the PSB global network. This is a further expansion from the strong network of friendship you have built up over the years. I hope all of you stay and continue to keep in touch.

Gusto to meet uncertainties and manage change

10. Next, having the **gusto to meet uncertainties and manage change**. In the past months, the global economy has been on a downward spiral with unprecedented mega corporate collapses and bail-outs. The recessionary dark clouds loom over the global economy. Everyone is affected. In such challenging time attitude is more important than aptitude. Let me give you an example of such an excellent attitude.
11. Last month, Singapore was filled with excitement, being the first country to host the world's first formula one night race. As it was a new track, the challenges and uncertainties faced by the drivers were the same. None of them knew exactly what to expect. They had to be in the right mindset to handle any problems that come their way.
12. On the day before the race, Renault's driver Fernando Alonso's engine gave up during the qualifying and he was placed at the 15th position. The chances of standing on the podium were near impossible. However, Alonso kept his cool. The tides turned on the day of the race. In a surprising string of events, Alonso saw himself crossing the finishing line in 1st position after a gruelling 61 lap race! The taste of the champagne was certainly sweet on the podium for he never gave up on the race and persevered till the end.

13. Graduands, I hope that you will also have the same gusto and attitude as you embark on the next phase of your life. Do not give up when the journey looks bleak because you never know what is at the end of the rainbow. Persevere and you may just chance upon your own pot of gold.
14. To win the race, one must also take calculated risk. One must always have the gusto to push on in the face of uncertainties. Even if you were to fail, take heart that failing is part of life experience. What is important is not how you fall but how you pick yourself up after each fall.
15. To cite J.K Rowling in one of her speeches : it is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all – in which case, you failed by default.”

Give and you shall be Given

16. Finally, as I come to the end of my speech, I would like to leave you with a quote from Winston Churchill. Another letter ‘G’ which I hope you will always keep with you as you go through life.
17. He said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
18. Learn to give; do not be afraid to give. Regardless how small the effort may be, you can make the difference too.
19. With this, I thank you for having me here to share your joy and I wish all of you every success. Thank you.