VISIT BY MR THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SECOND MINISTER FOR FINANCE, TO BANGKOK, THAILAND AND PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 14–16 DECEMBER 2006

1. Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Finance, will be visiting Bangkok, Thailand and Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 14–16 December 2006.

2. In Bangkok, Mr Shanmugaratnam will meet Thailand Education Minister Prof Dr Wichit Srisa-an. The Ministers will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support education collaboration between Singapore and Thailand. The MOU covers areas such as teacher and school leader attachments, cooperation in vocational training, exchange of information and experiences in Science and Technology, twinning of schools in Singapore and Thailand and joint leadership training activities for students. There will also be staff exchanges and research cooperation at the tertiary level.

3. In his capacity as the President of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Council, Mr Shanmugaratnam will also visit the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA) in Bangkok.

4. In Phnom Penh, Mr Shanmugaratnam will meet Royal Government of Cambodia Senior Minister & Minister of Economy and Finance, Mr Keat Chhon; Royal Government of Cambodia Senior Minister & Minister of Education Youth and Sports, Dr Kol Pheng; and Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia, Dr Chea Chanto. Mr Shanmugaratnam will also visit Preah Sisowath High School in Phnom Penh.

5. Mr Shanmugaratnam will be accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Education on this trip.