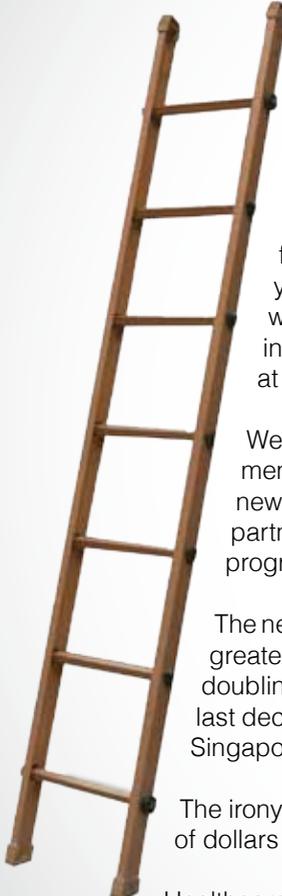


A TALL ORDER



Warm greetings to all. It is a great honour to be re-elected President of DSS for another two years. My sincere thanks to all elected members of management committee; some of you have been faithfully serving the Society for many years and have committed your time and shared your expertise so willingly. Your contributions have been invaluable to DSS and to the community at large.

We are also happy to welcome some new members. The Society hopes to establish new connections with other industrial partners and actively organise interesting programs for our members and the public.

The need to reach out to the community seems greater now more than ever. There has been a doubling of childhood and adult obesity in the last decade in all the Asian countries, including Singapore.

The irony is that we seem to be spending billions of dollars on drugs to cure the problem.

Healthcare professionals feel that people need even greater protection from a food industry that keeps tantalising them with larger portions.

A report presented last year by the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health estimated that 35 percent of the nation's intake of added sugars came from beverages. A can of Cola would contain nine teaspoons of cane sugar. And there are seven teaspoons of cane sugar in the innocent-looking can of soy bean drink!

It was also reported that in their administration's most ambitious effort yet to battle growing obesity, New York City plans to order a far-reaching and bold ban on the sale of large-sized sodas and other sugary drinks.

Perhaps it is time for our own government to intervene, and be more aggressive about preventing the problem. The money earned from the tax on sugary drinks and high-fat foods can be put back into health and education instead. Should we begin placing hefty taxes on foods that are detrimental to our health?

A tall order, you say? Maybe not. Because, in the end, it is not about 'sugar' or 'diabetes' – it is also about the heart attacks, the strokes, the kidney failure, the blindness and the amputations that come with diabetes.

Mr Yong Chiang Boon

President
DSS