



This Is Uniquely Singapore Tripartism: Good In Good Times, Better In Bad Times



With the People's Action Party as a pro-people government and the National Trades Union Congress as a pro-worker Labour Movement, Singapore will emerge from the global economic downturn faster and stronger. So said Mr Ang Hin Kee, the Chief Executive Officer of NTUC's e2i (Employment and Employability Institute), a guest speaker at the PAP Party Convention on 1 November 2009 at Downtown East.

In comparing the effectiveness of tripartism, Mr Ang said that in France, tripartism was already weak in good times, and it became worse in bad times; in Ireland, it was only strong in good times, but broke down recently.

"In Singapore, our tripartism was strong in good times, and became stronger in bad times. Together, we minimised retrenchment and unemployment. We are also gearing up for the upturn."

Mr Ang said PAP and NTUC are strong allies who care to do the right things to help Singaporeans.

"We do more than we talk. I am inspired by this spirit of unity. As a small and open economy, we cannot shelter ourselves from global downturn. But, with PAP being a pro-people government and NTUC a pro-worker Labour Movement, Singapore will emerge from the global economic downturn faster and stronger, turning challenges into opportunities and creating jobs for our workers and growth for Singapore."

Mr Ang said he has every confidence that both the PAP Government and the NTUC Labour Movement will work tirelessly to make the lives of everyone in Singapore better.



White Shirt U Shirt One Shirt

“The PAP has stayed close to the NTUC. We've created jobs, we've helped workers improve their lives and we have never lost touch with what the workers are preoccupied with, what concerns them, what their aspirations are. And, what our roots as a party are, starting with the very close partnership with the Labour Movement before independence, right from the start.

Today, we've got NTUC representatives in a contingent here, participating in our Convention and speaking in our Convention. And if you close your eyes and listen, you will not know whether he is wearing a White Shirt or the U Shirt because he speaks with one voice. And there are many White Shirts who wear U Shirts, and I am sure there will be many U Shirts who will one day wear White Shirts too.”

Lee Hsien Loong, PAP Secretary-General and Prime Minister of Singapore, citing one reason the PAP has stayed strong and vigorous over the last half century is its close ties with the NTUC.

Making A Good Thing Better

“We must continue to nurture our ties with the NTUC. From the outset, our Party set out to improve the lives of workers. We continue to do so. At the same time, our Branch activists have been vigilant, identifying people's problems, extending help, and where necessary, referred the more difficult and general issues to our leadership.”

Lim Boon Heng, PAP Chairman and Immediate Past NTUC Secretary-General, in his address at the presentation of Party Awards on 31 October 2009 at Downtown East.

Mr Lim said for PAP to continue to be a strong party and the choice of the people in future would depend on several factors, one of which is whether the party leadership and activists continue to stay close to the ground. One way to do so is to nurture its ties with the NTUC.

Mr Lim also invited NTUC staff and union leaders present to stand up to be acknowledged, which they did, to loud applause of party activists.

Among those who were bestowed Party Awards were Mr Ong Keau (Long Service Gold), NTUC Deputy Director (Industrial Relations Department) and Deputy Executive Secretary (UWEEI), who serves in the Yuhua ward of Jurong GRC; and Mr Frederick Ho (Long Service Silver), NTUC Assistant Director (International Affairs Department), who serves in Marine Parade GRC's Mountbatten ward.