ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HOON HIAN TECK, lecturer and contributor to *The Economic Prospects of Singapore*, published by Singapore Management University’s School of Economics and Social Sciences

“It is likely that as the growth engine slows down with a maturing economy, unemployment will pose a serious problem for less-skilled workers.

“If we accept the argument that a society suffering from long-term joblessness creates serious negative externalities for the rest of society, there would seem to be a case for the state to pay from its total tax revenue, an employment subsidy to lower the structural rate of unemployment.

“An employment subsidy raises the take-home pay of less-skilled workers while lowering the cost to the firm of hiring them and in this way, acts to reduce the unemployment rate.”

MR HO KWON PING, executive chairman, Banyan Tree Holdings

“Singapore can produce more Sim Wong Hoos by reforming the educational system so that inquisitive minds and independent thinking are encouraged from young. Thankfully, that is beginning to happen.

“But social norms and Government responses to the young must also change accordingly.”