



29 May 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Release

Engineers in the railway and transportation sector to be accredited under the IES Chartered Engineer Programme

The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES), the Land Transport Authority (LTA), Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), SBS Transit Ltd (SBST) and SMRT Corporation Ltd (SMRT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today to establish the Chartered Engineer programme for Singapore's railway professionals. This will support the national-level SkillsFuture movement by building a sustainable pool of highly skilled and proficient railway engineers and assisting individuals to advance in their careers based on skills and mastery. Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Transport, Mrs Josephine Teo was the guest of honour at the event.

2. In addition, the MOU will establish a common set of railway engineering industry standards for engineering competencies. The signatories will work together to provide a platform for the continual development of professional standards and accreditation in operations, maintenance and regulatory work. This will expand on the work of the Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications framework and certification for Public Transport by WDA, and build a foundation to support the SkillsFuture objectives of an integrated, high-quality system of education and training. The introduction and recognition of these standards will help to further enhance the professionalism of the sector and to improve its attractiveness as a long-term career. All parties will also collaborate to drive industry-wide branding and promotion of the railway engineering profession.

Singapore's Chartered Engineer programme

3. Launched by IES in 2013, Singapore's Chartered Engineer programme provides accreditation to engineers in fields that do not require Professional Engineer registration. The programme was first rolled out for engineers in the aerospace, chemical & process, environmental & water, marine & offshore and systems engineering sectors. This programme will now be extended to engineers in the railway and transportation engineering sector.

4. The accreditation programme is based on independent peer review of an individual's experience, expertise and practicing competence. For railway engineers, it provides employers with a yardstick to determine and recognise their professional competence, which will in turn enhance their employability and career prospects. Application for accreditation will begin from end-2015. Chartered Engineers will need to accumulate 40 Professional Development Units each year by participating in seminars, conferences and membership in Engineering Boards.

5. "To achieve a robust public transportation system, Singapore needs a strong pipeline of railway and transportation engineers capable of the design, construction, operation and maintenance of various types of railway and transportation systems and developing innovative solutions for technical, societal and commercial problems related to railway engineering. IES is honoured to partner LTA, WDA, SBST and SMRT and contribute to the MOU through our Chartered Engineer programme to raise standards, competencies and proficiencies of the railway and transportation engineering industry and attract new entrants to this field while retaining current engineers," said Er. Chong Kee Sen, President of IES.

6. Mr Chew Men Leong, Chief Executive of LTA, said, "The development of rail engineers is crucial to our growing public transportation sector. With the building of new rail lines and the doubling of our rail network to about 360km by 2030, it is critical that we have engineers with the knowledge and expertise to plan, build, operate and maintain the rail system. This programme also encourages the right attitude in our engineers and the spirit of continuous learning, which will keep them in good stead to progress in this exciting industry."

7. WDA's Ag Chief Executive, Mr Goh Eng Ghee said "WDA will work closely with the public transport stakeholders to build an industry-recognised skills-based framework. This collaboration will be part of the efforts to support SkillsFuture through the development of an integrated, high-quality system of education and training that responds to constantly evolving industry needs."

8. SBS Transit Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gan Juay Kiat, said, "As SBS Transit Rail grows and evolves, it is important that our people do so too. We strongly believe that this partnership will enable our rail engineers to develop their professional competency and keep pace with technology improvements. We fully support this initiative that complements our career development path for rail engineers as it enables our engineers to attain higher qualifications and recognition and ultimately, benefits the entire industry."

9. Mr Lee Ling Wee, Managing Director of SMRT Trains said, "SMRT trains and nurtures a growing core of rail engineers to uphold the highest standards of leadership and operational competencies necessary to fulfil their important roles in an increasingly complex rapid transit system. We cultivate the career aspirations of rail engineers through a well-defined career progression ladder based on performance and potential for higher responsibilities. With this MOU, we continue to work closely with various key industry partners to further enhance the professionalism of our rail engineers, taking a significant step towards developing a pool of rail industry professionals to provide better rail reliability and enhanced service experience for all commuters in Singapore."

10. More information on Singapore's Chartered Engineer programme can be found at www.charteredengineers.sg.

- END -

About The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)

The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES) was formally established in July 1966 as the national society of engineers in Singapore. IES is the premier engineering institution in Singapore and is called upon by the Government to provide feedback on professional engineering matters.

IES is well represented among the faculty members of the major engineering institutions of higher learning in Singapore. Through close collaboration with the local universities and polytechnics, IES organises courses, seminars and talks for engineers and IES members to advance the continuous development of engineers.

The Institution maintains close links with professional organisations of engineers regionally and throughout the world. These include organisations in Australia, China, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States. The Institution also represents Singapore in the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO) and the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) in promoting goodwill, fellowship and exchange of knowledge among all engineers in ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region.

Through its Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB), IES obtained full signatory status in the Washington Accord (WA) in June 2006. The entry grants IES the authority to represent Singapore, the first country within the ASEAN region which has obtained full signatory status in the WA, to vet education systems under the WA mutual recognition framework.

About Land Transport Authority

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) is responsible for planning, building and maintaining Singapore's land transport infrastructure and systems, playing a significant role in making Singapore a vibrant and bustling metropolis. As a builder of the rail network, LTA plans, develops and invests in the construction of the rail lines. LTA also decides where the lines run, how the construction should be done, what technologies and trains to use and the schedule for the roll-out. In addition, as the rail regulator, LTA works with the public transport operators to improve reliability, comfort and user-friendliness of train services.

About Singapore Workforce Development Agency

The Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) enhances the competitiveness of our workforce by encouraging workers to learn for life and advance with skills. In today's economy,

most jobs require not just knowledge, but also skills. WDA collaborates with employers, industry associations, unions and training organisations, to develop and strengthen the Continuing Education and Training system that is skills-based, open and accessible, as a mainstream pathway for all workers - young and older, from rank and file to professionals and executives - to upgrade and advance in their careers and lives.

About SBS Transit Limited

SBS Transit is Singapore's leading bus and rail operator. Every day, we serve more than three million passengers on our extensive bus and rail network. More than just being a people mover, we aim to provide commuters with safe, reliable, affordable and quality public transport services by investing extensively in technology and training, and constantly looking to upgrade not just our operations but our employees as well.

With a fleet of more than 3,400 buses plying some 250 bus routes, we also operate the North East MRT Line, which is the world's first fully automated, underground rail system. Since December 2013, we are also the operator of the new Downtown Line. When fully completed by 2017, this 42km-line with 34 stations will be the longest underground line in Singapore. Besides this, we run the operations of the Sengkang/Punggol Light Rail Transit system.

About SMRT Corporation Ltd

SMRT Corporation Ltd (SMRT) is the leading multi-modal public transport operator in Singapore. SMRT serves millions of passengers daily by offering a safe, reliable and comprehensive transport network that consists of an extensive MRT and light rail system which connects seamlessly with its island-wide bus and taxi operations. SMRT also markets and leases the commercial and media spaces within its transport network, and offers engineering consultancy and project management as well as operations and maintenance services, locally and internationally.

- End -

MEDIA CONTACT

Desmond Teo
Publications Manager
The Institution of Engineers, Singapore
DID: (65) 6461 1229
Mobile: (65) 9747 9365
Email: desmond@iesnet.org.sg

Valerie Chng
Associate
The Right Spin Public Relations
DID: (65) 6325 5927
Mobile: (65) 9299 6036
Email: valerie@therightspin.com.sg

Suhana Kharudin
Senior Manager, Media Relations
Corporate Communications
Land Transport Authority
DID: (65) 6396 1947
Mobile: (65) 9155 9550
Email: Suhana_KHARUDIN@lta.gov.sg

Chan Ying Yen
Deputy Manager, Media Relations
Corporate Communications
Land Transport Authority
DID: (65) 6396 1574
Mobile: (65) 9172 7656
Email: CHAN_Ying_Yen@lta.gov.sg

Sharolyn Chiang
Manager
Corporate and Marketing Communications Division
Singapore Workforce Development Agency
DID: (65) 6512 1046
Mobile: (65) 9147 4706
Email: Sharolyn_chiang@wda.gov.sg

Grace Wu
Vice President
Corporate Communications
SBS Transit
DID: (65) 6383 7207
Mobile: (65) 9781 6280
Email: gracewu@sbstransit.com.sg

Au Yeong Siew Pheng
Corporate Information and Communications
SMRT Corporation Ltd
DID: (65) 6331 1103
Mobile: (65) 9822 0902
Email: media@smrt.com.sg