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Speech by Prof S.K. Chou, President, The Institution of Engineers,  
Singapore, at IES Appreciation & Awards Night  
on Wednesday, 31 July 2013 at Kent Ridge Guild House

Members of IES,  
Fellow Engineers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to the 2013 IES Appreciation & Awards Night. As in previous years, this is the occasion for us to gather and honour people who have selflessly sacrificed their time and energy for IES.

Indeed, IES owes its growth to our volunteers. It is because of your commitment to our cause that we have been able to achieve one milestone after another during the past 46 years. Be it overseeing projects, organising events, representing IES in overseas conferences, or even taking up media interviews, each contribution made by our volunteers plays an important part in boosting the profile of IES and raising the standards of the engineering profession.

Tonight, we pay tribute to the spirit of volunteerism and honour the individuals who have volunteered at IES, in different capacities. We

will be giving out long service awards, outstanding volunteer awards, outstanding committee awards and special recognition awards to some of you in gratitude of your contribution. We will also be presenting a few organisations that have extended great support to us with 'Friends of IES' awards.

At this juncture, I would like to highlight a couple of achievements that IES has accomplished in the last year, thanks to our volunteers.

In line with our efforts to bring in more young bright minds to the industry, the IES College of Fellows, comprising successful senior engineers, initiated several programmes in collaboration with schools and local enterprises for Fellows to share their expertise with young budding engineers. In another successful run of the National Engineers Day (NED) last year, we also managed to reach out to more than 450 students with activities attesting to the exciting prospects of an engineering career. In addition, in support of young innovators who are seeking to develop and market their products, we launched the IES Technopreneurship Ecosystem last year to provide them with much-needed mentorship, facilities and funds.

Programmes like these, that allow us to harness the knowledge and expertise of senior engineers and educate and inspire the next generation of top engineer, would not have been possible without the support of our volunteers.

On another facet, to ensure that IES maintains close links with engineering associations in other countries, several of our member volunteers represented IES at the 30th Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (CAFEO) held in Cambodia in December last year and engaged with fellow representatives with the various ASEAN countries.

I would also like to draw your attention to two of the largest scale projects that many volunteers are working on together with our secretariat staff – the World Engineers Summit, or WES 2013 in short, that will take place from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September, and the redevelopment of our IES premises at Bukit Tinggi.

As of today, we are about five weeks away from the opening of WES 2013. This is the biggest event that IES has ever organised and one of the largest engineering conferences to be staged in Singapore. I'm happy to share that everything is falling nicely in place, thanks to the organising committees and the Secretariat, who have worked very hard over the past several months to put everything together. As we prepare to welcome professionals from various disciplines around the world to gather in Singapore to discuss climate change issues, I'd like to thank those of you who have extended your support. If you haven't purchased your tickets, it's not too late to do so. We welcome you to join us in exchanging ideas on solutions to

combat climate change and network with the numerous prominent speakers and international delegates.

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a sneak preview of an important initiative that we will be launching at WES 2013 – the Chartered Engineer programme. This programme will make a difference to many of you here in different ways, as it provides engineers who are in fields that do not warrant a need for them to be registered as Professional Engineers, with an official endorsement of their experience, expertise and practising competence. I welcome you to join us at WES 2013 to find out more about this exciting scheme.

The construction works for the new annex of the IES building is also going smoothly. Our fund-raising efforts for IES' new home have, unfortunately, been a little bumpy. A main barrier in our fund raising drive has been the unwillingness of friends and associates to donate when they know that only a small percentage of IES members have donated. In fact, each time our fundraisers approached these parties for donations, we were always told to raise more from our own IES members instead. The message is clear, the more we are able to raise from fellow members, the stronger we are and the more able we will be at extending our hand to friends and associates and corporates.

I would like to call upon you to support IES, as you have always done, and contribute to the IES Building Fund. Your contribution will go towards facilities that will enable engineers to network and develop professionally, and most importantly, create a ripple effect for others to donate as well.

The awards we are giving out and the projects I have highlighted are but the tip of the iceberg. There are so many others who have contributed so much to IES without asking for anything in return, from Council members to members of the various committees. Tonight, allow us to celebrate your contributions too.

In closing, I would like to say that no matter how good our policies are or how many professional staff we have, without volunteers, we will not be able to play the role that has been entrusted to us. I hope that this spirit of volunteerism will continue to flourish at IES. Let us continue to offer our experience, skills and abilities for the benefit of our society and our profession.

With that, I would like to wish everyone a very pleasant evening ahead. Thank you.