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Speech by Prof S.K. Chou, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore,
at the World Engineers Summit 2013 Award Presentation cum Gala Dinner
on Friday, 13 September 2013 at Marina Sands Expo and Convention Centre

Our Guest-of-Honour, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Singapore;

Eng. Adel Al-Kharafi, President of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO);

His Excellency Abdulaziz Ahmed S Al Adwani, Ambassador of Kuwait to Singapore;

His Excellency Bashir Yuguda, Honourable Minister of State for Works, Nigeria;

Her Excellency Mrs Nonye Rajis-Okpara, High Commissioner of Nigeria to Singapore;

His Excellency Fariz Mahdawi, Ambassador of Palestine to Indonesia;

Distinguished Guests;

Members of IES;

Fellow Engineers;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I'd like to begin by welcoming each and everyone of you to this Gala Dinner, which marks the end of the World Engineers Summit 2013. Thank you, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, for taking time to be with us as we celebrate the success of this inaugural event, and for supporting The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, in putting this event together.

WES 2013

The past three days have been most invigorating and rewarding, as we hosted delegates from around the world to discuss and exchange ideas on vital global climate change issues. Engineers, industry experts, government officials and academics came together in a rich exchange of knowledge and experience on a wide range of topics covering green technology and innovations, sustainable solutions to address climate change, and energy and environmental policies. Climate change poses enormous challenges over the long term and many cross-cutting issues will require collaborative efforts across geographical boundaries, sectors, organisations and professions. I believe that all who attended the Summit have come away with fresh insights and renewed enthusiasm that will further strengthen their resolve in their work on climate change.

Awards

For many engineers, the decision to join the profession often start with the innate desire to make a difference to humanity. As the national society of engineers in Singapore, IES would like to sustain this passion amongst engineers and remind them of the impact that they can make to the world. Presenting awards to engineers is one such way, and there is perhaps no other better occasion for us to do so than at the closing dinner of WES 2013.

Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to join me this evening to honour the engineers behind these outstanding engineering projects selected to receive the IES Prestigious Engineering Achievement Awards 2013. To be a contender, the projects had to score high in planning, problem solving and design solutions, pioneering use of materials and methods, and featuring innovations. I would like to congratulate the engineering teams responsible for the 13 winning projects and commend them for the contributions that they have made.

Later this evening, we will also get to witness the presentation of the WFEO Awards to individuals who have made significant contributions to engineering and engineering education. They will receive the Medal of Engineering Excellence for Distinguished Achievement Service of Humanity and Medal of Excellence in Engineering Education, respectively.

IES Building

The choices that each individual and organisation make can collectively create a huge impact on the environment. Take IES, for example. When planning for our new building, there was no question that green design and sustainable construction technology must be deployed as we strongly believe that they play an essential role in combating climate change. As the new home for engineers in Singapore, we hope that the new building will stand as an icon of sustainable practices and technology made possible by engineers and innovation.

We look forward to opening the new building to members from the 2nd quarter of 2014. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to the building fund. If you have not done so, I urge you to please contribute generously to the IES Building Fund. You may approach any of the IES Secretariat staff present here for details.

Closing

On behalf of the IES Council, I thank you all, especially our friends who come from abroad, for joining us at WES and for being here this evening. Once again, I would like to thank Dr Vivian Balakrishnan for gracing the Gala Dinner this evening as our Guest-of-Honour. I would also like to thank WFEO and Eng. Adel Al-Kharafi, President of WFEO, for their strong support of IES in organising WES 2013.

Thank you also, all our partners, sponsors, WES Committee Members and the IES Secretariat for your generosity, dedication and hard work towards making WES 2013 a resounding success.

Although we are drawing the curtains on the World Engineers Summit 2013, we are confident that the discussions and friendships made over the past few days will be long lasting. For those of you who have to return home soon after this event, I wish you a safe journey. And we look forward to meeting you again soon.

On this note, ladies and gentlemen, I wish you an enjoyable evening.

Thank you.