

**OUTGOING THANK YOU SPEECH BY PROF S.K. CHOU, PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION OF  
ENGINEERS SINGAPORE, AT THE 48<sup>th</sup> IES AGM ON 24 MAY 2010 AT  
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

Past Presidents

Council Members and IES members

Good afternoon.

1 I would like to thank everyone for attending the 48<sup>th</sup> AGM of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore. As the outgoing president, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you for providing me with the privilege of representing you for the past two years.

2 I had set several agendas for IES for the past 12 months focusing on delivering benefits to our members and for the advancement of the engineering profession. Allow me to report to you the many exciting milestones that have been achieved.

3 Let me begin with the inaugural World Engineers Summit, held in September 2013 in conjunction with the General Assembly of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations in Singapore. WES 2013 was a successful event on many levels. It served as a timely platform for local and international thought-leaders to address critical issues brought about by climate change. It gathered more than 1,000 engineers and industry professionals to discuss potential approaches to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change. It enabled our members to keep abreast of the engineering and policy issues relating to climate change and sustainability that will confront us in the years to come. It provided an opportunity for the young to be inspired to take up the cause through a career in engineering. It signalled to the world IES' ability to stage an international conference of such scale and prominence. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Past President Er. Tan Seng Chuan, and Council Members Er. Edwin Khew and Er. Dr Chew Soon Hoe for steering the event to its success.

4 In the past year, IES also launched a very important initiative to support the professional recognition of engineers – the ‘Chartered Engineer’ accreditation programme. We have been talking about doing this for a long time, so to get it launched at WES 2013 in front of the local and international engineering community, and with more than ten industry leaders pledging their support, is a giant step forward. The ‘Chartered Engineer’ programme will serve our members’ interests well, as it recognises the professional competence, expertise and experience of engineers in diverse engineering disciplines, facilitating the professional updating and career advancement of engineers. I would like to thank Vice-President Er. Ong See Ho at this juncture, as he was most instrumental in leading a team to develop the competency standards, assessment criteria and review process necessary for the certification of the IES Chartered Engineer.

5 Another key accreditation scheme launched by IES in March this year is the Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) Resident Engineer (RE) and Resident Technical Officer (RTO) Registry. This scheme has been developed in partnership with the Association of Consulting Engineers Singapore (ACES). Our aim is to institutionally recognise M&E REs and RTOs who possess the necessary professional competence, skills and experience to perform their duties, thereby ensuring that building projects are completed according to high safety standards and quality.

6 Professional training has always been a key priority for IES. In the past year, we continued to enhance the quality and quantity of its training courses through the IES Academy. Thousands of engineers and technical personnel were able to upgrade, update and learn new tools in their respective fields at the academy. Moving forward, IES Academy will continue to push the envelope of technical and professional training as it is our wish to stay highly relevant to our members throughout the duration of their engineering careers.

7 During the last AGM, we reported on the ground-breaking ceremony of the new IES building. Today, I am pleased to inform you that the project has been progressing smoothly from phase to phase over the past 12 months. Once again, I would like to thank all our members and corporate sponsors for making it possible. The building task force is working

very hard to complete the building soon, so that all our members can enjoy new training facilities and adequate space for interaction. I would like to highlight that even though the project is entering its later stages, we are still actively seeking sponsorship and donations to meet funding targets. I call for your support to join fellow members who have contributed so that in the near future, we can all stand proud in a building that all of us can call home.

8 In the past year, IES also continued to bring the recognition of engineers to a higher level. In this regard, we launched the second edition of “Who’s Who in Engineering” in November last year, as a tribute to notable engineers across the public and private sectors. In total, we featured more than 270 engineers in the publication. Each of them has made outstanding professional contributions towards Singapore’s economic development.

9 IES also remained very active on the collaboration front. For instance, we partnered PUB and other industry bodies to jointly launch the Handbook on Managing Urban Runoff and the ABC (Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters) Waters Professional Registry in June last year. Industry professionals can now easily access resources in the design and development of effective storm-water management systems and tap the registry for expertise in ABC Waters design.

11 Staying true to its charter of being the voice for engineers IES organised a dialogue session for members who are in small and medium-sized enterprises in the engineering sector in November 2013, to surface the challenges they are facing. We invited Er. Dr Lee Bee Wah, IES Past President and Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC, to lead the session. It was very well-attended and participants used the platform to raise concerns and issues that hampered their companies’ growth, and learned about the range of public sector schemes and resources available.

12 To continue in our efforts to nurture future engineering thought leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs, IES signed an MoU with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) to set up the IES-SIT Student Chapter and the IES-SUTD Student Chapter. Vice-President Dr Richard Kwok also led IES to organise the National Engineers Day (NED) in collaboration with WES 2013. The event

showcased the achievements of engineers and presented many opportunities for our youths to learn and discover the latest in eco-technology and to participate in design projects and exchange ideas with students from overseas.

13 In view of the above, and many other projects and activities that took place last year, I can say that it has been a productive year since the last AGM. But we know that we need to do more as IES moves into its 49<sup>th</sup> year of existence. The engineering landscape is continuously changing so while IES holds steadfast to our assumed roles, we know that we should not be afraid to challenge old norms. We will keep our focus on remaining resolutely relevant to our members, and delivering value and serving our growing membership across a wide range of engineering disciplines.

14 Before I conclude, I would like to say that it has been an honour and privilege for me to be able to serve as your President in the past two years. When I was first inaugurated as President two years ago, it has been a challenging journey, but one that I am extremely thankful for, as my fellow Council members and our members have been incredibly supportive throughout the entire period. I am also greatly appreciative of the IES secretariat who has gritted their teeth in many instances to overcome countless hurdles with me. To be honest, it is somewhat with relief that I am now passing on the baton. I would definitely continue to serve in a reduced capacity but by no means with any less commitment.

15 Er. Chong Kee Sen will be taking over as the 25th President of IES. I have full confidence of his ability to lead IES forward, as he is someone with great passion, dedication and determination. I believe Kee Sen's long years of service and unstinting commitment will be instrumental in helping IES realise many immediate goals over the next two years and lay a strong foundation for the future. I urge all our members to give him your fullest support.

16 One thing I have learned from being the President for the past 24 months is that IES is a society that can bring about significant impact to our economy, our society, the engineering community at large and our members. Our role will only grow in significance and I hope that you will continue to give IES your continued support so as to bring the society to new heights of excellence. Thank you.