

Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES) at the World Engineers Summit on Climate Change 2015 Industry Roundtable on 21 July 2015, Tuesday 9.00 am, Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre (Room 300, Level 3)

Mr. Choi Shing Kwok, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources,

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Loo Took Gee, Secretary General, Ministry of Energy, Green Technology, and Water, Malaysia,

Distinguished guests,

1. Good morning. Welcome to the inaugural Industry Roundtable on climate change. On behalf of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore or IES, I would like to thank you for joining us today. I would especially like to thank Mr. Choi Shing Kwok for being our guest-of-honour.
2. Every nation, organisation and individual is vulnerable to the impact of climate change.
3. For businesses, occurrences of extraordinary adversed climate conditions could directly affect the value of assets, disrupt the stream of supplies, increase the cost of commodities and even throw business operations into disarray. These could make a significant impact to the bottom line of businesses.
4. Companies have to be aware of the risks or uncertainties associated with climate change impact. This also means that companies need to start taking greater action to boost climate change resilience across their entire business for long-term viability.

5. Globally, policy-makers are working towards reducing carbon emission levels, in an effort to mitigate climate change effects. In Singapore, for example, the relevant authorities have developed schemes to encourage companies to adopt energy-efficient technologies and processes and introduced minimum energy management requirements for large industrial energy users.
6. As the national society of engineers in Singapore, IES is working closely with both the government as well as with the private sector to enhance the skills of engineers to support the adoption of sustainability-driven measures. For example, IES is working with the National Environment Agency to jointly administer the Singapore Certified Energy Manager (SCEM) Programme. This certification program helps engineering professionals acquire the necessary skills and competencies for energy management.
7. This morning's Industry Roundtable provides a good platform for business and industry leaders to surface critical issues and challenges confronting businesses in relation to climate change. We have decided to focus on three topics which are relevant to businesses in all sectors.
8. The first and second topics are on challenges and opportunities in the adaptation of climate change and the role of businesses in the mitigation of climate change.
9. While additional risks or costs due to impact of climate change are of concern to businesses, we could also look at the new opportunities they could capture as the world becomes more sustainability-focused. In addition, by making environmentally-

conscious choices, businesses could make huge differences in the battle against climate change.

10. The third topic focuses on the role of women in engineering. As you know, the fight against climate change calls for the best engineers from a diversity of background. While there are increasingly more women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields now, they are still under-represented. This means that we are not leveraging on the potential of the full human capacity for an issue as urgent and important as climate change. To do so, we have to remove barriers and encourage more women to be engineers.
11. With so many industry leaders with us today, we are sure that it is going to be a highly engaging discussion. We look forward to having you share valuable insights with us.
12. On behalf of the IES Council and WES on Climate Change Organising Committee, I would like to extend my appreciation once again to Mr. Choi for your presence this morning at this Industry Roundtable. I would also like to thank our supporters, sponsors, speakers and guests for making this event possible.
13. I wish you a fruitful discussion and I look forward to seeing all of you at the World Engineers Summit on Climate Change 2015 Opening Ceremony tomorrow.
14. Thank you.