

**Speech by Er. Edwin Khew,
President of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore at the
IES Golden Jubilee Gala Dinner on Friday, 1 July 2016 at
the Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore**

Our Guest-of-Honour, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs Lee,
Mr. Chan Chun Sing, Secretary-General NTUC, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office,
Mr. Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources,
Distinguished guests,
Past Presidents of IES,
Council Members, IES members,
Fellow Engineers, Friends of IES
Ladies & Gentleman, Good
Evening.

1 It is a great honour for me to address you tonight, as The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (or IES) celebrates its landmark 50th anniversary. On behalf of IES, I would like to express our warmest appreciation to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs Lee for gracing this occasion as our guest-of-honour. I would also like to thank SG Chan and Minister Masagos for your presence as our special guests tonight; as well as all our distinguished guests, members and friends for joining us this evening.

2 Tonight marks a historic moment for IES. Few organisations in Singapore can claim to have grown side by side with our nation, and contributed to its growth over the past 50 years. IES was formed as the national society of engineers in Singapore exactly 50 years ago on 1 July 1966, less than a year after Singapore had gained its independence. Since then, IES has grown significantly in size and stature, striving to be the heart and voice of engineers in Singapore, and the national body and home for engineers. Tonight, allow me to share with you a few of the most notable milestones that IES has accomplished in its various roles through these 50 years.

Significant IES Milestones

3 One of IES' key roles is to establish and elevate the professional status of engineers. We have made huge strides in this regard, including successfully pressing for

the passing of the Professional Engineers Bill in 1971, signing the Washington Accord in 2006 (*The Washington Accord is an international agreement which provides a mechanism for the mutual recognition of academic programmes in engineering that satisfy the requirements for the professional practice of engineering*) and launching the IES Chartered Engineer Programme and Registry in 2013.

4 IES also strived to provide engineers with lifelong training and professional development. Our efforts in this area include the establishment of the Continuing Education Centre (CEC) in 1990 and the IES Academy in 2006. The number of courses run by the academy has increased to more than a hundred over the last ten years. To cater to the increasing demand for training, IES officially opened a new IES Academy facility in Jurong East three months ago.

5 Since its inception, IES has also endeavoured to be a home for engineers. From its humble beginnings at a 9.5 square-metre rented office at Outram Park in 1971, IES moved on to acquire our first office at International Plaza in 1978, before moving to our very own building - the IES Charles Rudd building at Bukit Tinggi in 1987. This year in February, we officially opened another IES building, called the IES Green Building @ Bukit Tinggi, an icon of engineering excellence with BCA Platinum Green Mark rating. This very modern and energy-efficient building houses our secretariat which is 43 strong and a number of conference and meeting rooms, a board room as well as a lounge for members to relax in.

6 IES has also played a central role in representing Singapore regionally and internationally to promote goodwill and fellowship among engineers. We are now part of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) and the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP).

7 In the past 50 years, IES has never lost sight of its role to provide feedback to the Government on professional engineering matters. We have made ourselves readily available to provide technical expertise, specialised knowledge and engineering insights to various government bodies, from the Active, Beautiful and Clean (ABC) water programme for PUB, to workplace health and safety, and process safety for the Ministry of Manpower and to SPRING where many of our members have contributed to the many standards, including ISO standards established for the building and infrastructure sectors. Overall, IES is represented in some 30 Working Groups or 30% of the Working Groups under the Singapore Standardisation Programme.

IES-SG50 Celebrations

8 To commemorate all these achievements, IES launched the IES-SG50 campaign in January last year. This gala dinner is actually the grand finale of our campaign. Apart from celebrating our organisational achievements, IES-SG50 also aims to direct the public's attention to the contributions that engineers have made towards Singapore's 50 years of nation-building. Later tonight, PM Lee will be presenting awards to winners of the Engineering Feats @ IES-SG50 competition. The winning projects have been voted by the public as having made the greatest impact to Singapore's economic,

infrastructural and societal development. I would like to congratulate all the winners and thank all participating organisations for their support.

9 IES also designed our jubilee celebrations to look to the future. Later tonight, SG Chan will be presenting the IES-SG50 Golden Jubilee Scholarship to 50 needy students to help them realise their dreams of becoming engineers. We would like to thank all donors to the scholarship fund for their support and we hope to continue to work with the industry and these generous donors to nurture the future generation of engineers.

10 I am also pleased to share with you that as part of IES-SG50, we have arranged for a record number of 55 talks on engineering for the public, out of which 47 have already been held. These talks have reached out to more than 4000 students and members of the public, raising awareness on past, current and future engineering challenges and achievements.

Tribute to Pioneers and Future Plans

11 None of IES' accomplishments would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the IES Councils and IES members of the past 50 years. Tonight, I am pleased to share with you that 16 out of 25 of our past IES Presidents are here with us this evening including Er Kenneth Gin, the Founding President of IES in 1966. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite these past Presidents of IES to stand so that we can recognise and salute them for their contributions to IES over the last 50 years. Can you please join me in giving all our past Presidents a hearty round of applause?

12 On behalf of IES, I would like to thank all our past Presidents for laying down such a strong foundation for IES and building it into a premier institution. I will strive to emulate your commitment and passion, and carry the baton for IES as it crosses into its next 50 years. It is my goal for IES to continue to embrace the key values you have laid down and extend even greater relevance and value-add to our members, the engineering community, the Government, the industry and the people of Singapore.

13 With this as the context, for the next ten years, the IES Council has identified three key strategic areas of focus at its Away-Day Retreat in May this year:

- Our first area of focus is to expand our membership growth by industry sectors, engineering disciplines, gender, age and professional status.
- Next, IES will focus on making engineering the profession of choice amongst students and a lifelong career for young engineers.
- Lastly, IES aims to be a preferred partner for all engineering matters and the go-to representative for all engineering disciplines

14 Apart from these formal initiatives, IES will also look at softer aspects such as nurturing enterprising young engineers, growing our social responsibility and promoting the importance of safety, health and environmental consciousness among the engineering community.

Congratulations to Award Winners

15 At this juncture, I would like to extend my congratulations to Professor Cham Tao Soon for receiving the IES Lifetime Engineering Achievement Award 2016; and Minister Masagos Zulkifli for being conferred the IES Honorary Fellow title tonight. Both of you are highly deserving recipients of the topmost accolades in engineering and IES. You are great role models attesting to the difference that engineers can make in various sectors of our economy. We hope that by spotlighting your extraordinary achievements, the younger generation will be inspired to step forth and become engineers to lead Singapore to an even brighter, engineering-enabled future.

16 Thank you everyone, once again, for celebrating our 50th anniversary with us. Tonight is not just about IES. It represents a significant milestone for all engineers in Singapore. To all the engineers past, present and future, who have made Singapore such a great place to live in, I salute you and all your hard work, and I look forward to breaking many new grounds with all of you in the future.

I wish you all an enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Thank you.