

Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, at Opening Ceremony of the National Engineers Day and Singapore Mini Maker Faire 2014 on Friday, 18 July 2014 at UT – Auditorium 2, NUS UTown

Mr. Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education

Prof Lim Tit Meng, CEO of Science Centre Singapore

Professor Barry Halliwell, Deputy President of Research & Technology, National University of Singapore

Distinguished guests, fellow engineers, NED partners, ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

1 I am happy to welcome you to the National Engineers Day 2014, or NED 2014 in short, and the Singapore Mini Maker Faire 2014. On behalf of the Council of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, or IES, I would like to thank Mr. Heng Swee Keat, for making time today to grace our opening ceremony as the Guest-of-Honour. Your support towards IES in this event is greatly appreciated.

2 NED is dedicated to the celebration of engineers' contribution towards Singapore's economic growth and their effort in improving our standard of living. The purpose of NED is also to create a focal point in our ongoing efforts to engage engineering students and young engineers so that they remain in the industry. It is also to enthuse and excite young bright minds to embark on an engineering education.

3 Engineers have to step forward to make ourselves more visible and be role models and beacons for our young. We need to continuously highlight the contribution of engineers in applied research, technological innovation and project developments that have significant impact on how we live, work and play.

4 To celebrate the contribution of engineers, IES will be presenting the IES Prestigious Engineering Achievement Awards 2014 today. I have been personally involved and was part of the selection committee. It is indeed a difficult task for the

committee as all the submissions are of very high standards. In my view, all of them are winners. I would now highlight some of the innovations that make a difference to our lives.

5 Singapore is a unique nation with limited land area. Our challenges are unique as we have little to take reference from. Singapore engineers would then have to come up with unique solutions. One of these is the Multi Mission Range complex developed by the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) for MINDEF. It is a one-stop marksmanship excellence training hub that incorporates seven live-firing indoor ranges that could free up 22 hectares of land.

6 The Singapore Liquefied Natural Gas (SLNG) terminal is another effort by engineers from SLNG and EMA in helping Singapore cope with energy security and economic competitiveness, thus keeping cost of energy affordable.

7 I do not have time to share the details of other innovations with you. Each of these technological innovations has significant positive impact to society.

8 I trust that the above game-changing innovations could motivate our young engineers to aspire to be innovators, entrepreneurs and thought-leaders in engineering. Engineers are critical in sharpening economic competitiveness for our country, enhancing the quality of life for our people and ensuring the sustainability of our nation.

9 To engage the engineering students and to keep their fire of passion for engineering burning, IES will be presenting the Young Creators Award 2014. This year's winner is a team of students from NUS. For the polytechnic and ITE students, IES will be presenting the IES Design Awards 2014. These polytechnic and ITE students develop devices that assist the elderly and people with disabilities. Our IES technopreneurship committee could consider guiding them and develop these designs into products for the mass market, thus bringing about a better quality of life for the elderly and people with disabilities.

10 IES is very excited to partner with Science Centre Singapore this year, to hold NED alongside the Singapore Mini Maker Faire. This is a perfect synergy as young students could create objects from ordinary items at the maker faire. Stimulating their young minds to create something using simple engineering principles, we hope to start these

young students' journey into engineering, first as a hobby that could excite them to want to know more through an engineering education which would eventually lead them to an engineering career.

11 Next year, NED 2015 will happen in conjunction with another of our IES initiatives, the bi-annual IES World Engineers Summit (WES). The aim of WES 2015 is to engage both engineers and students, locally and internationally on the critical challenges confronting humanity arising from climate change. It provides an opportunity for Singapore engineers to gain visibility and share engineering innovative solutions to mitigate the effect of climate change and built resilient as we urbanize. We also want to excite and create awareness among the young as they have to be part of the future team to address these issues. WES 2015 and NED 2015 will happen in July 2015. We look forward to your support.

12 In closing, I would like to say that NED 2014 will definitely not come into fruition without the passionate support of our strategic partners and stakeholders. I would like to thank NUS for graciously hosting our event right here in the NUS University Town and all of our sponsors, the IES Council, the NED Organizing Committee and the IES Secretariat for not only sharing the same aspirations with us, but putting your belief into action and committing so much time and effort to ensure an impactful and successful event. I would also like to thank Mr. Seah Moon Ming for agreeing to be the speaker at the IES Charles Rudd Distinguished Lecture, which will take place right after the opening. I look forward very much to listening to your thoughts on the topic "Corporate Leadership in Engineering". I am sure the participants will benefit immensely from your wealth of experience.

13 As the national society of engineers, IES is committed in the long term to advance and to promote the science, art and the profession of engineering for the well-being of mankind and achieve our vision to be the heart and voice of engineers.

Thank you.