

Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, at the Seminar on Holistic Approach to Safety in Engineering, Design and Construction on Tuesday, 28 October 2014, 9.00 am at Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay

Distinguished Guests;

Members of IES;

Fellow Engineers;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning.

1. It gives me great pleasure to see so many of you here this morning at the 'Holistic Approach to Safety in Engineering, Design and Construction' seminar, organised by The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, or IES in short, and supported by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and Land Transport Authority (LTA).
2. Engineers play an important role in the infrastructural development of our country. As Singapore ramps up efforts to advance key infrastructure and facilities to support the development of industries and provide quality housing and amenities to the people, it is critical to make safety a fundamental consideration throughout design and construction stages, even as contractors race to meet project deadlines.

3. While there was a drop in workplace injuries in 2013 compared to 2012, it is vital for engineers to continue to be thoroughly informed about safety in engineering, to minimise the numbers as much as possible. IES is organising this seminar for this purpose.
4. To give you a wide perspective of safety in engineering, today's seminar will feature speakers from the government, academia and industry, who will be presenting on the observations, trends and best practices in the industry.
5. I hope that the insights that they share with you on the various topics, such as positive safety values, and potential safety and health risks that may arise during the construction or maintenance phases, will enhance your knowledge and help you make better decisions. Our aim is for you to take a holistic approach in incorporating safety elements in your plans and processes, for the benefit of your employees, colleagues and company.
6. At this juncture, I would like to thank MOM, BCA and LTA again for supporting this meaningful seminar to help both IES members as well as other engineers keep engineering sites safe. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the speakers, who will be sharing their experiences and knowledge on workplace safety with us today. We appreciate your support.

7. To advance standards in the industry,
IES focuses on providing professional development opportunities, such as this seminar, to upgrade the skills and knowledge of engineers.

8. Another important role of IES is promoting the engineering profession so that the contributions of engineers are appreciated and engineers are adequately compensated for their work. To this end, IES has launched many initiatives, like the National Engineers Day and the World Engineers Summit. These initiatives are organised in a bid to honour engineers for their contributions, engage young engineers so that they remain in the industry and enthuse bright young minds to join the profession.
To achieve our mission, we need you to step forward and support us. As engineers, we have to stand united and collectively work towards promoting our profession.

9. In closing, I would like to thank you once again for being so supportive and helping us make this seminar a success.
We hope to roll out more programmes that are meaningful for you and look forward to your continued support.

10. I wish you a fruitful seminar and a pleasant day ahead. Thank you.