

**Speech by Prof S.K. Chou, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, at IES Spring
Festival 2014 on Wednesday, 19 February 2014 at IES Auditorium**

Fellow members and family members,

Friends of IES,

Ladies and gentlemen,

新年快乐！ A very Happy Chinese New Year to all of you!

I'm delighted to welcome you to the IES Spring Festival celebration. Although the Spring Festival was rooted in the agricultural society of ancient China, we in modern Singapore, and certainly in IES, can take a moment to count our blessings, take stock of the good work of the past year, get prepared for the tasks ahead, and wish for good fortune and bountiful harvest in the new year. And so, with that, I, on behalf of the IES Council and Secretariat, wish you Happiness, Prosperity and Good Health in the Year of the Horse.

2013 was a good harvest for IES. In the past year alone, IES conducted some 161 courses, organised over 30 seminars and championed notable initiatives like the World Engineers Summit. Our activities reached out to our members and professionals in all sectors and students and academics. Programmes such as National Engineers Day (NED) and engineering innovation competitions draw the best from among the schools and the institutions of higher learning (IHLs) to participate in engineering challenges and activities.

In September 2013, IES hosted, for the first time, the World Engineers Summit, or WES. Over the period of a week, hundreds of engineers and other professionals from around the world congregated in Singapore, to exchange knowledge and ideas on "Innovative and Sustainable Solutions to Climate Change".

The Summit enabled IES to break many new grounds. We rallied engineers to collaboratively use their expertise to stand against climate change. We motivated our future engineers to go further in developing solutions to address climate change issues with the 'Trust Us, We are Engineers' (TUWAE) Young Engineers Competition.

During the WES, IES and WFEO signed the Singapore Declaration on 'Engineering for a Sustainable Future'. The Declaration recognises that innovations by engineers are required in the design and operation of advanced devices and systems that can ensure efficient energy conversion and conservation; provide solutions to the production, storage and distribution of energy, food and water; facilitate human mobility; support trade and economic development; and sustain liveable cities of the future.

Singapore will continue to need engineers, smart and entrepreneurial engineers. IES is poised to make long-term commitments to get the young interested. Last year, IES awarded some 32 gold medals and cash prizes to top engineering graduates of IHLs. All these programmes serve to raise the profile of IES and engineering and engineers. And those involving students serve to enthuse them to take up engineering as a career or choose engineering as a course of study.

Conservatively, I would say that through our technical and social programmes we routinely reach out to thousands of our members and other fellow engineers. In addition, IES members sit on several committees of national agencies, IHLs and schools. These involvements help IES stay in touch with the community and enable our members to draw on their professional expertise and experience to solve real world problems.

IES will continue to serve society and our members, and will make best use of its resources to contribute where it can make positive impact.

Come 2016, IES will celebrate its 50th anniversary. We have already initiated planning for it. From now till 2016, we envisage further increase in our membership as we reach to a broader

base of engineers in industry. We expect many who are practising in diverse fields of engineering from aerospace, chemical and marine to energy, systems, and manufacturing to want to seek professional competency accreditation with IES through our newly launched Chartered Engineers programme. The C.Eng. certification will further raise the profiles of engineers in diverse sectors of industry, and enable our chartered engineers to be benchmarked with the best from around the world. For the industry as a whole, the Chartered Engineer programme will not only raise standards, but also elevate the standing of engineers, and address the need for competent engineers, who are so critical to the development of a sustainable future. We are now preparing to roll out the programme and I hope that you will step forward to apply, or encourage others to apply, and be one of the first Chartered Engineers in Singapore.

On our new building project, I'm happy to report that as of now, the foundation phase is completed and we are installing the superstructure. Construction activities are on track towards delivery of the new annex by the end of the third quarter of 2014. When completed, the annex will have rooms and facilities to cater to a myriad of activities to better serve our members. Our IES Academy will have additional space to organize training and further help generate future revenue streams for IES. Additional space will allow us to enhance our professional programmes organized by our Technical Committees and a wide range of social and networking activities organized by the IES Secretariat.

The new building will also have two levels of parking lots (one below ground) thereby helping to raise the attendance at events and the potential for us to be more self-sufficient in terms of allocating space for simultaneous functions. We envisage the improved facilities made available by the new building will have several beneficial spin-offs. One is of course obvious in that more members will find the new premises more accommodating, better equipped and amenable to social functions organized to promote interactions. So, our next Spring Festival gathering will surely be in more resplendent surroundings. The other positive outcome is that larger events

with a higher profile can now be readily planned. Visitors to IES will be able to appreciate the state-of –the-art technology and innovations that go into the new building.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the IES Council, IES Secretariat, our members and partners for helping IES achieve so many significant milestones in the past twelve months.

Tonight’s dinner is a special occasion for me as this is the last year that I’ll be hosting the IES Spring Festival on behalf of the IES Council. As I look back at the past two years, the one thing that stands out most is people – passionate individuals who devote their time and energy to help IES achieve its goals. It is people who have shaped IES in the past few decades, and it will continue to be people who will help us reach new heights. So I would like to invite all members to come forward and join us to take IES to new frontiers in the years ahead.

Once again, I’d like to wish everyone prosperity, good health and happiness in the year of the Horse.

Have a good evening. Thank you.