

Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, at the 49th IES Annual Dinner on Wednesday, 11 November 2015, 6.30 pm at Fairmont Ballroom, Raffles City Convention Centre

Our Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Lim Swee Say, Minister for Manpower;

Distinguished Guests;

Members of IES;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good evening.

1. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 49th Annual Dinner of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore. On behalf of the IES Council, I would like to express our appreciation to Minister Lim for making time to grace this event.

2. Tonight, I would like to highlight the opportunities that are available for our engineers and the work of IES. Singapore will power forward towards SG100 as a technology-intensive economy where research and development (R&D) and innovation are key. Value-creating manufacturing and infrastructure developments including expansion of the transportation network will be significant areas where engineering capabilities are required. Moving forward, engineers will also be required to develop solutions to mitigate challenges from climate change, which include giving us sustainable energy, food and water as well as protecting our low lying coastal shoreline. Competent engineers will be required to implement our smart nation vision. Yet another challenge for Singapore is for our engineers to innovate solutions to overcome our limited land spaces. There are therefore many challenges which present many opportunities for engineers to make a difference to our society.

3. IES has three strategic thrusts to establish value and exciting prospects for engineers and draw talents to this field. These thrusts are to enlighten the community

on the work and contribution of engineers, engage engineers so that they remain in the industry and enthuse the young into engineering.

4. Tonight, IES will be conferring the IES Honorary Fellow upon Er. Dr Lee Bee Wah and Er. Tan Seng Chuan. IES and IEEE will also be presenting the IES/IEEE Joint Medal of Excellence Award to Professor Er Meng Hwa. The IES Lifetime Engineering Achievement Award was presented to Prof. Lee Seng Lip in 2013, Prof. Lui Pao Chuen in 2014 and in July this year to Er. Tan Gee Paw. These are some of our engineer champions who would be looked upon as role models to inspire a new generation of engineers.

5. IES also has a few initiatives to bring the work of engineers to the attention of the public. Examples are the IES-SG50 Engineering Talks which aim to share R&D, innovations and projects with the public; the IES-SG50 Engineering Feats where the public will vote for the top 50 engineering feats that have positive impacts on our lives; and we are publishing a book covering 50 Years of Engineering which feature outstanding achievements in engineering over the last 50 years of nation-building.

6. To engage engineers so that they remain in the industry for a lifelong career, IES had started the Chartered Engineers accreditation programme. This certification recognises our engineers' professional competence and standing. Tonight, IES will be presenting certificates to the first batch of Chartered Engineers in Railway and Transportation sector.

7. IES has also developed the engineer's career development master plan. We want to guide them from being engineers to Professional Engineers or Chartered Engineers to C-Suite professionals. For management pathways, we have started the Engineering Leadership Programme with NTUC U Associates to develop our future engineering thought leaders.

8. Recognising that exposure to global challenges and opportunities will add value to our engineers' work, IES held the biannual IES World Engineers Summit (WES) on Climate Change in July this year. WES 2015 provided a valuable platform for exploration of ideas and solutions to bring about 'Sustainable Urban Development for Global Climate Resilience'.

9. Our third thrust is to enthuse the young to take up engineering as a course of choice. To this end, IES held the sixth National Engineers Day (NED) in July 2015, an annual engineering festival comprising fun and engaging engineering-focused activities like the Energy Innovation Challenge (EIC), talks and exhibitions.

10. This year, IES also launched the IES-SG50 Golden Jubilee Scholarship Fund, to support deserving needy students to pursue engineering studies. Tonight, we will be presenting exclusively-minted IES-SG50 Golden Jubilee Medallion to contributors of the fund.

11. Every year, IES presents two scholarships to students from Yayasan Mendaki. This year is with no exception. In addition, I am pleased to announce that, through the IESSG50 Golden Jubilee Scholarship Fund, three additional scholarships will be given out to Yayasan Mendaki in July next year. We will be doing the same for students from SINDA. On behalf of the students, I would like to thank all contributors for your generosity. We definitely hope to see more organisations and individuals stepping forward to support us in this meaningful cause.

12. With regards to scholarships, I have another exciting announcement to make. Our member Mr. YC Wong will either donate or bequest S\$1 million to launch the IES-YC Wong Scholarship for research in project management. We are grateful to our passionate engineers who are always willing to make a difference. Tonight, we are also recognising and celebrating the hard work of our 2015 young engineering graduates by presenting them with the IES Gold Medal.

13. To realise the three thrusts, IES is also strengthening our infrastructure and amenities. Last year, Mr. Brian Chang donated S\$2 million to our building fund which together with the bequest of S\$1.3 million from the family of Er. Charles Rudd and the generous donations from all of you, I am pleased to share with you that the IES Green Building @ Bukit Tinggi will be completed by end of this year.

14. To provide better accessibility and facilities to help engineers in their professional development, IES Academy is setting up a training centre at E2i, Jurong East. It is scheduled to operate by the second quarter of 2016.

15. In closing, on behalf of the IES Council, I would like to thank all of you for your longstanding support and partnership. I would also like to thank the organising committee and IES secretariat for the great effort in organising this evening's dinner. Engineers do have fun-loving DNA in us so let us celebrate a fun-filled evening together. Thank you.