

**Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen, President, The Institution of Engineers,
Singapore (IES) at the Signing of Memorandum of Understanding on
Recognising, Benchmarking and Developing Railway Engineers on 29 May
2015, Friday, 10.00 am,
HSO Block 5 Auditorium, Land Transport Authority**

Mrs Josephine Teo, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and
Ministry of Transport;

Mr Chew Men Leong, Chief Executive, Land Transport Authority;

Ms Julia Ng, Senior Director, Enterprise Development Group, Singapore Workforce
Development Agency;

Mr Gan Juay Kiat, Chief Executive Officer, SBS Transit Limited;

Mr Lee Ling Wee, Managing Director, SMRT Trains,

Members of the media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

1. Good morning. Welcome to the Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony today. It is a very important day for The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, as the major movers of Singapore's railway and transportation development are taking a big step with us to collaboratively advance Singapore's railway and transportation engineering field, and recognise and attract more engineers to this discipline.
2. On behalf of IES, Land Transport Authority (LTA), Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), SBS Transit Ltd (SBST) and SMRT Corporation Ltd (SMRT), I would like to thank you for joining us this morning. I would especially like to thank Mrs Josephine Teo for her presence as the guest-of-honour and witness to the MOU.
3. In the past five decades, engineers have driven Singapore's infrastructural, societal and economic development, making big contributions underpinning the transformation of our economy from third world to first. One of their key contributions is in railway and transportation infrastructure development. The

work of engineers in this area has been instrumental in giving Singaporeans advanced systems enabling a fast-paced metropolitan lifestyle. Because of their hard work, we can commute, work, live and play in convenience and comfort today.

4. As our city state continues to urbanise, our population continues to grow, our environment continues to change and our commuters continue to raise their expectations, the demand for railway and transportation engineers will also continue to increase. We need them to maintain our railway network to ensure continued operations, expand its reach to serve growing estates and enhance its quality to meet growing demands. We need engineers trained in railway and transportation engineering, besides civil engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, mechanical engineering and other engineering disciplines, to work with each other as a team. We need them in many other ways, from tackling new challenges and developing new innovations for new projects such as the mega high-speed rail between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur to ensuring the safety, efficiency and reliability of our existing rail networks.
5. For Singapore's railway and transportation systems to continue to evolve and upgrade to meet various challenges, our engineers need to be first-rate in their professional competencies and competitiveness. For that to happen, there is a need to establish a common set of industry standards to provide a benchmark for the professional competencies and technical proficiencies of such engineers. This is a key area of focus for the MOU that is being signed today, which will see all five signatories building upon IES' Chartered Engineer programme to set the benchmark for operations and maintenance, professional accreditation and regulatory work in the railway and transportation industry.
6. I am pleased to announce that IES will add railway and transportation engineering to our Chartered Engineer programme, which was launched in 2013 and rolled out to five branches of engineering at that time, namely aerospace, chemical & process, environmental & water, marine & offshore and systems engineering. As the national society of engineers, IES aims to help

engineering professionals from different disciplines advance in their careers through the Chartered Engineer programme.

7. The Chartered Engineer accreditation in railway and transportation engineering will provide validation to engineers in this discipline, giving them a title that endorses their experience, expertise and competence through independent peer review. The title will differentiate their professional standing, push them higher up the career ladder and in turn, extend more career development opportunities to them and enhance their employability. The Chartered Engineer programme is aligned closely to the International Engineering Alliance's 'Graduate Attributes and Professional Competencies' and we are working towards having our Chartered

Engineer accredited with international registries, thereby raising our engineers' competencies on a global platform.

8. IES is excited to contribute to this MOU through the Chartered Engineer programme. We look forward to setting the MOU in motion with our partners. Our next steps include forming a core team to define the competency standard for the railway and transportation sector, as well as forming a technical committee to look after the interests of and drive the continuous development of engineers in this discipline. We are also committed to work with our MOU partners to elevate the railway engineering profession through industry-wide branding, promotion and marketing. I would like to extend my appreciation towards LTA, WDA, SBST and SMRT for entering into this partnership with IES. IES and I look forward to bearing many fruits of success with all of you.

9. I would like to thank Mrs Josephine Teo, once again, for being here this morning in solidarity with our commitment to support and advance the careers of railway and transportation engineers.

10. Thank you everyone and have a wonderful day ahead.