

**Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore,
at the National Engineers Day 2015 Closing Ceremony on Friday, 24 July 2015,
4.45pm at Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre.**

Our Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education,

Professor Lui Pao Chuen, Chief Judge of Energy Innovation Challenge,

A/Professor Lim Tit Meng, Chief Executive of Science Centre Singapore,

Distinguished guests,

Students,

Good Afternoon.

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Closing Ceremony of the National Engineers Day 2015 or NED 2015. On behalf of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES), I would like to thank Minister Heng for gracing this event as our Guest-of-Honour and for his continual support of NED.
2. I am excited to see so many young faces among us today, and to know that more than 500 students have participated in NED over the past three days. I would like to commend all of you for taking the step forward to discover more about engineering outside of your classroom. I am sure it has been a rewarding experience.

Contributions by Engineers in Nation Building

3. Some of the students among us today may not be familiar with The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, or IES. It was set up as the national society of engineers in 1966, one year after our nation's independence. Over the past 50 years our pioneer engineers have been instrumental in transforming Singapore's economy from Third

World to First, making numerous contributions to our economic, infrastructural and societal growth.

4. But we need the young to step forward to continue the work of our pioneer engineers. We need them to further develop and drive Singapore for the next 50 years and beyond. We need bright young minds to join the engineering force to solve current and emerging challenges and bring our nation to new heights.

National Engineers Day

5. In light of this, IES initiated NED in 2010. Since then, we have organised NED every year, with the support of the Ministry of Education (MOE), Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) and industry partners. We have one common objective in mind – to help our younger generation see engineering as the fun, dynamic and rewarding profession that it is. We are confident that by doing so, more students will pursue an engineering education and ultimately engineering as a career.

Energy Innovation Challenge 2015

6. Every NED seeks to enthuse and inspire students in slightly different ways. This year, besides organising a series of engaging talks and workshops, IES has also introduced the Energy Innovation Challenge to NED, in partnership with Science Centre Singapore. We wanted to use the challenge to help students see the reality of the threat of climate change, and more importantly, the difference that engineering solutions can make to address its impact.
7. After viewing the EIC projects on display, I must say that I am very impressed with the originality of the participating teams' ideas and their determination to find alternative energy solutions. Whatever the outcome of the competition, I hope that all of you will continue to stand up to the challenges of the world with an inquisitive spirit, open mind and passionate heart. These qualities will lead you down a path of fun, discovery and fulfillment that is unique to an engineering career.

8. In closing, I would like to thank the parties that have been instrumental in making NED 2015 a memorable and meaningful event. First, I would like to once again thank Minister Heng for attending and supporting our event. I would also like to thank MOE, the IHLs, our industry partners and sponsors for their continual support of NED. My appreciation also goes to Science Centre Singapore, the National Research Foundation, the Energy Market Authority and Santos Ltd for making EIC possible. I am also grateful to Professor Lui Pao Chuen and the panel of judges for their time and effort and to the NED organising committee and IES Secretariat for their excellent planning and execution of the entire event.

9. While NED is coming to an end, we hope to continue to work with all of you to excite our younger generation about engineering so that together, we can engineer a better future for all of us. Thank you once again and have fun voting for the participating teams later.