

Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore,
at the *Vantage Views II* Book Presentation Ceremony on Tuesday, 10 February
2015, 3.15pm at National Library Board

Er. Lim Soon Hock;

Principals and representatives from schools and Institutes of Higher Learning;

Distinguished Guests;

Members of IES;

Fellow Engineers;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good afternoon.

1. Welcome to the *Vantage Views II* Book Presentation Ceremony organised by The Institution of Engineers, Singapore or IES. This is a special occasion as it brings IES together with our friends to share with the community.
2. Er. Lim Soon Hock, a Fellow member of IES, decided to publish *Vantage Views II* and dedicate it to the engineering profession in hopes that the profession will thrive and blossom for the benefit of Singapore and the community.

3. Soon Hock has generously pledged the net proceeds from the sale of his book, which amounts to \$150,000 to date, towards the construction of our IES Platimun Green Mark Building at Bukit Tinggi.
4. We are delighted and thankful for the overwhelming response and enthusiasm by members and friends of IES in purchasing the book and now sharing it with students and the public.
5. *Vantage Views II* covers Soon Hock's penetrating thoughts on issues covering Business & Management, Human Capital and Governance to Family, Giving & Caring and re-inventing Singapore as a nation. In the book, he also shares his take on issues relating to regional and global developments.
6. With this book in various school libraries, IES hopes to make wisdom on contemporary issues readily accessible to students and broaden their minds to the rapidly changing societal and economic landscape.

7. Er. Lim is a hands-on, exemplary engineer, technopreneur and CEO. He dedicates time to harnessing his know-hows and passion to make a difference. He is well-read and articulate. He believes that success is not only defined by an illustrious business career but also a devotion to social causes and the courage and persistence to make things happen. These are traits that are common in engineers.
8. This book project is one of many activities that IES is organising as part of IES-SG50, an IES campaign celebrating Singapore's 50th birthday in 2015 and IES' 50th anniversary in 2016.
9. IES launched the IES-SG 50 on 28 January 2015 with Minister Lim Swee Say as our guest of Honour. We also kicked off the first IES-SG 50 initiative on that day, "50 Talks by Engineers" for students, community and IES members. The first of the 50 talks was by Prof. Lui Pao Chuen, on the topic, Future of Engineering.
10. Today, Er. Lim Soon Hock, will be delivering the 4th talk in the series, titled "Hard Choice from Vantage Views", in which he will share about the difficult decisions he had to make in his 40 years of working life.

11. More IES–SG50 initiatives are in the works, including a commemorative book on 50 years of engineering in Singapore, the IES–SG50 Golden Jubilee Scholarship Fund to help needy students realise their passion in engineering as well as the Engineering Feats @ SG50 competition to identify 50 engineering projects, via votes from Singaporeans, that have made economic and social impact to Singapore.

12. I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight to the school representatives with us today that as the national society of engineers, IES is passionate about nurturing a new generation of engineers. To this end, we launched the National Engineers Day, an annual engineering festival, to celebrate the achievements of engineers and to enthuse the young to take up engineering as a course of study towards a life–long career. This year’s National Engineers Day will be held in conjunction with the World Engineers Summit on Climate Change. We will be sharing the details with you later and look forward to your support.

13. At this juncture, I would like to say a big thank you to the donors of the book, Er. Lim and friends of IES for your support.

14. I would also like to thank the National Library Board for sponsoring the venue for this event. We are sure that with the availability of *Vantage Views II* at NLB will help the public realise and appreciate the contributions of our pioneer engineers that helped Singapore develop from third world to first.

15. I would like to thank the principals and representatives of the various schools and IHLs for joining us today. We are sure that *Vantage Views II* will provide students with a channel to industry perspectives and inspire them to take up a career in engineering.

16. I wish all of you a pleasant afternoon ahead. Thank you.