

**Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore,
at Joint Opening Ceremony of the World Engineers Summit on Climate Change
2015 and National Engineers Day 2015 on Wednesday, 22 July 2015, 9.00am at
Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre.**

Our Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating
Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs;
Er. Marwan Abdelhamid, President, World Federation of Engineering Organizations,
Palestine;
Distinguished guests,
Fellow engineers,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning.

1. A very warm welcome to the joint opening of the World Engineers Summit (WES) on Climate Change 2015 and the National Engineers Day (NED) 2015. On behalf of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, or IES, I would like to thank Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Teo Chee Hean for gracing today's event as the Guest-of-Honour and your support of this event.
2. Seven billion human beings thrive on planet earth with more than 3.5 billion living in cities. But only less than one percent of this global population is made up of engineers, who uses engineering to provide comfortable housing, efficient transportation & communication systems, clean water, proper sanitation and improve standards of living to the rest of mankind.
3. By 2050, it is expected that an additional 1.8 billion people will move into cities as the global population becomes more urban. With such rapid urbanisation, challenges like the availability of limited resources such as food, water and energy as well as global warming and climate change will need to be addressed.

4. We could keep going on about how and when climate change could impact us. However, it is also time for action. Engineers like action and we get excited when things move forward.

5. Being climate-resilient requires planning, technology, human capability and financial investments. Implementation of mitigation measures against climate change requires a relatively long gestation period. Therefore, if one mistimes implementation, it could result in significant hardship for people.

6. It is against this backdrop that IES is organising WES 2015 with the theme "Sustainable Urban Development for Global Climate Resilience". Today, we are excited to have some 800 participants from more than 35 countries gathered here to exchange valuable knowledge and experience on combating and adapting to climate change and building climate resilience.

7. IES initiated WES two years ago as a platform to address crucial climate change issues confronting the world today, with the role of engineers and engineering innovations at its core. We hope that through this summit, engineers from different parts of the world can learn of the current impending challenges that they will be tasked to solve and the opportunities for them to develop innovative, cost effective and marketable solutions to climate threats.

8. With so many challenges in front of us, the message is clear: we need more engineers and we require them to be innovative and competent. To attract more engineers into the profession and enhance their competencies, IES will be making a few new announcements today.

First Batch of Chartered Engineers for Singapore

9. Firstly, I am excited to share with you that we will be presenting to you our very first batch of Chartered Engineers today. We will be presenting certificates to 41 engineers in the fields of aerospace, chemical & process, environmental & water, marine & offshore and systems engineering. This is a significant milestone for the engineering profession in Singapore as engineers of diverse disciplines now have a professional

accreditation programme that validates their expertise and practicing competence which would in turn raise the engineering standards of various industries.

10. IES is also dedicated to inspiring the young to join the profession. In light of this, we are holding the National Engineers Day, an annual engineering festival, in conjunction with WES this year. We have put in place a series of engaging activities to make engineering come alive for our younger generation.

11. NED 2015 will feature the inaugural Energy Innovation Challenge. Over the past four months, more than 70 teams of local and foreign students have had the rare opportunity of exploring alternative energy sources under the guidance of 48 mentors. The experience has raised the awareness of climate change among students and the differences they can potentially make to mankind by becoming engineers. The students will be battling out for the championship over the next three days, and I encourage everyone to visit the NED expo to see their brilliant projects.

Engineering Feats @IES-SG50

12. IES will also be launching the Engineering Feats @ IES-SG50 today, an initiative to commemorate our nation's and IES's 50th birthday. This is a competition that seeks to honour 50 engineering achievements that have made a significant positive economic and societal impact to Singapore. As we want to engage the community, the public will get a chance to vote and have a say. We hope that in this way, the community will come to hold greater appreciation for our engineers.

Highlights of WES

13. Both WES and NED 2015 have very exciting and substantial programme line-ups in store for you. Besides the plenary keynotes and opening track keynote, there will be a strong line-up of technical presentations under four different tracks over the next two days. In addition, do remember to head down to the expo to check out the green and sustainable products and solutions on display and sign up for the technical site visits.

14. In closing, I would like to thank DPM Teo once again for his presence and his support. I would also like to thank our distinguished speakers, moderators and

chairpersons for dedicating their time to WES and NED, and to the sponsors, partners and supporters for making our events possible. My appreciation also goes to the organising committees and IES staff for their dedicated planning and execution and last but not least, to all of you for attending the event today. I wish you a very rewarding time over the next three days. Thank you.