

**WELCOME SPEECH BY ER. CHONG KEE SEN, PRESIDENT OF THE
INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE (IES), AT THE 50th IES ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, 28 MAY 2016, 1.30PM AT SUNTEC
SINGAPORE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE**

Past Presidents,

Council Members and IES members,

Good Afternoon.

1 I would like to thank everyone for joining us at the 50th AGM of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore.

2 The past year has been one of special significance, as IES commenced its 50th anniversary celebration while Singapore celebrated the historic SG50. Engineering's critical contributions towards our nation-building have directed renewed attention to it at this momentous juncture. Against this backdrop, IES charged ahead in full force to advance our role as the heart and voice of engineers in Singapore. It is my privilege to report to you the essence of the good progress made.

Preserving the IES Core

3 I had identified four strategic thrusts when I took over the IES Presidency two years ago, with the support of the IES Council. Let me begin by sharing with you the headway made for the first thrust – preserving the IES core. The IES Council believes that our institute's past five decades of success has been built upon the passion, commitment and values of our pioneer engineers. We recognise that

the degree of our appreciation of their work will be a key determinant in shaping our future growth. It is vital for IES not to lose sight of their legacy when bringing the institution forward. These beliefs, and the goal to increase public appreciation of engineering, prompted us to launch IES-SG50 in January 2015.

4 IES-SG50 was a year-long campaign to commemorate Singapore's 50th birthday in 2015 and IES' 50th anniversary in 2016. Through activities such as the Engineering Feats @ IES-SG50 competition, the 50 Engineering Talks and the IES-SG50 Golden Jubilee Scholarship Fund, IES has directed the nation's attention to remarkable contributions made by engineering to Singapore's past 50 years of success. In doing so, we have also engaged the younger generation's interest in becoming engineers to build an even greater future for Singapore.

Broadening the Engineering Profession

5 In the past year, IES also focused on helping our member engineers achieve greater professional standing and recognition. A key initiative in this regard is the IES Chartered Engineer Programme, the first accreditation programme in Singapore to validate the professional experience and expertise of engineers from across various disciplines. In July 2015, IES accredited 41 engineers in the aerospace, chemical & process, environmental & water, marine & offshore and systems engineering sectors for their professional competence through this programme. Subsequently in November, IES also inaugurated 14 railway and transportation Chartered Engineers. IES looks forward to

helping more of our members enhance their employability and career prospects through this programme.

6 Keeping the upskilling of our member engineers as a key priority, IES officially opened the IESA Academy at the Devan Nair Institute for Employment and Employability in Jurong East in April 2016. Our aim is to better address the growing demand for continuing education, professional upgrading and career advancement amongst engineers through the new facility's modern premises, easy accessibility and strategic location in Singapore's learning hub.

7 Over the year, IES also held technical conferences such as the Design for Safety (DfS) Seminar in January 2016 and the Hazards 2016 in May 2016 to sharpen the technical competence of engineers; as well as the Women in Science, Engineering and Research (WiSER) Summit to empower women engineers to take up leadership roles in their respective fields.

Engaging Aspiring Engineers

8 The third thrust is also about people, but the focus is more on encouraging practising engineers to remain in the profession for the long term. To this end, IES continued to work in close collaboration with NTUC on establishing the Engineers Progression Pathway in the past year. I am pleased to update you that our joint effort to train young engineering talents into exceptional leaders through the Young Engineers Leadership Programme has yielded great results. In October 2015, the programme graduated 199 participants and right now, another

170 young engineers are going through the programme.

9 Apart from young engineers, IES and NTUC also launched the next phase of the Engineers Progression Pathway – the Advanced Engineers Leadership (AEL) Programme for mid-level engineers in April 2016. Scheduled to commence in August 2016, the AEL Programme will focus on enabling engineers with five to eight years of practising experience to push beyond their technical abilities to assume management responsibilities and leadership roles in their respective organisations.

10 Recognising that engineers need to be presented with challenges to fuel their passion, IES hosted the second World Engineers Summit (WES) in July 2015, gathering some 800 participants from more than 35 countries to exchange valuable knowledge and experience on combating and adapting to climate change and building climate resilience.

Enthusiating Bright Young Minds

11 The fourth thrust is again on people, but with a longer-term view - to enthuse the younger generation about engineering. IES persisted with our efforts to attract more brilliant young minds into engineering in the year with activities such as the sixth National Engineers Day (NED). We also broke new ground by holding the inaugural Energy Innovation Challenge (EIC) in conjunction with NED, whereby a total of 72 student teams from schools and Institutes of Higher Learning had the valuable opportunity to look for alternative energy sources and solutions under the guidance of 48 professional engineering and business mentors. In

January 2016, IES also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Science Centre Singapore (SCS) to intensify collaborations in promoting science and engineering amongst the public, especially the younger generation in Singapore.

12 IES also initiated the IES-SG50 Golden Jubilee Scholarship Fund raising campaign in 2015, with the aim of supporting 50 needy students with a passion for engineering to pursue their dreams. With the support of many individual and corporate donors including many of you who are with us today, we have managed to move smoothly towards our target fund amount. We hope to present 50 selected students with the scholarship at our Golden Jubilee gala dinner in July. We believe that this fund, together with the IES-Yayasan MENDAKI Scholarships and the IES Gold Medals, will help to nurture the next generation of engineers for Singapore.

13 Above and beyond the above four thrusts, IES also marked the past year with a historical milestone – the official opening of the new IES Green Building @ Bukit Tinggi on 16 February 2016, with Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean as our guest-of-honour. A Green-mark platinum building, the new premise truly manifested as a home by engineers for engineers as we had envisioned, with many sustainable green features and engineering innovations. I would like to once again thank those of you who have contributed in kind and in cash. With your support, IES is able to scale up its capacity and capability to serve our members. We welcome all IES members to regard this as your professional abode for career advancement, for social interaction and as a base from which we continue to contribute to Singapore as a community.

14 Last but not least, I would also like to share the exciting progress being made in raising the profile of engineers and of IES in the mass media. We felt that it is timely for engineers, their expertise and their outstanding work to be made more visible in the public, so as to enthuse the young to become engineers. Many of our Council Members and Technical Committee Members have stepped forward to take up interviews for print, online and even broadcast media in support of this goal. I would like to thank them for doing so, and hope that IES will continue to proactively make the expert voice of engineers heard and the remarkable contributions of engineers known amongst the public.

15 Two years ago at this platform, I remember talking about sharpening our focus and directing our resources to core initiatives instead of spreading ourselves too thin. I believe that it should be more of delivering quality and impact to our members than generating one initiative after another. Over the past two years, my Council and I have stayed true to this course of action and in doing so, increased IES' relevance and value-add to our members. I would like to thank all of you for your support. We could not have achieved so much over the past two years without you. IES is going from strength to strength and I hope that you will continue to work together with us to fulfil the vision and mission entrusted to us.

Thank you.

CLOSING SPEECH BY ER. CHONG KEE SEN, OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE, AT THE 50th IES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, 28 MAY 2016 AT SUNTEC SINGAPORE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

Past Presidents;

Council Members and IES members;

1 As I address you for the final time as the IES President, it is with mixed emotions. Two years ago, when I started my presidency, I pledged my commitment to build upon the rich foundations laid down by past presidents to strengthen IES' role as the heart and voice of engineers. I am incredibly humbled by the task entrusted to me – to lead Singapore's national society of engineers. With the support of my fellow Council members and IES members, I have been able to make it a productive two-year. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

2 As I pass the figurative baton on to the 26th IES President, Er. Edwin Khew, I am fully confident that IES will grow even stronger under his leadership. Edwin is an exemplary leader, a success entrepreneur and an inspiring leader. His passion for engineering, wealth of industry knowledge and appreciation of the global landscape make him the ideal candidate to lead IES into its next 50 years of growth.

3 For me, although today marks the end of my two-year term as president, it is the beginning of yet another exciting journey. Just like my philosophy of once an

engineer, forever an engineer, my mantra is also once an IES member, always an IES member. I am committed to join the Past Presidents of IES to continue to serve our members.

4 To conclude, I have one final wish. IES is the heartbeat of engineering in Singapore. It is a society with many brilliant, passionate and outstanding engineers with the power of transforming our future. It is also a great family with members who look after each other's interest. My wish is that all of us will continue to work together with a collegial spirit to serve the society in the best way possible and elevate the standing of engineering to greater heights.

5 Once again, thank you for giving me this opportunity. It has been an honour for me to serve you as the 25th President of IES. I wish each and every one of you a great future ahead. Thank you.