

**Welcome Remarks by Er. Chong Kee Sen,**  
**President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES),**  
**at the Committee on the Future Economy (CFE) Dialogue Session**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, Friday, 6.45pm, IES Auditorium @ the Charles Rudd Building**

Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah, Past President of IES,

Representatives from the CFE Secretariat,

Members of IES,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Evening.

1. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to today's dialogue session. I would especially like to thank Er Dr Lee Bee Wah for joining us today and moderating the discussions with me later. Thank you for your support.
2. Engineering has played an irreplaceable role in Singapore's economic growth over the past 50 years. It has been the building block of various industry clusters, created many jobs for Singaporeans and given us a high standard of living.
3. As we step into the next 50 years of development, we are facing increasing global competition and growing impact of issues such as climate change and energy depletion. To address these issues and move our economy forward, Singapore will still need to rely on engineering. This is because engineers are equipped with unique knowledge and skillsets that are needed to create new products and solutions that will be critical in sustaining a vibrant and resilient economy.
4. As key stakeholders in Singapore's future economic growth, engineers have multiple roles to play. In fact, the influence of engineering cuts across all the five areas of work identified by the Committee on the Future Economy (CFE) as critical for Singapore's future development. Whether it is in the area of corporate capabilities and innovation, future growth industries and markets, connectivity, urban development and infrastructure or jobs and skills, engineering is a key ingredient to success.

5. As the national society of engineers in Singapore, IES has been the go-to source for the government and private sector on matters pertaining to professional engineering since 1966. Over the past five decades, our members have provided inputs to both the public and private sectors that influenced the making of many key decisions that shaped Singapore's economic growth.
6. At this important juncture whereby the economic blueprint for our future is being drawn up, engineers are again needed to step forth to contribute their views. With engineers from so many disciplines and representing both the public and private sector as our members, IES is in a good position to provide ideas and thoughts to CFE. We are happy that CFE is seeking our consultation and engaging us to review Singapore's economic strategies and position us for future growth.
7. Later this evening, we are privileged to have Dr. Koh Poh Koon, Minister of State, Ministry of National Development & Ministry of Trade and Industry, joining our dialogue session. I hope we can use this forum to surface real, on-the-ground feedback, perspectives and suggestions to him and the CFE based on our diverse expertise and experience in engineering. By doing so, we can strengthen our economy and create better opportunities for our people.
8. Not many had expected Singapore to achieve such robust economic growth 50 years ago, but that did not hold our pioneer engineers back from daring to imagine and pushing the boundaries with passion and commitment. If our generation of engineers could come together to imagine new possibilities, I am sure we can create greater successes in the future.
9. Thank you in advance for your contributions and I wish everyone a fruitful session ahead.