

**Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen, Immediate Past President,
The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, at IES Appreciation & Awards Night 2016
on Friday, 29 July 2016, 7pm at NTUC Downtown East Function Room**

Members, friends and staff of IES;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good evening.

1. We are gathered here this evening to express our deepest appreciation to the people who have worked tirelessly alongside IES in the past year. Whether you are a Council Member, a volunteer, a staff, a partner or a student, tonight is about you and your contributions. Without your support, IES would not have made it through so many events and activities in the past year.

2. 2015/2016 has been a year of monumental significance to IES for a few reasons. It marked 50 years of outstanding achievements for IES and opened a new chapter in our journey as the national society of engineers in Singapore. At the same time, it also marked Singapore's transition from its golden jubilee year to its next 50 years of growth – one that will be technology-intensive and engineering-centric.

3. In celebration of these occasions, IES filled the year with activities to elevate the profile of our institution and to raise awareness of the importance of engineering to Singapore's past, present and future. Let me share a few highlights with you. On February 16, we officially opened the second IES building – a three-storey iconic structure at Bukit Tinggi built by engineers, for engineers. Incorporating the latest sustainable technologies and green features, it has earned the BCA Platinum Green Mark rated structure and has become the new home for engineers in Singapore.

4. IES also made huge strides in promoting engineering to students in the past year. Just last weekend, we held the National Engineers Day 2016 at the HDB Hub Atrium. It was the first time we held it at such a public venue and it was a good decision as it attracted thousands of students and members of the public to discover the wonders of engineering and the opportunities in an engineering career through fun and engaging activities. Back in January, IES also signed an MoU with Science Centre Singapore to intensify collaborations in organising fun-filled exploration and discovery programmes in engineering for students.

5. The year also saw IES making good progress in enhancing the professional skillsets and status of engineers. We presented certificates to Singapore's first batch of railway & transportation Chartered Engineers at our 49th annual dinner in November 2015. In collaboration with NTUC, we graduated the first batch of 199 students in the Young Engineers Leadership Programme in October last year and launched the Advanced Engineers Leadership Programme in April this year.

6. IES also continued to provide platforms for engineers in various fields to exchange updates, insights and ideas with each other. We held the 'Design for Safety' seminar in January to support new workplace safety and health regulations, the inaugural 'Hazards 2016' forum in May to support the upcoming Safety Case Regime for Major Hazard Installations in Singapore and the 'Climate Change Resilience Forum' in early July to zero in on crucial climate change challenges for engineers.

7. The grand centrepiece for IES this year has to be the IES Golden Jubilee Gala Dinner held on 1 July 2016, graced by PM Lee Hsien Loong as our guest-of-honour. We presented awards to the winners of the Engineering Feats @ IES-SG50 competition to bring the nation's attention to the contributions of engineers. We also presented 50 scholarships to needy engineering students to encourage them to pursue a career in engineering.

8. All these achievements and many others will be etched in history as IES milestones and remembered for many years to come. They have elevated IES' reputation as the national society of engineers in Singapore. They have given IES a solid form. But none of these would have been possible without all of you. You are the people who have given IES its soul. You are the ones who have made IES into a great organisation.

8. Tonight's event is our small way of saying thank you for volunteering your time, expertise and efforts. It is also a night to honour those who have made exceptional contributions in or to the various IES Groups, Committees and Interest Groups in the past Council Year; as well as special projects that have raised the profile of IES. We hope that you will continue to be our partners as we strive to do more for IES for the benefit of engineers, our community and our nation.

9. At this juncture, I would like to make special mention of an individual who has been a dear friend to IES for close to 40 years. He is the late Mr. Tan Kai Hong, who had served in IES in many different capacities since 1980, including being an IES Council Member for two terms. Mr. Tan is an exceptional man who has made invaluable contributions to IES and the IES Academy, with his specialised knowledge in workplace health and safety. His commitment and passion for engineering have inspired us to contribute our very best to IES, for the benefit of the engineering profession. On behalf of IES, I would like to thank Mrs. Tan for being here with us tonight, to receive a special recognition award for Mr. Tan. Thank you, Mrs Tan.

10. I have personally worked alongside many of you during my term as President, and I am truly grateful for your support and invaluable contributions to IES. Even though I have stepped down as the President, the fire to drive IES forward still burns in my belly and I hope that you will keep the flame of passion burning for IES too.

11. In his speech at the IES Golden Jubilee Gala Dinner, PM Lee Hsien Loong stressed on the need to develop deep engineering capabilities, in order to take Singapore

further. Singapore engineers have achieved much, but there is more uncharted terrain to conquer. Similarly, IES has made significant progress, but there is so much more that we can do.

12. So let us press on with our work as a team, beyond IES50, in every dimension, to keep moving IES forward. I wish all of you a lovely evening ahead.

Thank you.