



Speech by Er. Chong Kee Sen,
President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES),
at the IES Green Building @ Bukit Tinggi Official Opening
16 February 2016, Tuesday, 5.45 pm, 70 Bukit Tinggi Road

Our Guest-of-Honour- Mr. Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister & Co-ordinating Minister for National Security,

Distinguished Guests,

Members of IES,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Evening

1. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to today's event. As today is the ninth day of the Lunar New Year, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy new year and great health and prosperity in the year ahead. This year, besides having our annual Spring Festival dinner later, we are also witnessing a special moment in IES's history together - the official opening of the new IES Green Building @ Bukit Tinggi. Thank you for joining us to share our joy and excitement. It is also our honour to have DPM Teo Chee Hean with us today to grace our opening. Thank you, DPM.
2. IES was established in 1966 so this year marks our 50th anniversary. Over the past 50 years, IES has journeyed and grown side by side with Singapore to become an institution of more than 5,000 members today. As Singapore went through an amazing transformation after gaining independence as a nation in 1965, the engineering profession also evolved in tandem to support Singapore's economic, infrastructural and societal growth.
3. Looking at the new building standing before us, it is perhaps hard to imagine that when IES started 50 years ago, it did not even have its own office as the \$600 per month rental was considered too high at that time. It had to operate

at the office of our founding Honorary Secretary, Er. Dr. Hiew Siew Nam. Our Founding President was Er. Kenneth Gin then. Only in 1971, IES could afford to rent a 9.5-square metre office at Outram Park before moving to its own acquired office of 221 square metres at International Plaza in 1978.

4. In 1983, IES took a big step forward in growing its premises, securing 6,800 square metres of land at Bukit Tinggi Road from the Swiss Club. And so, twenty years after its formation, IES launched its very first standalone building in 1987, with Mr S Dhanabalan, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for National Development, gracing the building opening. Since then, besides being known as the 'Charles Rudd Building' with about 1,700 square metres of floor area, 70 Bukit Tinggi Road has also become the centre of interaction and action for engineers, the training hub to enhance their professional skills and the place they call their second home.
5. Today, we will be officially opening the second building on our Bukit Tinggi premises – the IES Green Building which has also been named the Brian Chang Building after Mr. Brian Chang.
6. The opening of this building marks another big milestone in our 50-year journey – a commemoration of how far the IES spirit and the commitment of our pioneer engineers have brought us. We hope that the next generation of engineers will build upon these values and also look to our pioneer engineers as role models as they bring engineering in Singapore into the future.
7. This striking new addition to the IES compound embodies sustainable construction processes to achieve high energy efficiency and optimal water use with the incorporation of many green features. In fact, the building's excellence in environmental impact and performance has already earned it the Building Construction Authority (BCA) Platinum rating certification for Non-Residential Buildings Green Mark version 4.0.
8. IES is proud that this is a building built by engineers, for engineers. I would like to thank all the consultants and builders in contributing to the success of this project, as well as all donors for their passion and generosity, without which this new building would not have been possible.
9. We have witnessed significant changes to the engineering profession over the past 50 years. Over this time, the IES Constitution has served us well. But as we expect the changes in the engineering landscape to become more rapid

and more significant in the next 50 years, I would like to announce that IES will be forming a taskforce to make a comprehensive review of the IES Constitution. The process will not just take the future into consideration but also retain core values of our institution.

10. Over the years, IES has been promoting the engineering profession and strived to be the heart and voice of engineers, using a 3E approach. Firstly, we work towards **Enlightening** the community about the work and contribution of engineers, by organising public engineering talks and activities like the IES-SG50 Engineering Feats. I am pleased to update everyone that the public voting phase of the Engineering Feats competition will commence on March 1st and hope that all of you will support us in determining the 50 engineering achievements that have made the most significant impact to our economy, society and lives. We believe that by participating in the decision process, the community would be able to better appreciate the contribution of engineers.
11. Secondly, IES looks at **Engaging** our engineers so as to keep them in the engineering industry. To this end, we have been developing career pathways to assist engineers to move from engineers to Chartered Engineers or Professional Engineers to C-level executives. We are also working with NTUC U-Associates on the Young Engineers Leadership Programme and are now working on the Advanced Engineers Leadership Programme to develop engineering thought leaders in technology management and leadership as they are critically needed to shape Singapore's future.
12. Thirdly, IES also focuses on **Enthusing** the younger generation about engineering. Last year, we launched the IES-SG50 Golden Jubilee Scholarship Fund with the aim of providing assistance to students who are passionate about engineering but require financial support to pursue an engineering course of study. Many organisations and individuals have come forward to donate to the fund and I am pleased to inform you that we will be honouring a few of them today. Just about a month ago, IES also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Science Centre Singapore (SCS) to enthuse the young about engineering through fun-filled activities. We will be working with SCS and other stakeholders to elevate our annual National Engineers Day and also introduce a new Engineering Exhibition.
13. IES will also be promoting the tinkering movement for students to explore engineering through hands-on activities. In fact, later on, you will witness the creativity of students from the IES Student Chapter together with other

children during the unveiling of the commemorative plaque marking the building opening. The contraption is similar to a Rube Goldberg device that deploys a chain reaction of mechanical, electrical and hydro energy to unveil the plaque. It has given our young ones a chance to explore basic engineering principles and have fun while at it.

14. In closing, I would like to thank DPM Teo once again for his continued support and encouragement to IES. I would also like to thank each and every one of you for being a supporter and friend to IES in our journey. I wish everyone a great evening ahead. Thank you.