

Speech by Er. Edwin Khew, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, at the Young & Advanced Engineers Leadership Programme Joint Graduation Ceremony on Monday, 16 January 2017 at the Advanced Remanufacturing and Technology Centre (ARTC)

Representatives from our partner, NTUC:

Mr Vivek Kumar, Assistant Director-General of NTUC and Director of U Professionals, Managers and Executives & U Associate,

NTUC Central Committee Members,

Our valued partners for the Young & Advanced Engineers Leadership Programmes,

Graduands,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

1. It is a great pleasure to see so many of you joining us this morning, at the first combined Young & Advanced Engineers Leadership Programme Graduation Ceremony.
2. I would like to thank the Advanced Remanufacturing and Technology Centre (or ARTC) for hosting today's event. This beautiful, state-of-the-art facility, a crucial focal point of R&D and innovations for remanufacturing, provides the perfect setting for our graduation ceremony. It directs our attention to the importance of engineering in taking remanufacturing, as well as many of Singapore's other key industrial sectors, to the next level of growth. It also highlights a crucial need for Singapore to have engineers, who are able to play the role of leaders, in enabling the transformation of these sectors to support economic progress.

3. Singapore is in no lack of talented engineers with great leadership potential, like many of the graduands with us today, who are capable of taking on managerial roles to lead their employer-organisations towards greater growth. But many of such engineers choose to leave the profession after some years of practice, as they do not see the opportunity to move on to management positions. For the younger engineering students, the lack of a clear progression pathway has also somewhat deterred them from embarking on it as a career.
4. About three years ago, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (or IES) and NTUC decided to join hands to pioneer an Engineers Progression Pathway, to create long-term career development for engineers, and to equip them with the necessary skills to move up the career ladder. Since then, this has led to the launch of the Young Engineers Leadership (or YEL) Programme in August 2014 to nurture young aspiring engineers into outstanding leaders in their respective fields of expertise; and the introduction of the Advanced Engineers Leadership (or AEL) Programme in April 2016 to help senior engineers develop advanced future-ready technology and leadership skills.
5. Today, I am excited to share with you that to-date, we have trained a total of 394 engineers from 86 organisations through these programmes. This includes the second cohort of 138 young engineers from the YEL Programme and the very first cohort of 24 senior engineers who are graduating from the AEL Programme today.
6. I am even more excited to share with you about the strong, growing support we have received from the participating employers and the extremely positive feedback from the participating engineers of these programmes. I believe that such encouraging response is due to the practitioner-led approach that we have adopted for these programmes. Participants benefit from rich, highly industry-

relevant content and unique opportunities to interact with prominent engineering leaders, C-suite leaders and entrepreneurs.

7. I would like to convey my congratulations to the senior and young engineers who are graduating today. I am sure that the unique combination of technology management and strategic leadership skills training has placed you in a great position to make better contributions in your current roles and move confidently to leadership positions in the future. With your acquired knowledge and skills to address emerging challenges, embrace innovation and sustainability, you are valuable assets not just of your individual organisations, but also for the nation.
8. On behalf of IES, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to NTUC Secretary-General Chan Chun Sing and NTUC U Associate for their strong support towards the development of both the YEL and AEL Programmes, as well as the overall Engineers Progression Pathway. I would also like to thank the many experienced engineers for taking on the roles of course speakers and mentors; and the various partnering companies for enriching our participants' learning journeys. All of your support has been instrumental in realising our goals to transform engineers of today into world-class leaders of tomorrow; and for inspiring our younger generation to also join the ranks of engineers.
9. Thank you and have a rewarding day ahead.