



30 July 2020

# Media Release

## **Dr. Richard Kwok to lead The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES) as 28<sup>th</sup> President**

*Inauguration took place at virtual 54<sup>th</sup> IES Annual General Meeting; members voted in favour of Constitution change to admit technologists and technicians into IES*

The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES) announced today that Dr. Richard Kwok has been officially inaugurated as the new IES President at the virtual 54<sup>th</sup> IES Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 25 July 2020. Currently the Assistant Chief Executive Officer of Trains and Chief of the Joint Readiness Inspection at SMRT Corporation, Dr. Kwok succeeded Professor Yeoh Lean Weng and will serve for a two-year term.

“I am humbled and excited to be elected as the 28<sup>th</sup> President of IES and to serve during this extraordinary time. Engineers play a crucial role in helping Singapore overcome varied challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. I am committed to steer IES, the national society of engineers in Singapore, to support the engineering community in developing innovative solutions to strengthen Singapore’s competitiveness and create a better future for Singaporeans,” said Dr Kwok.

With the support of the IES Council, Dr. Kwok will focus on four strategic initiatives during his Presidency: elevating the IES Academy and other training platforms to higher standards; making accreditation processes for IES Registries more holistic and synergistic; enhancing IES membership value and outreach efforts; and enabling IES Technical Committees to achieve greater engineering excellence.

With more than 46 years of experience in various technical and management roles, Dr. Kwok has made significant contributions in rail, defence, research and education to Singapore through engineering. His previous notable appointments include the Executive



Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of ST Kinetics, the Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Technology Research Centre and the chairman of several research laboratories at Institutes of Higher Learning.

Dr. Kwok is also the recipient of multiple prestigious awards including the Defence Technology Prize 2002 (Individual) from the Ministry of Defence, the Lifelong Learner Award and the Cheng Fook Choon Gold Award in Engineering Process Innovation & Improvement from Singapore Technologies.

### **Achievements of Immediate Past President**

Professor Yeoh Lean Weng, Director of Urban Solutions and Sustainability at the National Research Foundation, will move on to become IES' Immediate Past President. During his term, IES made several notable achievements including launch of the National Engineering Career Progression Pathway for Technologist and Technician, the IES-INCA deep tech incubator and the IES Fund for engineering education; growth in number of Chartered Engineers by more than 40%; conferment of the IES Distinguished Honorary Patron on Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, commencement of the IES repositioning initiative; and organisation of the World Engineers Summit 2019.

“Over the past few months, Singapore’s engineers have raced against time to develop and introduce innovative solutions to help us work, live and play during the pandemic and prepare us for the new normal. However, greater challenges lie ahead and require engineers to develop effective solutions for our people to adapt to the new normal. I have confidence that Richard will lead IES to support engineers in helping Singapore emerge from the current crisis and adapt to the post-pandemic world,” said Professor Yeoh.

“I would like to thank Prof Yeoh for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. He has led IES to make significant progress in driving engineering excellence, building an inclusive engineering community and re-positioning IES. I will continue to work with my team to bring IES forward with the resolve to give our members, our community and our country the best that engineering can offer,” said Dr. Kwok.

### **Constitution change to promote inclusiveness**

At the AGM, IES members passed a set of seven resolutions to amend the IES Constitution, mainly aimed at admitting technologists and technicians from engineering-



related fields into IES. This marked a major milestone in IES' goal to promote a more inclusive engineering community, in line with its belief that Singapore's engineering ecosystem requires complementary skillsets of engineers, technologists and technicians to deliver end-to-end solutions.

This change is the outcome of a four-year review carried out by IES with guidance from the Committee on Future Economy Report and the Industry Transformation Maps.

- END -

---

## Notes to Media

### Chinese Glossary

Terms in English	Terms in Chinese
The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)	新加坡工程师学会
Dr. Richard Kwok, President, IES	郭威安博士, 会长, 新加坡工程师学会
Prof Yeoh Lean Weng, (Outgoing) President, IES	杨联文博士, (前)会长, 新加坡工程师学会

### Annex – Biography of Dr. Richard Kwok

---

#### About The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)

The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES) was formally established in July 1966 as the national society of engineers in Singapore. IES is the premier engineering institution in Singapore and is called upon by the Government to provide feedback on professional engineering matters.

IES is well represented among the faculty members of major engineering institutions of higher learning in Singapore. Through close collaboration with local universities and polytechnics as well as the industry, IES organises courses, seminars and talks for engineers and IES members to advance the continuous development of engineers.



The Institution maintains close links with professional organisations of engineers regionally and throughout the world. These include organisations in Australia, China, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States. The Institution also represents Singapore in the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO) and the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) in promoting goodwill, fellowship and exchange of knowledge among all engineers in the region and internationally.

Through its Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB), IES obtained full signatory status in the Washington Accord (WA) in June 2006. The entry grants IES the authority to represent Singapore, the first country within the ASEAN region which has obtained full signatory status in the WA, to vet education systems under the WA mutual recognition framework.

- End -

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Desmond Teo  
Publications Manager  
The Institution of Engineers, Singapore  
DID : (65) 6461 1229  
Email : [desmond@iesnet.org.sg](mailto:desmond@iesnet.org.sg)

Kathlyn Loke  
Senior Associate  
The Right Spin Public Relations  
DID : (65) 6808 7720  
Email : [kathlyn@therightspin.com.sg](mailto:kathlyn@therightspin.com.sg)

Bernadette Low  
Associate  
The Right Spin Public Relations  
DID : (65) 6808 7720  
Email : [bernadette@therightspin.com.sg](mailto:bernadette@therightspin.com.sg)



## Annex

### **Dr. Richard Kwok (郭威安博士) – PRESIDENT, THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE (IES)**

Dr. Richard Kwok is the President of IES (Term 2020 – 2022). Dr. Kwok has been an IES member since 2010 and has served as the Vice President in the IES Council from 2012 to 2019 in various engineering clusters. He was elected as the Deputy President in May 2019 to July 2020.



He established the Railway and Transportation Engineering Technical Committee in 2015 and chairs the Railway and Transportation Cluster on the Chartered Engineer Board. In October 2019, Dr Kwok launched the Singapore Rail Standard committee to establish rail-related standards to enhance the competency of Singapore's rail engineers.

Dr. Kwok assumed the role of Assistant Chief Executive Officer of Trains and Chief of Joint Readiness Inspection at SMRT Corporation in December 2017. Prior to joining SMRT, he was the Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Singapore Technologies (ST) Kinetics; and Chairman of the Intellectual Property Right Committee in ST Engineering from 2000 to 2017.

With more than 46 years of diverse working experience, Dr. Kwok has also held concurrent appointments including Chief Executive Officer of the Advanced Technology Research Centre (a joint venture between Defence Science Organisation and ST Kinetics) while also chairing seven research laboratories at the Institute of Technical Education, polytechnics and other institutes of higher learning.

Dr. Kwok is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Science & Technology at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) from 2011. He served as an Adjunct Professor with Southern Cross University from 2000 to 2007; and as an Adjunct Associate Professor with the Nanyang Technological University and the National University of Singapore in 1999 and 2005 respectively.

With a strong passion in nurturing the next generation of engineers, Dr. Kwok has been serving as an active member on several university advisory boards. He is a supervisory board member of the NUS Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS); member of the consultative committee to the NUS Industrial System Engineering and Management



(ISEM); member of the Advisory Committee at the NTU School of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) and NTU Renaissance Engineering Programme (REP); Chairman in the Advisory Committee of the SUSS PhD and Master of Engineering Programme and SUSS Master of IP and Innovation Management (MIPIM) Programme; as well as Chairman of the SUSS Electronic Engineering Programme.

Dr. Kwok received a Master of Science in Automotive Engineering from Cranfield University (UK) in 1987, where he was also conferred the Rootes Prize award. He went on to obtain a PhD in Technology Management from the University of Southern Australia in 2000.

Dr. Kwok was nominated and won the Lifelong Learner Award in 2006. For his contribution to the development of the Bionix Infantry Fighting Vehicle, he received the prestigious Defence Technology Prize (Team) Award in 1999 and the Defence Technology Prize (Individual) Award in 2002 from the Ministry of Defence Singapore for his outstanding contributions to the defence of Singapore. In 1997, he received the Cheng Fook Choon Gold Award in Engineering Process Innovation & Improvement from Singapore Technologies for the development of a collaborative engineering process for weapon systems in ST Kinetics.