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**IES' forum letter reply, published on 17 October 2024 on Lianhe Zaobao: [交流站: 致力解决工程人才短缺问题](#) Exchange Station: committed to solving the problem of shortage of engineering talents**

In response to Yang Yongqiang's letter published on 9 October on Lianhe Zaobao Exchange Station titled "[Hidden concerns about the disconnect between technicians and engineers](#)":

Mr Yang pointed out that there is an urgent need to strengthen the core strength of local technicians and engineers to support the construction and preventive maintenance of MRT and public facilities.

Indeed, from land transportation and green energy to the environment and water resources, engineering is closely related to our daily lives and is also a core driver of economic and social development. Building a formidable workforce of engineering professionals is essential. We must continue to work hard to nurture a professional workforce that can not only maintain existing systems, but also improve the quality of life through innovative solutions.

As Singapore's national-level professional association, the Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES) is committed to addressing this issue. We encourage the younger generation to choose engineering as a career path while promoting excellence in the engineering industry by recognising the capabilities and career development of engineering professionals and providing them with career advancement pathways.

One of the key areas of our work is to provide professional accreditation for outstanding engineering professionals in different fields. We have established the "Chartered Engineer programme", a structured framework based on sectors rather than disciplines, for all engineering professionals.

To simplify the chartered engineer certification process, we have just announced that the accreditation bodies for engineers, technologists and technicians will be integrated into a unified "Chartered Engineering Board", making the assessment and registration process more efficient and smoother.

The recent East-West Line disruption incident highlighted the value of engineering excellence. The Land Transport Authority, SMRT and their supply chains were able to respond quickly and restore full service quickly because more than 300 engineers and technicians stepped up to work around the clock to do the repairs with their competencies and experience.

For individuals, chartership elevates their career prospects and enhances their competitive advantage by differentiating their competency levels, professional standing and professionalism. For employers, chartership provides a structured competency framework that helps them recruit the right talents who are competent for the job.

Our goal is to give technicians the opportunity to advance to become technologists and ultimately engineers by working with the industry and relevant agencies to establish clear career paths, thereby strengthening the capabilities of local engineering professionals. This will help retain talent in the engineering field and enhance their contribution to the development of the industry.

As Mr Yang said, engineering skills are lifelong assets. Engineering develops logical thinking, critical thinking and problem-solving abilities that are difficult to fully develop in other professions.

Changing perceptions, especially among the younger generation and their parents, requires the joint efforts of all stakeholders. The annual National Engineers Day is a great example of this. It combines the strengths of different organisations to give students the opportunity to experience the joy of engineering outside the classroom, demonstrating the positive impact of synergy in inspiring students' interest in engineering.

The Institution of Engineers, Singapore calls on educational institutions, industry leaders and parents to work together to inspire the next generation to view engineering as an important, fulfilling career that can shape the nation's future, rather than a daunting job.

**Er. Tan Seng Chuan**  
**Chairman of the Chartered Engineering Board**  
**The Institution of Engineers, Singapore**