

**SPEECH BY PROF YEOH LEAN WENG, PRESIDENT OF
THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE (IES) AT
NTU SCHOOL OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING CONVOCATION CEREMONY ON
WEDNESDAY, 24 JULY 2019 AT 10.00AM AT NTU
NANYANG AUDITORIUM**

Mr. Pro-Chancellor;

Graduates;

Ladies and gentlemen;

1. Good morning. I am honoured to be invited to speak to you at the convocation ceremony of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
2. First, I would like to congratulate all graduating students for achieving this milestone. You have worked hard to be where you are today and you should be proud of your accomplishments.
3. The construction, environment and maritime industries have been integral components of Singapore's economy.

Together, they contribute to more than 10 per cent of Singapore's Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, and employ over 600,000 people.

4. As Singapore builds its future, engineers and maritime professionals will continue to be in high demand to support the growth of these sectors. For example, we will need civil engineers to develop mega infrastructural projects such as the Thomson-East Coast Line, Changi Terminal 5 and the North-South Corridor expressway. We will also need environmental engineers to protect our environment against the effects of climate change. And we need maritime professionals to support the development of our Tuas Mega Port and enhance the standing of the maritime ecosystem.

5. As the President of IES, I would certainly encourage our engineering graduates to put your training into practice in an engineering career. However, you should also know that the beauty of an engineering training is that it does not confine you to the traditional fields of engineering. The analytical and problem-solving skills that you have acquired are also highly sought-after by many non-engineering professions.

6. Today, engineers who have moved on to business, finance and other fields have done well. Many of them have attributed their success to the unique skillsets acquired through engineering training - we call it the “Engineering Minds”. In fact, many of our political leaders, public sector and business leaders are engineers by training.
7. One of my mentors shared with me that in his company, engineers are amongst his best investment managers. In fact, some of them are even better than his economists and financial managers.
8. For our Maritime Studies graduates, by being part of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, you have benefitted from the way engineering is taught. You, too, have acquired the unique skill of The Engineering Minds. Congratulations.
9. As you step into the real world, you will realise that your engineering and maritime studies education have put you in a great position to make things happen and turn ideas into reality. I encourage you to harness your knowledge to

its fullest potential to challenge the status quo and transform our economy and improve our quality of life.

10. But while you pursue your dream career, do not forget to give back to the society. One way to contribute to your ecosystem is to take up professional membership in your respective fields. For those of you who are in engineering, remember that there is a professional institution called IES that will support you to achieve engineering excellence and stay relevant. I invite you to become an IES member to serve the engineering community. It will be the beginning of a journey of great leadership development.

11. I wish all of you a bright future in your career. Thank you.