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**WELCOME SPEECH BY DR. RICHARD KWOK, PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION
OF ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE (IES) AT THE LAUNCH OF CHARTERED
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIST AND TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION SCHEME AT
SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC ON 22 JANUARY 2021, FRIDAY AT 10 AM**

Our Guest-of-Honour, Ms Gan Siow Huang, Minister of State for Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower;

Er. Tan Seng Chuan, Chairman of the Chartered Engineering Technologist and Technician Accreditation Board or CETTAB;

Members of CETTAB;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning.

1. On behalf of IES, I would like to welcome you to the launch of the Chartered Engineering Technologist and Technician Certification Scheme. I would also like to express our appreciation to MOS Gan Siow Huang for gracing the event. Thank you, MOS Gan.

IES' Vision for an Inclusive Engineering Community

2. As the national society of engineers in Singapore, IES has always strived to raise the status and profile of the engineering profession. Our vision is to build an inclusive engineering community, where all practitioners have the opportunity to learn, earn professional recognition and

contribute to their organisations and industries, regardless of their level of academic qualifications.

3. In line with this goal, IES launched the Chartered Engineer (Singapore) Registry back in 2013. It serves to provide professional recognition to qualified engineers across all sectors, including those from fields that do not require them to be registered as Professional Engineers. To-date, IES has registered a total of 470 Chartered Engineers across nine different branches of engineering. It has placed them in a better position to support Singapore's economic growth.

4. Professional recognition is pivotal for career advancement in engineering. And it is closely tied to continuous learning and acquisition of new skills. Let me share my personal journey with you. I have been in the engineering field for the past 47 years and have been an engineer for almost 40 years. Since joining the workforce after obtaining my 'O' Level certification in 1973, I have adopted a work-and-learn approach.

5. My learning journey took me from obtaining specialist certifications through part-time courses, to diplomas in mechanical engineering, to business management, to Master of Science degree, and eventually to a PhD. It took a lot of hard work - I had to attend part-time courses for over 19 years. But it has been worth every effort and helped me contribute my maximum to my company, society and country.

6. It has become more important to embrace and develop all levels of staff, to create innovation and greater value in engineering. We need to tap upon the complementary skillsets of engineers, technologists and technicians across different engineering fields. This is so that we can develop faster and better solutions and innovation to solve increasingly complex problems. It is no longer sufficient to recognise engineers. Technicians and technologists should receive recognition as well.

7. In view of this, IES has been working towards an inclusive engineering community, to develop and empower technicians, technologists and engineers to work effectively side by side. This is done by offering a practical route for career progression and recognition of their contributions. With a structured pathway, more individuals will gain better opportunities for learning and career advancement.

Conclusion

8. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Chartered Engineering Technologist and Technician certification scheme - the Steering Committee, the sector-based Work Groups and the new CETTAB. Thank you for working with IES to make today's launch possible.

9. IES looks forward to continue working with you to make further strides towards our inclusive engineering community vision. Together, we can raise engineering standards in support of a better future for Singapore.

Thank you.