

SPEECH BY DR. RICHARD KWOK, PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE (IES) AT THE IES-PSB ACADEMY LEADERSHIP FORUM AND APPRECIATION CEREMONY ON 30 JANUARY 2021, SATURDAY AT 10:30AM AT PSB ACADEMY CITY CAMPUS AT MARINA SQUARE

Leaders and members of IES Student Chapters;

Faculty members;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning.

1. It gives me great pleasure to join you today for the IES-PSB Academy Leadership Forum and Appreciation Ceremony. This is an important event as it not only recognises the contributions of the leaders of various IES Student Chapters, but promotes nurturing of engineering leadership.
2. As the national society of engineers in Singapore, IES works closely with our Institutes of Higher Learning, or IHLs, to mould today's engineering students into tomorrow's engineering leaders. We do this in various ways. Let me name a few.
3. First, IES promotes engineering as a course of study and as a career to students from primary schools to tertiary institutions. Every year, we organise the National Engineers Day, a youth-centric engineering festival comprising many fun and exciting activities for students to explore, learn and be amazed by engineering.
4. During NED, IES also holds the Engineering Innovation Challenge, a competition whereby students can gain hands-on experience in developing engineering solutions for real world problems. At NED 2020 that took place last November, we had a total of 101 student teams

from local and regional schools responding to the challenge theme of “Radiation 360” with very impressive inventions.

5. The second area is in continuous professional development for engineers. IES has been well represented among the faculty members of the major engineering IHLs in Singapore since our founding. We collaborate closely with them to organise courses, seminars and talks for engineers and IES members. Our goals are to advance the continuous development of engineers and develop them into engineering leaders.
6. Another key way that IES nurtures engineering leaders is in the area of recognition. In 2013, we launched the Chartered Engineer (Singapore) registry to enhance professional recognition of engineers from various sectors. To-date, we have registered a total of 470 Chartered Engineers across nine different branches of engineering.
7. In addition, just one week ago, IES moved on to introduce the Chartered Engineering Technologist and Technician certification scheme, to uplift professional recognition of engineering technicians and technologists. With this new scheme, many graduates from polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education can use their technical skills, competences and work experience, instead of academic qualifications, to gain career progression towards being Chartered Engineers.
8. Besides local recognition, IES is also working towards providing international recognition for engineering professionals, to create overseas career opportunities for them.
9. The fourth way that IES works with IHLs to groom engineering leaders is through our work with our Student Chapters. Currently, IES has a total of

11 chapters and they all play the pivotal role of advancing and promoting the art, science and profession of engineering. They also provide a platform for engineering students in Singapore to network; and student members are also given priorities to attend engineering-related talks, workshops and industrial visits.

10. Many leaders of our Student Chapters are with us today. I would like to thank all of you for your contributions. IES looks forward to continue to working closely with you to help engineering students on their journey towards becoming engineers.
11. Today's event is on engineering leadership. Over the past 56 years, Singapore's nation-building has been made possible by a community of resilient, talented engineering leaders. As we face an increasingly digital and disruptive age, we need a new generation of engineering leaders to lead Singapore into the future.
12. I believe I am looking at many engineering leaders amongst our audience today. I urge you to do two things. One, to adopt a lifelong learning mindset to continuously grow your technical expertise to stay at the leading edge of technological developments; and two, to acquire soft skills such as business knowledge, people management and communications.
13. With both these hard and soft competencies, you will not only achieve personal success but also make major contributions to our society, our economy and our country. I look forward to creating an exciting future through engineering with you. Thank you.