WELCOME SPEECH BY DR RICHARD KWOK, PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE (IES) AT THE NATIONAL ENGINEERS DAY 2020 PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT CEREMONY (WITH LIVE STREAMING) AT IES LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT ROOM ON 21 NOVEMBER 2020, SATURDAY, 9.30AM

Our Guest-of-Honour, Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment;

Associate Professor Lim Tit Meng, Chief Executive, Science Centre Singapore;

Professor Yeoh Lean Weng, Immediate Past President, IES;

Associate Professor Chung Keng Yeow, Director, Singapore Nuclear Research and Safety Initiative;

Ms Jasmine Foo, Chair of NED 2020;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Boys and Girls;

Good morning.

1.   On behalf of IES, I would like to welcome you to the National Engineers Day 2020 Prize Announcement Ceremony. I would also like to express our appreciation to Minister Grace Fu for gracing the event. Thank you, Minister. And to those watching our livestreaming from different parts of Singapore and overseas, thank you for joining us.

Evolution of NED

2.   Eleven years ago, when IES started NED, we did not know how far it will go. However, as the national society of engineers in Singapore, we recognised the importance of nurturing and inspiring our younger generation to become engineers to fuel Singapore's future development.

3.   The first edition of NED, inaugurated by then Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, comprised an engineering expo, talks by engineering leaders and visits to engineering companies for students.

4.   Over the years, NED has grown bigger in scale, richer in content and longer in duration. It has become the biggest engineering festival for youths in Singapore and a collective effort by IES, government agencies, academic institutions and the private sector to nurture the next generation of engineers for Singapore.

5.   Year after year, thousands of students come to NED not quite knowing what to expect but always leaving with a new sense of wonder about engineering and the exciting possibilities of an engineering career. Their experience very often sparks a seed of passion for engineering in them, opening their eyes and minds to the positive differences that they can make in the world by becoming engineers.

NED 2020

6. This year, despite the challenges of organising NED due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IES knows that the event must carry on. Efforts in raising our next generation of engineers cannot stop. In fact, the pandemic has demonstrated to us an even greater urgency to build a strong pipeline of engineers capable of developing solutions to address the challenges confronting mankind.

7. And above all, we engineers are always up for a challenge. In fact, engineers are known to not just solve problems but exceed expectations. The NED Organising Committee did just that – they strived towards not only moving the event online, but making the most out of it. The outcome is commendable. This is the first time that NED is a 10-day event, packed with a rich line-up of talks, workshops and a site visit. The committee also ensured that the Engineering Innovation Challenge (EIC), the key highlight of NED, carried on by arranging for virtual student presentations and judging sessions. Thank you for all your hard work.

8. On behalf of IES, I would also like to thank our sponsors including Science Centre Singapore, Singapore Nuclear Research and Safety Initiative and the National Research Foundation; the EIC judges and mentors; and all our partners. Your contributions have made this year's NED possible and your long-term support has allowed NED to evolve and grow in impact.

Launches and Awards

9. With a mission to advance and promote the science, art and profession of engineering for the well-being of mankind, IES is an organisation that never stands still. Today, we will be using this occasion to unveil a few new initiatives.

10. First, I am pleased to share with you that we will be launching the third edition of "Who's Who in Engineering, Singapore". Through this compilation, we aim to recognise more than 250 engineers who have contributed to Singapore's economic progress, nation development and enhancement of quality of life.

11. Next, IES will be signing a series of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today to promote engineering advancements in the field of AI in Singapore. The first MoU is between IES and AI Singapore, a national programme launched by the National Research Foundation (NRF). The MoU aims to establish Singapore's first AI Engineering Hub, or AIEH, and grow certified local AI engineering talents.

12. This MoU will facilitate project proposals to AISG for development of deployable AI solutions under its 100 Experiments (100E) programme. I would like to announce that ST Engineering Electronics will be the first grant recipient of the 100E programme under the MoU. They will be using the

funding to work on AI-based object recognition for unmanned surface vehicle.

13. In addition, AISG as part of this collaboration will also be signing a MOU with SMRT Corporation on establishing multiple AI projects via the AIEH programme.

14. The final MoU will be between IES and AI Professionals Association, or AIP, to develop and promote joint learning and development programmes for engineering communities in Singapore.

15. Lastly, we will also be announcing the winners of the 2020 IES Prestigious Engineering Achievement Awards. I invite you to join me in congratulating these engineers who, in the past year, have made outstanding accomplishments and significant contributions to stimulating engineering progress and enhancing our quality of life.

16. The theme for this year's NED is "Transforming the Future through Engineering". I invite our younger generation to join us in harnessing the power of engineering to create a better future for all of us. Thank you.