

SPEECH BY ER. EDWIN KHEW TECK FOOK, PRESIDENT, THE INSTITUTION OF  
ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE AT THE 51<sup>ST</sup> IES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON  
SATURDAY, 27 MAY 2017 AT ONE FARRER HOTEL & SPA

Past Presidents;

Council Members; and

IES Members;

1 I would like to welcome all of you to the 51<sup>st</sup> IES Annual General Meeting. It is wonderful to see so many of you in attendance today. It shows that our members take a keen interest in the progress of our work and the future of IES. This enthusiasm is what has made and will continue to make IES the heart and voice of engineers in Singapore.

2 Twelve months ago, when I took over the helm of IES during the 2016 AGM, I shared with you three Strategic Outcomes that the IES Council and I concurred that we will like to achieve. They are: Membership Growth, Engineering as the Profession of Choice and IES as the Preferred Partner for Engineering Matters. We arrived at these outcomes after considerable deliberation at the 2016 Away Day strategic session.

3 Today, I am happy to report to you the good progress that has been made since then for each of these outcomes:

Strategic Outcome 1: Membership Growth

4 Our first Strategic Outcome centres on membership growth. Over the last 12 months, the Council was focused on expanding the IES membership base, both in terms of size and diversity of composition, in the following ways:

5 First, we strived for expansion by **Industrial Sectors**, aiming to bring in engineers from other than the building and construction sectors. Our core activity in this regard involved growing our Chartered Engineer (Singapore) Registry to include Infrastructure, Port Management, Energy & Power, and Information & Communication engineering. These sectors will complement our existing sectors in Aerospace, Marine & Offshore, Chemical & Process, Environment & Water, Rail & Transport and Systems Engineering.

6 On 25 November 2016, IES also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Singapore Institute of Aerospace Engineers, or SIAE. Through this MoU, IES and SIAE are synergising our efforts in building a strong core of aerospace engineers in Singapore, by creating greater professional development opportunities so as to retain them in this career in this fast growing sector in Singapore.

7 In tandem with growth by industrial sectors, IES also grew our membership by **Engineering Discipline** in the past year. Since the founding of IES in 1966, engineers from Civil, Structural, Mechanical and Electrical engineering have formed the bulk of our membership. While these disciplines continue to be the mainstay of IES, we have also been working hard to acquire engineers from a diversity of other engineering disciplines, in light of the evolving landscape with respect to Singapore's Smart Nation initiative, the Industry Transformation Maps (ITMs) and Industry 4.0.

8 Our membership expansion plans also included growth by **Gender** and by **Age**. During the 2016/2017 term, IES has a total of 477 female members, representing eight percent of our total membership—we are aiming for 10% by the end of this 2017/18 term. On the other hand, more than 30% of IES members are aged 40 or below. We strive to attract more female and young engineers to join IES to fortify its foundation for future growth.

#### Strategic Outcome 2: Engineering as the Profession of Choice

9 Our second strategic outcome is concerned with strengthening engineering as the profession of choice. In the past year, we have done a great deal of work in this regard targeting at students, young engineers and the public.

10 For students, our aim remained at enthusing them about engineering from a young age. To this end, we have signed a MoU with the Science Centre Singapore (SCS) and the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) to form a Steering Committee. This committee has deliberated and will implement outreach programmes and talks for schools.

11 With the establishment of this committee, we have pushed forward with plans to set up an interactive engineering section on the second floor of SCS jointly with the 50 Engineering Feats winners, the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) and A\*STAR. IES will also organise road shows featuring mini exhibits to

engage students and their parents and promote the main exhibits at SCS. Our aim is to promote engineering to primary school, secondary school and junior college students through concerted efforts with the IHLs, government agencies and large corporations and industry associations.

12 As for young engineers, IES has focused on engaging them to stay in their jobs through leadership training, specifically through the Young Engineers Leadership (YEL) Programme. On 16 January 2017, in collaboration with our U Associates partner NTUC, IES achieved another milestone in the grooming of future engineering leaders, when we graduated 138 young engineers from the second cohort of YEL Programme, together with 24 senior engineers from the pioneer batch of the Advanced Engineers Leadership (AEL) Programme.

13 A key part of elevating the status of engineering as a profession of choice involves raising public appreciation of the contributions of engineers. In 2016, IES thrust the IES-SG50 campaign, launched in January 2015, into high gear. The campaign culminated with the IES Golden Jubilee Gala Dinner on 1 July 2016, with Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong as our guest-of-honour and more than 1,000 distinguished guests in attendance which include Ministers Chan Chun Seng and Masagos Zukifli.

14 The dinner accorded top honours to engineers in Singapore, as PM Lee presented commemorative plaques to the 50 winning projects of the Engineering Feats @ IES-SG50 nation-wide competition. Organised by IES, the competition stimulated overwhelming participation from various industry sectors and fervent voting from the public, garnering a total of 66,000 online votes. It was a successful endeavour to increase public's appreciation of the outstanding engineering accomplishments made by engineers to Singapore's economic, infrastructural and societal growth since 1965.

15 As part of IES-SG50, IES also arranged for a record number of consecutive talks on past, current and future engineering challenges and achievements. I am proud to share with you that in total, we managed to hold of 56 talks, attended by close to 4,000 students and members of the public.

Strategic Outcome 3: IES as the Preferred Partner for Engineering Matters

16 Our third and final strategic outcome is on strengthening IES as the preferred partner for engineering matters. To achieve this goal, we have adopted a multi-prong approach.

17 First, IES continued to advance our position as the focal point for discussions on urban engineering solutions, with a particular focus on addressing the impact of climate change. On 13 July 2016, IES organised the inaugural IES Climate Change Resilience Forum. From 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July this year, we will also once again host the World Engineers Summit 2017 in Singapore. Building on the success of previous WES events, we expect hundreds of engineers from the region and the world to convene in Singapore to continue engineering-led discussions on solutions for sustainable urban development.

18 Secondly, IES enhanced its recognition by Government, the industry and society through active engagements with key stakeholders. As President, I have led my VPs and management staff to visit many government agencies and large corporations employing sizeable number of engineers and technicians and IHLs including ITE. Through these meetings, besides consolidating our working relationship with them, we have also seeded collaboration in the areas of chartership of their engineers, leadership through engineering leadership training, career opportunities through outreach and promotion of engineering as a career, and advice and feedback through brainstorming sessions on engineering concepts and designs, by drawing upon the expertise of members of our College of Fellows and senior engineers.

19 The above visits and meetings with the chiefs of government agencies and corporations have also led to the establishment of a number of active working groups. They include working groups with PUB, BCA, JTC, DSTA, NEA, MPA, EMA and GovTech/IDMA to discuss new proposed policies and initiatives, joint training programmes, mandated training and registries and chartership. All these work will be instrumental in ensuring that IES' will be called upon by Government and corporations to provide feedback on engineering matters.

#### Additional Outcomes

20 Apart from these exciting developments, I also introduced 5 additional outcomes in last year's speech on what I thought was important for IES members to actively pursue as outcomes. These are:

- Support Technopreneuship and Enterprise
- Be Socially Responsible (Join our Social Svs Committee)
- Be Healthy
- Be Environmentally Conscious
- Be Safe at Home and at your workplace

On technopreneuship we have been engaging A\*STAR, JTC and SPRING to establish a joint incubator for technopreneuers encouraging our young engineers to be more innovative. I will like to encourage senior members to look at being mentors to these young technopreneurs. Please join us and register with our Secretariat.

21 On the social end, in the past year, I am happy to share with you that many of our Council members have stepped up to support the Community Services Committee. We are also persisting with efforts to start a cycling group @IES to supplement the existing games and sporting groups; as well as forming an interest group in Environmental Consciousness & Corporate Social Responsibility, whereby we will actively explore collaborations with the Global Compact Network of Singapore. Past President Er. Tan Seng Chuan has agreed to take the lead in this interest group and those members interested should get in touch with him through the Secretariat.

22 As you can see, in the past year, we have made significant headway towards realising our Strategic Outcomes including the additional good to have outcomes. I look forward to updating members on further progress accomplished for these Strategic Outcomes at the next AGM and I will also brief members on new areas of focus after the just concluded Away Day 2017.

23 At this point, I would also like to take a few moments to highlight a few examples of notable successes achieved in the past year, in helping Singapore build its future generation of engineers, before I draw a close to this presentation

24 One of these successes was the National Engineers Day 2016. It was the first time we held NED at the Toa Payoh HDB Hub a public area within the heartlands. It proved to be a good decision as the event successfully attracted many students and parents to participate in the series of enriching activities including talks on future of engineering, electrifying multimedia workshops and

magic of engineering performances. The event also afforded students the opportunity to discover intriguing challenges in engineering awaiting their contributions and parents the chance to get in touch with the expanding possibilities of an engineering career.

25 Apart from raising awareness, in the year, IES also directed tangible support to students to help them embark on engineering as a course of study. We raised funds amounting to more than S\$370,000 from 113 organisations and individuals for the IES-SG50 Golden Jubilee Scholarships, targeted at financially-needy students with a passion for engineering. We invited Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and NTUC Secretary-General, to present these scholarships to 50 students from local polytechnics and universities from across 15 different engineering disciplines.

26 As I conclude my message, I would like to stress that the focal point of IES' work has always been our members. As President, I am committed to continue to, amongst other efforts:

- Raise our members' technical competencies through the IES Academy;
- Certify your professional standing through the IES Professional Registries and IES Chartered Engineer Programme; and
- To continue to make IES your social and spiritual home for networking with the engineering fraternity.

27 As the first year of my term as IES President comes to an end, I would like to thank all IES Members, our partners, the IES Council and the IES Secretariat for giving IES your precious time, financial support and friendship. I look forward to serving you and bring IES to the next level in the coming year. Together, we can build on the foundation laid down by our founders and our past Presidents in the first 50 years, and to shape the future of Singapore through even greater challenges, disruptive technologies and new accomplishments in engineering.

Thank you.