

Speech by Er. Edwin Khew, President, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore at the
Launch of Alumni Club & YEL Programme Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, 5
October 2017 at NTUC Centre, Room 801, 1 Marina Boulevard

Mr. Patrick Tay, NTUC Assistant Secretary-General and Member of Parliament

Mr Vivek Kumar, NTUC Assistant Director-General, and Director, U Associate
& PME Unit

NTUC Central Committee Members,

Our valued partners for the YEL & AEL Programmes,

2017 YEL Graduands,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening.

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the third graduation ceremony of the Young Engineers Leadership (YEL) programme and to see this course thriving with such large numbers of participants. Let me now extend my warmest congratulations to the 2017 graduating class. Your achievements are worth celebrating as each one of you have worked hard to complete the course. Well done.

Successes of IES-NTUC Collaboration

2. Today's ceremony marks another important milestone in the collaboration between The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES) and NTUC. Both parties came together in 2014 with two clear goals in mind: 1) to help young engineering professionals become future-ready and globally competitive; and 2) to groom a strong core of engineering talents and next-generation engineering leaders to support Singapore's future growth.

3. Since then, our partnership has borne many fruits. The YEL Programme has trained 475 young engineers to-date, including the third cohort of which 105 young aspiring engineers will be graduating today. It has helped course participants gain a powerful combination of advanced technical management knowledge; as well as strategic leadership and soft skills. It has also given each participant valuable exposure to the insights and thinking of policy-makers and C-suite executives. In all, it has opened up short-term career advancement opportunities for young engineers and paved the way for them to take up leadership roles in the future.

4. Building on the success of the YEL Programme, IES and NTUC have also launched the Advanced Engineers Leadership (AEL) Programme in 2016. AEL focuses on nurturing senior engineers through a six-month programme comprising industry-relevant curriculum, cross-disciplinary learning opportunities, mentorship by eminent engineer-leaders, learning journey visits to high tech facilities like Rolls Royce & Microsoft and participating in networking platforms. The programme has also enjoyed significant success, with 24 graduates in January 2017 and another 28 undergoing training right now.

5. Through the YEL and AEL programmes, IES and NTUC have increased the aptitude of engineers to address emerging challenges and disruptions, embrace innovations and champion critical stages of growth for their employers and in their own career growth.

Launch of YEL and AEL Alumni Club

6. Today, IES and NTUC are taking our collaboration a step further with the launch of the Alumni Club for YEL and AEL programme graduates. The forming of this club is an important chapter in the Engineers Progression Pathway journey as it offers participants opportunities to stay well-connected with fellow engineers even after their graduation. It will create a focal point for exchange of ideas and knowledge across multi-disciplinary sectors of engineering and become a valuable resource for these engineers throughout their entire career. I have always encourage our engineers who are in project and business development to “hunt in a pack” when they go overseas, learning from the Japanese, Koreans and Taiwanese. In this way you have strength in numbers, you can strike good deals with governments as you have critical mass, you can form strong consortiums, be competitive and win projects and you can watch each others back in markets that have many pitfalls.

7. Today, we have arranged for Mr. Ong Eng Teck, Chairman of IES Young Engineers Committee, to share with you more information about upcoming activities of the Club. We welcome all YEL programme and AEL programme graduates to join the club and participate in its many activities.

8. We also invite all of you to continue to leverage on IES as a platform to engage with other engineers in the our small engineering community, be active in a technical committee (TC) of your choice, be chartered and recognised locally and globally as an engineer in your specific sector, and

continue to upgrade yourself through the many CET courses run by the more than 17 TCs and our IES Academy.

Appreciation to NTUC and Partners

9. On behalf of the IES Council, I would like to thank NTUC for your wonderful partnership and friendship in our collaborative journey in the past three years. IES is committed to continue to work with you to further develop the Engineers Progression Pathway to help engineers realise their career aspirations. Our deepest appreciation also goes out to all the companies, government agencies and individuals who have given strong support to the YEL and AEL Programmes.
10. Last but not least, I want to thank the whole IES and UA teams for successfully managing and continuing to push the YEL and AEL programmes to greater heights.
11. I wish all a pleasant evening ahead. Thank you.