

**INAUGURATION SPEECH BY DR. YEOH LEAN WENG, PRESIDENT
OF THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE, AT THE 52nd
IES AGM ON 26 MAY 2018, SATURDAY AT 1130 AM AT RAFFLES
TOWN CLUB**

Immediate Past President, Er. Edwin Khew;

Past Presidents;

Council Members and IES members;

Good afternoon;

Introduction

1. I am humbled and honoured to be appointed as the 27th President of IES.
2. I realised that I am stepping into Edwin's shoes and they are bigger shoes than I can fit, physically and literally. Edwin said to me that he is placing IES under my care. What he meant is "don't screw it up". Sure, I will do my utmost to ensure that we continue to fly the IES flag high.
3. I would like to thank Er. Edwin Khew, for his significant contributions to IES over the past two years. Under his leadership, IES has made strides in growing its membership, promoting engineering as the career of choice and strengthening our position as the preferred partner in promoting our engineering profession.
Thank you, Er Khew.

4. Going forward, with the support of the Council, my new team, I will focus on 3 key priority areas to advance the engineering profession to support Singapore's economic and societal progress. There are: (1) promoting engineering excellence; (2) building an inclusive engineering community to recognise the contributions of polytechnic and ITE graduates and (3) re-branding IES
5. I will touch briefly on each area:
6. Engineering Excellence: To align with our national priorities, IES will focus on developing engineering capabilities in advanced manufacturing, transportation, sustainability and other emerging areas alongside our current strength of the built environment. This will sharpen our relevance to support Singapore's future economic strategies, our Industry Transformation Maps and our journey towards a Smart Nation.
7. Second, A more inclusive engineering community: We will create a more inclusive engineering community. It begins with recognising not just engineers, but technicians and master craftsmen. Our engineering eco-system needs complementary skill sets of engineers and technicians to deliver end-to-end solutions. We will provide a pathway for ITE and Polytechnic graduates to be certified, recognised, and ultimately rewarded for their contributions towards the engineering profession, our society and our country.
8. And third, Re-branding IES: If we want to attract a new generation of engineers who can really deliver on Singapore's potential, engineering must be reinvigorated and repositioned as an exciting

and meaningful career; a career seen as the best place to be at this moment in time. In view of the challenges, and of the opportunities ahead, IES will rethink its position. A new brand strategy aligned to what lies ahead would be a good launch pad to lead, and drive change for the future we want to be in.

9. I would also like to correct the perception that engineering is no longer a preferred course of study in the universities. NUS and NTU continue to produce about 4000 engineering graduates yearly. There is no drop in enrolment in engineering curriculum.
10. At the Nanyang Technological University, the flagship Renaissance Engineering Programme has been constantly oversubscribed by several times since its launch in 2011. To cater to the growing number of high quality applicants, NTU has more than doubled the number of placements, from 33 students in 2011 to more than 60 for the last enrolment.
11. Similarly, the Global Engineering Programme launched by the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2009 has also been receiving applications from top A-level students. It has matriculated 200 students so far who represent the top one percent in terms of academic standing of NUS engineering students.

Conclusion

12. I invite you to join me to work towards the success of these initiatives, to rise up to the challenge and together we will make a difference in engineering a better nation and a better world; you can make a difference. Thank you.