

**Speech by Er. Edwin Khew, President,
The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, at IES Appreciation & Awards Night 2016/2017
on Thursday, 18 January 2018, 6pm at NTUC Downtown East, Begonia Pavilion Cassia 1**

Fellow Members, staff and friends of IES,
A very good evening to all of you.

1. I hope that the new year has started wonderfully well for everyone and all of you are refreshed and raring to go for 2018. But before we charge ahead for the new year, it is timely for us to gather to take stock of the past year's achievements; but also appreciate and recognise members in the IES family who have made these achievements possible.
2. I believe that all of you have contributed to different IES initiatives and activities in the past year. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you how your individual efforts have collectively enabled IES to make significant advancements in our three strategic goals for the last 12 months, i.e. partnerships, professional recognition and growth.
3. In the area of partnerships, I am pleased to share with you that IES has made good headway in deepening our collaboration with the Government, Institutions of Higher Learning and the Industry. Some exciting developments include joining hands with the Land Transport Authority (LTA) to register the skillsets of automotive and bus technical professionals; co-chairing the Built Environment SkillsFuture Tripartite (BEST) Taskforce to enhance the future-readiness of the sector; and signing an MoU with the Singapore Precision Engineering and Technology Association to accelerate industry-wide transformation.
4. Our partnership endeavor also includes international collaboration like the biennial World Engineers Summit, where we partnered Applied Energy Symposium and Forum in July 2017. After months of hard work, IES successfully convened more than 400 engineering professionals from all over the world in Singapore to focus on low carbon cities and sustainable urban development. Through the event, IES provided an important platform for the exchange of ideas and formation of partnerships amongst the global engineering community that would be vital in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.
5. The past year also saw IES breaking new grounds in media partnerships, as a result of our ongoing engagement efforts with many editors and journalists. With the support of our technical committees, IES has now become an authoritative voice for all engineering matters across various media outlets (radio, TV, cyberspace and the printed press), playing an important role in educating and exciting the public about engineering.
6. In our second strategic goal, to establish engineering as a profession of choice, IES's efforts to attract, nurture and retain talents in engineering continued to developed. On one end, the eighth annual National Engineers Day organised by IES in July 2017, along with the Energy Innovation Challenge, managed to stimulate interest in engineering amongst thousands of school students. On the other end, IES also continued to groom many engineering talents into potential future engineering leaders, through our engineering leadership programmes with NTUC.

7. Another key focus area for IES in the past year was raising the status and profile of engineering. To this end, we expanded new engineering branches to our Chartered Engineer Programme, as part of our plans to extend professional recognition of engineers across all sectors. The latest CEng sector on Port and Marine was jointly launched with PSA.
8. Our last strategic goal focuses on membership growth and I would like to report to you that last year, our membership grew by 1,000 – similar to the growth we saw the year before. Besides quantity, membership has also grown in diversity in terms of engineering disciplines, industry sectors, age groups and professional status, and across both genders. This growth shows that our engagement efforts with government agencies, IHLs and engineering employers is paying off, and will put us on course to expand our membership base to 10,000 engineers and technicians over the next two to three years.
9. The above are just examples of what IES has achieved in the past year. I apologise for not being able to name all of our accomplishments due to the constraint of time as I am standing between you and dinner. In closing, I would also like to congratulate all those who are receiving awards tonight and hope that your outstanding contributions will inspire more members to strive to do more in the new year.
10. Thank you and I wish you all a lovely evening ahead.