

SPEECH BY PROF. YEOH LEAN WENG, PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE AT THE 53RD IES AGM ON 25 MAY 2019, SATURDAY AT 1.00PM AT BALLROOM II AND III, LEVEL 1, RAFFLES TOWN CLUB, 1 PLYMOUTH AVENUE SINGAPORE 297753

Past Presidents;

Council Members and IES members;

Good afternoon.

1. Thank you for joining us at the 53rd IES Annual General Meeting. It has been a privilege for me to serve as your 27th President for the past year.

Key Achievements in Priority Areas

2. With your support and commitment, IES has made good progress in the three areas that my Council and I have identified as priorities at the beginning of my presidential term. Today, I am pleased to report key achievements in each area.
3. Let me briefly restate the priority areas. They are (1) promoting engineering excellence, (2) building an inclusive engineering community to recognise the contributions of polytechnic and ITE graduates and (3) rebranding IES.

4. In engineering excellence, our goal is to develop engineering capabilities in emerging areas to complement Singapore's strengths in the built environment, in alignment with our national priorities.
5. The Chartered Engineer (Singapore) Registry, a key initiative on this front, has made important strides over the past year. We have increased the number of Chartered Engineers from 266 to 329, covering 7 sectors of engineering crucial to Singapore's economic growth. Infrastructure Engineering was the seventh sector added to the programme to address the growing demands in this sector.
6. IES' 17 Technical Committees played an important role in building engineering capabilities to support our nation's initiatives. [The Façade Division of the C&S Engineering Technical Committee provided training advisory and consultation](#) to IES Academy for the Façade Inspector course.
7. The M&E Engineering TC, together with BCA and ACES, set up the Lift & Escalator Inspector Registry. It also provided advice to IESA for LEI course development.
8. The Railway and Transportation Engineering TC, together with LTA, [was involved in determining suitable assessments and drawing up the criteria for the competency assessment framework for the national Bus](#)

Technician Certification. First batch of 19 technicians received their certificates in Aug 2018.

9. We have also launched the Global Engineers Leadership (GEL) Programme to groom senior engineers into C-Suite industry leaders. Together with the Young Engineers Leadership Programme and the Advanced Engineers Leadership Programme, it completes the Engineers Progression Pathway, a joint effort by IES and the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) to nurture the next generation of engineering leaders for Singapore.
10. Another initiative is the establishment of the IES-Incubator and Accelerator (IES-INCA) Programme to promote engineering excellence in innovation and technopreneurship. PHAOS *<pronounced FORCE>* Technology, an optics technology start-up has become our first incubatee. Under this programme, IES-INCA helps to develop the business plan, commercialising strategy and raise fund.
11. I would like to encourage our members to be come forward to be part of this Programme whether as mentor or with your innovation.
12. Our second priority area is creating an inclusive engineering community. We have embarked on efforts to recognise not just engineers, but technicians and master craftsmen, to build a robust engineering eco-system. This involves reviewing of our current

constitution, to admit these individuals as IES members and to be represented on the IES Council. A National Engineering Career Progress Pathway for Technologists and Technicians is also underway to provide professional recognition based on experience and skill-based training.

13. And lastly, re-branding IES. It is about reinvigorating engineering to attract a new generation of engineers; and developing a new brand strategy for IES to lead and drive change for the future. We have already shortlisted branding consultants and reached out to Enterprise Singapore for possible funding for this project. At our Away Day last month, we mooted the idea of setting up a national-level engineering council, championed by IES, to better coordinate and address challenges that cut across public, private and academic sectors. To create bigger impact and a higher profile for engineering, IES is exploring the possibility of aligning the National Engineers Day with the designated World Engineering Day on 4 March 2020.

Other Milestones

14. In the year, IES also successfully hosted the 36th Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (CAFEO). The event provided a platform for more than 1000 engineering professionals, speakers and exhibitors from 24 countries to exchange ideas, best practices and solutions to drive economic growth in ASEAN.

15. Under the conference themes of 'Engineering Rail Connectivity' and 'Fostering Excellence in Engineering Education', IES hosted the Singapore Rail Technology Conference (SRTC) and the ASEAN Engineering Deans Summit (AEDS).
16. SRTC helped to facilitate rail operators and owners in exchange of knowledge, resolutions and case studies in delivering, managing and maintaining railway projects and assets in Asia.
17. Whereas AEDS enabled engineering deans, academics and leaders of accreditation bodies to share case studies and to discuss how universities can design and deliver educational programmes of top quality and nurture not just knowledgeable and multi-disciplinary engineers but also deeply-skilled engineers and technicians.
18. In July 2018, IES also hosted the ninth National Engineers Day (NED). Under the theme "Unlocking a smart future through engineering innovations", NED held 6 talks and 7 workshops to intrigue students in engineering. The Energy Innovation Challenge (EIC) under NED, attracted 120 student teams to compete in developing solutions to address global energy issues. I would also like to thank our members who participated in the Energy Innovation Challenge as the students' mentors.

Conclusion

19. In the coming year, my Council and I will continue to work hard to achieve our set goals. A better tomorrow is possible if we act to make changes today. I call for your support to work with us to realise this exciting future. Thank you.