

**INAUGURATION SPEECH BY DR RICHARD KWOK,
INCOMING PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION OF
ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE AT THE 54TH IES AGM ON
25 JULY 2020, SATURDAY AT 1PM ON ZOOM WEBINAR**

Immediate Past President, Prof Yeoh Lean Weng;

Emeritus Presidents;

Council Members and IES members;

Good afternoon.

Introduction

1. Thank you for joining us at the 54th IES Annual General Meeting. The world is still in the midst of dealing with a global pandemic. I am humbled and excited to be elected the 28th President of IES and to serve during this extraordinary period. COVID-19 has made our work even more challenging and pressing but I am ready to work with all of you to bring IES forward to make greater contributions to the society.
2. I would like to thank our outgoing president, Prof Yeoh Lean Weng, for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. He has led IES to make significant progress in driving engineering excellence, building an inclusive engineering community and re-positioning IES. I would like to invite everyone to join me in giving him a big round of applause. Thank you, Lean Weng!

3. Moving forward, with the support of the Council and all our members, I will focus on a **two-pronged strategy** to advance IES towards its vision of being the heart and voice of engineers and the national professional body and home for engineers in Singapore. The strategy is also to align with our mission to advance and promote the science, art and profession of engineering for the well-being of mankind.
4. The strategy has been developed **to deliver value to** three main groups of people. They are:
 - Our **members**;
 - Our stakeholders from different **organisations**; and
 - Our **community**.

First Prong: Driving Excellence in Strategic Initiatives

5. The **first** prong of our two-year strategy aims to **drive greater excellence in four strategic initiatives**.
6. The first initiative is to **elevate our academy and training platforms to higher standards**. We plan to enhance opportunities for continuous professional development and upskilling for engineering professionals.
7. **Secondly**, we aim to make our registry **accreditation** processes even **more holistic and synergistic**. This will give greater support to the recognition of engineering professionals and raise their standing locally and internationally.

8. Our **third** initiative will focus on delivering enhanced value to our members and increasing membership and outreach efforts so that more engineers can join the IES family and take advantage of its many membership benefits.
9. Lastly, we aim to **enable our Technical Committees** (or TCs) to achieve engineering excellence for the benefit of our members and stakeholders.

Second Prong: Driving Excellence in Key Action Steps

10. The second prong of my strategy is **employing three key action steps** to guide us towards excellence in achieving the three identified initiatives. **I call them the 'DiSH', as in "Satellite Dish" spelled as** Di-s-h, whereby:
 - **'Di' stands for digitalisation.** Our aim is to integrate all technical resources and business processes to make information more accessible for our members and key stakeholders. In this way, IES can also uplift our administrative standards and operational productivity.
 - **Next, the 'S' stands for standardisation.** This action step is about standardising all work processes to enhance organisational output and efficiency.
 - The last alphabet in the acronym is **'H' and it stands for harmonisation.** This involves synchronising and harmonising all existing committees and initiatives to achieve maximum synergy across all functions at IES.

Conclusion

11. COVID-19 has undoubtedly disrupted our work, our lives and our economy. But it has also built greater resilience, creativity and unity amongst communities all over the world.
12. Our journey to drive change for the future starts now, with you and me. With your help, we can shape IES into a high impact institution. We have created a survey to gather your views on how we can make our journey ahead a meaningful one. You can access the survey with the QR code on the screen. I look forward to your active participation. A few minutes of your time may make a big difference to our future.
13. I invite you to join me and my team so that together, as one society and one team of engineers, we can give our members, our community and our country the best that engineering can offer. Thank you.