

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR BRUCE POH, DIRECTOR & CEO/ITE, AT THE
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INAUGURAL HUMAN PATIENT SIMULATION
NETWORK (HPSN) ASIA PACIFIC MEDICAL EDUCATION AND SIMULATION
CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2008, AT 0900 HOURS, ITE COLLEGE
EAST**

Mr Thomas Doyle
Vice-President, Education & Training
Medical Education Technologies Incorporated (METI), USA

Members of the Medical and Education Fraternity

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

- 1 Good morning. On behalf of ITE, let me extend a warm welcome to you and to the Inaugural Human Patient Simulation Network (HPSN) Asia Pacific Medical Education & Simulation Conference organised by ITE in collaboration with Medical Education Technologies Inc, USA or METI. We have, among us, many guests and participants from overseas. I welcome you warmly to Singapore and wish you an enjoyable time here.
- 2 ITE is honoured to collaborate with METI to host this inaugural conference for health and healthcare education professionals from the Asia Pacific region. ITE's collaboration with METI went back to 2005 when we first established ITE College East – our first comprehensive College that you are now in. Then, we were looking for a partner to work with us to pioneer new pedagogies in health care

education. The last three years of collaboration have been deeply fulfilling and satisfying. Together with METI, our School of Applied and Health Sciences of ITE College East had not only trained almost 3,000 Enrolled Nurses, many of them highly commended by patients and healthcare professionals at hospitals, but also led in the development of new pedagogies for training Enrolled nurses for the Healthcare sector in Singapore.

Challenges of Healthcare Sector

- 3 Like other healthcare sectors worldwide, Singapore's healthcare sector face many challenges. These include rising healthcare costs, changing treatment modalities, rising expectations of patients, technology changes and the shortage of healthcare professionals. The healthcare sector has to meet these challenges in order to build a strong healthcare system that is accessible and equitable for everyone in the community.
- 4 All over the world, the healthcare sector is also expanding faster than the general economy. We face a shortage of doctors, nurses and other allied healthcare professionals. Their ever-increasing demand almost always outstrip supply.
- 5 In Singapore, our total population is growing rapidly, and our population is also ageing rapidly. The healthcare needs of an expanding and an ageing population will strain and create great demands on the healthcare resources of our small country. I am sure many of you come from countries with similar challenges.

6 One way to meet these needs is to ramp up the training and retraining of our healthcare personnel. We need to do this effectively and efficiently to achieve optimum staff-to-patient ratio and quality care. Today, caring for patients requires a multi-disciplinary approach and team work. The traditional method of training according to professional roles and functions will not be adequate to help healthcare personnel fulfill their roles in a multi-disciplinary team. We therefore need to re-look at ways to promote and facilitate the training of a new generation of healthcare professionals who are creative, dynamic, decisive, good communicators, technically-advanced and capable of making good clinical decisions.

Innovative Healthcare Training in ITE

7 As an education institution, we have the responsibility of training and developing the healthcare personnel to meet the challenges ahead. Simulation pedagogy and technology is one way to achieve this goal. Education theories have proven that lessons taught via simulation establish an emotional tag that allows learners to be actively involved in the learning process. And this results in greater retention. Undergoing a simulated clinical experience enables learners to practise under a very safe environment. They can make mistakes, learn from their mistakes, reflect upon their thought processes, identify gaps in their own knowledge and skills in decision-making and implementation and take an active role in their ongoing learning needs. There will be no casualties in such a learning process.

- 8 We have taken bold strides to be innovative and creative in our teaching and learning. This was the impetus that led to the creation of our own Healthcare Simulation Centre in collaboration with METI in 2006. The Centre has never failed to impress visitors of ITE College East. To date, the Centre has conducted simulation training for all ITE's nursing students, with each spending 60 hours of simulation practice at the Centre per year.
- 9 We have developed over 79 simulated clinical scenarios that are contextualized for practices. We have also provided training for our faculty members, doctors, nurses, emergency personnel from the Singapore Armed Forces and the Singapore Civil Defence Force, as well as healthcare technicians, locally and from overseas.
- 10 This conference is a step towards our goal of providing integrated multi-disciplinary approach to authentic learning for our students. It will be an opportunity for professionals like you to share and learn ideas that will impact on areas of healthcare training, education and professional practice.

Conclusion

- 11 In closing, may I thank the Organising Committee co-chaired by Dr Ang Kiam Wee, Deputy Principal of ITE College East and Mr Calvin Tang, Director, Asia Pacific Office, METI, for putting this event together. I would also like to thank

METI and Kestrel, without whose support, this conference would not have been possible.

12 I wish you a fruitful and thought-provoking Conference. May the networks you create today be the basis of many future collaborative efforts.

13 Thank you.