

**STATEMENT BY MR BOB TAN, CHAIRMAN/ITE BOARD OF GOVERNORS,  
AT NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER ITE BOARD VISIT TO PRECISION  
ENGINEERING INDUSTRY ON WED 26 NOV2008 AT 1115 HOURS**

**ITE INTRODUCES FOUR NEW FULL-TIME PRECISION ENGINEERING  
COURSES TO ATTRACT TALENTS INTO THE PRECISION ENGINEERING  
INDUSTRY**

**Introduction**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, and members of the media

1 On behalf of ITE, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Management staff of Singapore Aerospace Manufacturing and Yamazaki Mazak Singapore, for hosting this morning's visit.

2 With me on the News Conference Panel are:

- Mr Toshimitsu Kito, Managing Director of Yamazaki Mazak Singapore Pte Ltd
- Mr Jeffrey Goh, President and CEO of Singapore Aerospace Manufacturing Pte Ltd
- Mr Bruce Poh, Director & CEO, ITE
- Mr Heng Guan Teck, Deputy CEO (Academic), ITE
- Mr Tan Seng Hua, Principal, ITE College Central

**Growth in Precision Engineering Sector**

3 The Precision Engineering (PE) industry is the backbone of industries like electronics, aerospace, transport, medical technology and other manufacturing industries. It contributes to 10% of Singapore's total manufacturing output and employs more than 94,000 employees or 25% of the total manufacturing workforce here.

4 While the PE sector is not spared the global downturn, it will, in the long run, continue to be an important growth engine of the Singapore economy. We therefore need to look at developing its manpower capabilities to strengthen the local talent pool, many of whom have conventional PE skills.

## **ITE's Response to Manpower Needs in PE**

5 In 2007, ITE took stock of developments in the PE industry and conducted a review of the existing PE curriculum to ensure its continued relevance to industry.

6 As a result of the review, I am pleased to announce **four new PE-related Courses** that would help to develop a new generation set of PE skills and prepare ITE graduates to serve in the high-value manufacturing industries that are being attracted to Singapore.

7 These full-time courses to be implemented in January 2009 are:

- ***Nitec* in Aerospace Machining Technology**
- ***Nitec* in Machine Building Technology**
- ***Nitec* in Medical Manufacturing Technology**
- ***Nitec* in Semiconductor Tooling Technology**

## **What Courses Offer**

8 These courses will be conducted at **ITE College West (Ang Mo Kio Campus)** and **ITE College West (Balestier Campus)**. Each course will have an initial intake of **160** students.

9 The four courses are uniquely designed to allow participants to acquire secondary skills, in addition to their own core skills, thus enabling them to be converted into other vertical tracks of the industry. This would enable the workforce to be more versatile.

10 Deserving students could be awarded scholarships by some nine companies. These include:

- Singapore Aerospace Manufacturing
- Yamazaki Mazak Singapore
- MTS CNC Systems
- AMADA Singapore
- Crafts Precision Engineering & Tools
- JEP Precision Engineering
- Riken Engineering
- TechTown – MasterCAM
- Renishaw Singapore

11 I understand that another 12 companies have indicated interest to participate in the Scholarship Awards Scheme. To date, a total of 29 scholarships totaling some \$70,000 will be offered to ITE students in these courses annually.

12 In addition, students undergoing a six-month industry attachment with the PE companies will also be paid a \$500 monthly allowance. So far, 46 companies have pledged some 200 industry attachment places.

### **Conclusion**

13 It is heartening to note that, in these difficult times, companies are continuing to invest in training for the longer term benefits of the industry. The demand for highly-skilled technicians with the right skills sets and expertise for the industry will grow, as the PE industry moves up the value chain.

14 ITE will continue to explore the needs of other industries and introduce relevant courses as and when the need arises.

15 Thank you.