

**SPEECH BY DR YEK TIEW MING, PRINCIPAL, ITE COLLEGE WEST AT THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATIONAL RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION CENTRE (NRC) ON TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2009 SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 3, SIMTECH TOWER BLOCK 71 NANYANG DRIVE SINGAPORE 638075 AT 0900 HOURS**

Mr Philip Lim  
General Manager, Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd  
A\*STAR

Dr. Lee Eng Wah  
Director, National RFID Centre

Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

**Introduction**

Good morning and thank you for taking time to witness the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and National Radio Frequency Identification Centre (or NRC in short). Today's ceremony marks the beginning of the collaboration between ITE and NRC to enhance the training of some 850 ITE students annually who enrolled in the *Nitec* and *Higher Nitec* courses in Info-Communications Technology and Electronics Engineering.

2 Partnership with leading industry players is a key strategy adopted by ITE to keep pace with rapid changes in the global economy and technology landscape. The partnership with NRC is an excellent example of such strong collaborations.

## **Scope of Collaboration**

3 Under the scope of collaboration, NRC will assist ITE to set up a RFID Technology Centre at the new ITE College West at Choa Chu Kang. At the Centre, both parties can showcase new RFID technologies and projects.

4 Under the "One ITE System, Three Colleges" Education and Governance Model, ITE College West's focus is to be "An ITE College of Excellence for Service Quality". ITE's partnership with NRC in the setting up of the RFID Technology Centre, will act as a catalyst for the adoption of RFID in the service industry sector.

5 In addition, ITE staff and students will be provided with free access to NRC's training materials on RFID applications, and will have opportunities to undergo Industry Attachment in companies that have obtained NRC grants for developing RFID application in niche areas. This network opens up opportunities for ITE staff to develop joint projects and training programmes with these companies.

6 ITE also sees this as an excellent opportunity for the transfer of technology to ITE staff and students through learning, sharing and exchange of RFID knowledge. It would be a great bonus if we could initiate more joint projects during the collaboration period.

## **Conclusion**

7 In conclusion, this MOU will pave the way for a closer and stronger working relationship between the staff of ITE and NRC, as well as its industrial partners in RFID Technologies. With an expanded network in place, ITE and NRC can further explore avenues to create opportunities for our staff and students to work together with local SMEs, creating win-win for all parties.

8 On this note, on behalf of ITE, may I thank Mr Phillip Lim, and Dr Lee Eng Wah as well as the staff of A\*STAR and National RFID Centre for their continuing support of ITE and technical education in Singapore. I am confident that with this new level of collaboration comes a host of enriched opportunities for our staff and students, and a strong foundation for a rewarding partnership in the years ahead.

Thank you.