

REMARKS BY MR BOB TAN, CHAIRMAN/ITE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, AT NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER ITE BOARD VISIT TO BIOLOGICS INDUSTRY ON WED 25 NOV 2009 AT 1115 HOURS AT BOARDROOM, LEVEL 9, ITE HEADQUARTERS, DOVER DRIVE

ITE INTRODUCES NEW FULL-TIME COURSE FOR THE BIOMEDICAL INDUSTRY

Introduction

- 1 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and members of the media.
- 2 To ensure its relevance, ITE continually reviews its courses and explores new courses to meet new or expanding manpower needs of industry.
- 3 Today, I am pleased to announce the launch of a new full-time course to meet emerging needs of the Biomedical Sciences industry – the **Nitec in Chemical Process Technology (Biologics)**.
- 4 With me on the Panel are:
 - Mr Bruce Poh, Director & CEO, ITE
 - Mr Heng Guan Teck, Deputy CEO (Academic), ITE
 - Dr Ricky Tam, Principal, ITE College East

About the Biomedical Sciences Industry

- 5 Singapore aims to be the Biopolis of Asia, a leading international biomedical sciences cluster advancing human health by achieving excellence across the entire value chain.
- 6 It is shaping up to be a fledgling Biologics manufacturing hub, with **US\$2 billion** worth of investments in the last four years. The investments will lead to the building of **six** new manufacturing plants. The high-value biologics industry is expected to grow at a rate between **10-15 %** annually.
- 7 According to the Economic Development Board (EDB), Singapore has established itself as a global site for pharmaceutical and medical technology manufacturing. Currently, more than 50 biomedical sciences companies are carrying out R&D activities that include drug discovery, clinical research, and medical technology innovation.

Manpower Needs in the Biologics Manufacturing Sector

- 8 Currently, the biomedical sector has a workforce of about 12,450. It will grow to 15,000 by 2015, with **1300 new skilled positions for the biologics industry**. These jobs include: process/production engineers and technicians, as well as QA/QC specialists and technicians.
- 9 To meet the expected demand for skilled personnel, ITE has been working with the biologics manufacturing companies since early this year to develop a new **National ITE Certificate (*Nitec*) in Chemical Process Technology (Biologics) course**.
- 10 The new course will train Process Technicians to:
- operate and maintain process plants and equipment
 - monitor and control system and processes for production of therapeutic products
 - perform various equipment cleaning, preparation and purification processes
 - maintain product quality and handle documentation to meet all regulatory requirements.

About the New Course

- 11 The new *Nitec* in Chemical Process Technology (Biologics) will be offered from **January 2010**, at **ITE College East** under its School of Applied & Health Sciences. The annual intake is **40 students**, with relevant GCE 'O' and GCE 'N' qualifications.
- 12 Those who perform well can further their studies in local polytechnics offering biopharmaceutical-related diploma programmes. They can also look forward to exciting and diverse career opportunities within the biomedical sciences industry. Prospects are bright for career development and progression, with a starting salary of between \$1,200 and \$1,500 per month.

Conclusion

- 13 Most of the new biologics companies will kick-start their manufacturing operations in 2010/2011. It is thus timely for ITE to introduce the new course in January.
- 14 May I now open this session for questions from the media.