

OPENING ADDRESS BY DR RICKY TAM, PRINCIPAL OF ITE COLLEGE EAST, FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY OF ITE SPORT & EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2009 HELD ON FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 2009 AT 0900 HOURS, AT ITE COLLEGE EAST

Mr Teo Ser Luck, Senior Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports &
Ministry of Transport and
Mayor of North East CDC

Distinguished guests;

Conference participants

Students of ITE

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

1. A very good morning to all of you. Welcome to the ITE Sport & Education Conference 2009.
2. These are exciting times for Singapore's sporting scene. In less than a year, the world will be focusing on our nation as the inaugural Youth Olympic Games or YOG kicks off come August 2010. It is thus timely for us, the practitioners, educationists and enthusiasts, to gather and share best sporting practices. We can always do better.
3. This Conference also provides an excellent platform for us to network with other players in the sports fraternity, especially our distinguished speakers who come from a wide range of expertise in planning, management, development, coaching and promotion of sports.

ITE - a Partner of the YOG Movement

4. On a broader scope, we hope that fruitful discussions generated from the theme of the Conference: "Youth as an Emerging Force in Sports" will contribute to the overall YOG movement. ITE sees itself as a partner in the efforts of the YOG. At least 2,100 of our students have registered as volunteers for the Games. Our staff from ITE College West will be providing training in the area of service excellence for all the

20,000 volunteers and ITE College East will be used as one of the premises for the core training of volunteers. I am also happy to note that some of our students will also be competing in the Games to bring glory to Singapore, and build bridges of friendship with youths of the world.

5. All students of ITE go through sports as an integral part of their curriculum. Besides weekly Sports and Wellness classes for our students, we also have a robust CCA programme. Of commendable mention are our Soccer, Basketball, Floorball, Sepak Takraw and the Track and Field Teams. These teams have consistently achieved top honours in both College-level competitions as well as the Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic (IVP) level competitions. With our comprehensive range of sports amenities in ITE, students are able to realise their sporting aspirations in addition to getting a quality education.

Conclusion

6. In the spirit of the Olympic values “**Excellence**”, “**Friendship**” and “**Respect**”, I would like to conclude by acknowledging the ‘**Excellence**’ in the support of the Singapore Sports Council, the Co-Curricular Activities Branch of Ministry of Education as well as the Singapore Physical Education Association towards our planning for this Conference.
7. I would also like to thank our Guest-of-Honour Mr Teo Ser Luck, for your ‘**Friendship**’ in endorsing our efforts towards the YOG by honouring us all with your presence.
8. May I also take this opportunity to express my ‘**Respect**’ and thanks to the Organising Committee, our sponsors and everyone else who has contributed to this Conference.
9. I will now leave you to enjoy the exciting programme planned for you over the next two days. Have an enjoyable and fruitful session ahead.

Thank you.