

**OPENING REMARKS BY MRS JOSEPHINE TEO, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, BISHAN-TOA PAYOH GRC AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL, NATIONAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS AT THE OPENING OF BEACH FIESTA ON SAT 30 JANUARY 2010, 10:30AM AT THE SAPPHIRE PAVILION, SILOSO BEACH, SENTOSA**

Mr Bruce Poh  
Director & CEO, ITE

Mr Yeo Khee Leng  
CEO, NTUC Club

Mr Jimmy Wong  
Events Director, Sentosa Leisure Group

Distinguished Guests  
Staff and Students  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
Good morning.

**Introduction**

I am delighted to join all of you this morning at Beach Fiesta – in celebration of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

2 Indeed, 2010 will be a special year for Singapore as we celebrate hosting the YOG in Singapore. Some 3,600 athletes, aged between 14 and 18 years, from all over the world, are expected to gather in Singapore to compete in 26 sports events. They will also be taking part in a Cultural and Education programme from 14 to 26 August 2010. We hope that the athletes and team members, and their family, will have a delightful, uniquely Singapore experience with each and everyone of us making them feel at home right here in our home!

**Promoting the Olympic Values**

3 These core Olympic values also hold tremendous benefits for our youths, as they learn and work together, in celebrating the YOG. We have brought together many youths under the 2010 Singapore CAN! platform. 'CAN', which stands for 'Create Action Now', aims to bring our youths together to celebrate and be part of the YOG in different ways.

4 So I am glad that the students of ITE have taken up the challenge, together with NTUC Club, nEbO and Sentosa, in organising this Beach Fiesta. Today's celebration will offer an exciting variety of activities to engage everyone, young and old!

## **Unique Brand of ITE Education**

5 I am told that many of the games and activities today have been planned and organised by ITE students, showing their '*Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on*' talents.

6 Indeed, ITE's unique brand of education provides its students with a competitive edge when they graduate to work in industry or further their studies. Recently, at a Parliamentary debate held on 11th January this year, I encouraged students who are more 'technically-inclined' to opt for the ITE education after their Secondary 4N. For this group of students, a practice-oriented education at the ITE may better suit their interests and aptitudes. This would lead to a more fulfilling and motivating education, as well as better employment prospects and further education opportunities.

7 ITE has nurtured and produced many all-rounded graduates with the right mindset and skills to face the challenges of the global marketplace. Through working closely and continuously with youth establishments, such as nEbO on events such as today's, ITE has also created opportunities for students to network and broaden their horizons beyond traditional school activities. Such collaboration has helped to put in place a healthy environment that allows our youths and their talents to flourish. Witness for yourselves, our youths' creativity and capabilities! Beach Fiesta is an affirmation of the value that ITE education has imparted to our youths.

## **Conclusion**

8 I would like to commend the staff and students of ITE, as well as participating schools, institutions and establishments for your strong commitment in planning, organising and participating in this exciting event. To the co-organisers, namely NTUC Club, nEbO and Sentosa, as well as other supporting organisations, I applaud your dedication and support towards promoting youth development in Singapore.

9 I understand that there are more than 5,000 participants here today, not to mention the 500 students and staff, who have been working diligently behind the scenes. Without your passion and enthusiasm, Beach Fiesta would not have been possible. Well done for your excellent efforts!

10 And on that note, let me wish all of you loads of fun and an enjoyable Beach Fiesta day in Sentosa.

Thank you.