

**Embargoed until after delivery**

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR BRUCE POH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, AT THE *FIVE-TO-ONE RUN*, ON FRI 11 JUN 2010 AT 1230 HOURS AT THE NEW ITE COLLEGE WEST, 1 CHOA CHU KANG GROVE**

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Ms Jennie Chua  
Chairperson, Community Chest of Singapore

Friends from the Choa Chu Kang Constituency

Donors, colleagues and students

Ladies and gentlemen

### **Introduction**

Good afternoon.

2 I hope all of you are having an enjoyable time at this important event. I have just had the pleasure of joining members of the ITE College West Directorate in running the final leg of the Torch Relay into this beautiful new College a while ago. Please

join me in applauding all staff and students, who volunteered for today's Five-to-One Run to celebrate the moving-in of the new ITE College West.

3 This Run commemorates another significant milestone in the development of ITE under our **“One ITE, Three Colleges” Education Model**. This is the first time we are merging existing campuses into a new College campus. When ITE College East at Simei became operational in 2005, it was a different experience for us. It was then a brand new college with no merger of existing campuses. Today's Run, however, celebrates the merging of five smaller ITE College West campuses into one comprehensive campus.

### **Opportunities for Students and Staff**

4 For all past and present students of ITE, this brand new, ultra-modern mega College stands as a timely reminder of our government's firm commitment to education, and its strong belief in the ITE Education System. In fact, this College – your College – has better facilities than many universities and colleges overseas. So, I urge you to treasure and leverage on the authentic learning facilities, the recreational and sporting

amenities, and the luscious green environment, to maximise your learning and campus life. Enjoy and treasure the College facilities and amenities so that your fellow students and the students who join in later years can continue to enjoy this beautiful campus.

5 To all colleagues, this new campus presents an opportunity for us, as educators, to be unconventional and innovative in our approach towards student learning, knowledge and skills acquisition. Under our new strategic plan launched in February this year, we have set our vision to be: **A Global Leader for Innovations in Technical Education**. We want to focus on new pedagogic approaches and authentic learning. We want to create the best educational value for our students. We want our students to enjoy a varied and enriching education like their counterparts globally.

6 With the Centre for Service Innovation, a 22-room Training Hotel, four training restaurants and a wine cellar, and several Centres of Technology with leading industry partners, it will be a whole new world for students and staff. With a potent mix of strategic connectivity, innovative capacity and passionate staff, we look forward to the abundant opportunities for experimentation and innovations in Vocational and Technical Education.

## **Benefits for Community Partners**

7 Education is beyond teaching and learning. We hope to instill in our students the care for others and the community. Caring for and engaging the community is a vital part of our holistic education model. Over the years, ITE has made its presence felt very strongly in the area of community partnerships. Our students leverage on their skills and knowledge to help the needy and less fortunate, locally and overseas. One of our flagship community projects is the **Safe Home Programme**, implemented in conjunction with all the Community Development Councils since 2000, where our students and staff fix elderly-friendly fixtures for the elderly poor living in one-room rental flats. The programme was awarded the prestigious **President's Social Service Award** in 2007.

8 I am encouraged that ITE College West has already started working with the grassroots organisations in Choa Chu Kang, even before officially moving in here. One recent example is the **Recycling Project in Celebration of Singapore 2010** held in May. This is a good start. We look forward to establishing ITE College West as an integral part of the Choa Chu Kang community and landscape. We hope to leverage on our facilities,

resources and expertise to contribute positively to the Choa Chu Kang community the ITE way - *Hands-on, Minds-on and Hearts-on*.

## **Conclusion**

9 I am deeply heartened that we have raised **\$111,888** for today's Five-to-One Run, to help the less-privileged under the auspices of the **Community Chest of Singapore**. We are grateful for the gesture of compassion and support towards the community and the less fortunate Singaporeans. We truly appreciate the generosity and donations from all our partners, friends and staff of ITE.

10 Last but not least, I would like to thank everyone for taking precious time to be with us here today to celebrate this new beginning for ITE College West. To the Organising Committee, thank you, too, for the hard work in making this event a great success.

11 Thank you all and continue to have lots of fun.