

**ADDRESS BY MR BRUCE POH, DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ITE, AT THE ITE GRADUATION CEREMONY 2010, ON WEDNESDAY 21 JULY 2010, AT 1430 HOURS, UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTRE**

**Dr Ng Eng Hen**

Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence

**Mr Bob Tan**

Chairman/ITE Board of Governors

Members of the ITE Board, Donors and Partners

Graduands, Parents,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

**Introduction**

- 1 Good afternoon and welcome to the ITE Graduation Ceremony 2010. We are honoured to have Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence, as our Guest-of-Honour. Thank you, Minister, for your presence.
- 2 Today, we celebrate the achievement of **12,409** students as they graduate from ITE's full-time, part-time and traineeship courses for Academic Year 2009/2010. Of these, **700** will receive **Certificates of Merit** for excelling academically. Among them, **164** graduands will be

awarded **Course Medals** for achieving outstanding results<sup>1</sup>.

- 3 To all graduands and award winners, well done and congratulations on your achievements.

## **Key Achievements in AY09/10**

### **High Enrolment and New Courses**

- 4 Year 2009/2010 has been a remarkable year for ITE, for many reasons. First, our full-time student enrolment hit a record high of **24,800**, which is 20% higher than our enrolment of 20,900 five years ago. Second, it reflects the higher confidence parents have in an ITE education, the increasing attractiveness of our courses and the vibrant learning environment of ITE colleges.
- 5 To meet the manpower demand from various industries, ITE constantly plans for new courses, while reviewing existing ones. In response to the emerging needs of industries and to provide a wider choice of courses for students, ITE introduced **52 new full-time courses** over the last five years. In **Year 2010 alone, ITE introduced 15<sup>2</sup>** new full-time courses in areas ranging from media design and hospitality, to IT and engineering. This brings

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<sup>1</sup> The numbers include 41 TED graduates.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Diploma programme

our total number of full-time courses to **83, more than double** the number offered five years ago.

- 6 At ITE, we also recognise the importance of instilling a global mindset in our students, to ensure that they are not only “work-ready” but “world ready”. In year 2009, **one in four ITE** students participated in our Global Education Programme in **18 countries** around the world, including Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Korea and USA. Through exposure to foreign cultures under the Programme, students’ learning experience is enriched and their versatility in a globalised world is enhanced.

### **International Events**

- 7 Last year, we successfully organised two international events, to bring overseas participants to Singapore. In June 2009, an **International Student Seminar was organised for 600 students**, half of whom were **foreign students** from ITE’s international partner institutions. We also organised the **Second International Conference on Vocational and Technical Education**, in July 2009, which drew over **300 delegates from 27 countries**. The well-received Conference is testimony to ITE’s leading role in pioneering and setting new benchmarks in technical education.

## **Authentic Learning through Collaborations**

- 8 One of ITE's key strengths is our adoption of an *authentic learning approach* as a core pedagogic strategy. This allows our students to learn in an authentic environment which would allow their seamless transition to the world of work. To enhance authentic learning at ITE, we have forged strong partnerships with key industry players, among them:
- Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd;
  - Okura Flexible Automation Systems Pte Ltd;
  - Singapore Technologies Aerospace Ltd;
  - HP Singapore;
  - L'oreal Singapore; and
  - Singapore Grand Prix.
- 9 These alliances have benefitted ITE students and staff tremendously, through the provision of the latest technology and software, undertaking of joint industry projects and industry attachments for students and staff.

## **ITE's Strategic Roadmaps**

- 10 Year 2009/2010 is also a 'cross-roads' year for ITE, as it marks the completion of the ***ITE Advantage***, our five-year strategic roadmap from year 2005 to 2009. *ITE Advantage* brought into fruition our vision to be *A Global Leader in Technical Education*. The roadmap has

developed a vibrant learning environment for students, equipped them with market-relevant skills for a global economy and enhanced ITE's organisational and staff capabilities.

- 11 Under the new five-year ***ITE Innovate Plan***, ITE has set its vision to be ***A Global Leader for Innovations in Technical Education*** by year 2014. Our focus will be on 'Innovations' – discovering different ways to continue giving the best and creating new value for students and stakeholders. Our emphasis will continue to remain on making our students' learning as effective and as enriching as possible. After all, ITE's ultimate success is the success of each and every one of our students.

### **Successful ITE Graduates**

- 12 I would like to take this opportunity to share the story of our top graduate this year - **Lee Jun Wei**.
- 13 **Jun Wei**, a graduate from the *Nitec* in Aerospace Technology course, is a good example of how ITE has given its graduates a winning edge. After taking the GCE 'O' levels, Jun Wei chose to come to ITE and was determined to succeed in his studies with us. His hard work paid off, as he was the only student from his course to be selected for a Book Prize, sponsored by world

leading helicopter maker, Eurocopter South East Asia Pte Ltd. Jun Wei excelled in his academic studies, obtaining a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0. He also received the National Youth Achievement Award (Gold) last year, for his outstanding achievements in co-curricular activities. For his contributions in helping the National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) in his former school – Pierce Secondary School – he received an Outstanding Contribution Award (NPCC) and the Commissioner of Police Team (Commendation Award) 2009. Jun Wei is now pursuing a full-time Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering course at Singapore Polytechnic, a step closer to realising his dream.

- 14 Another notable ITE graduate is **Mohamed Akbar Khan Akhtar**. He graduated from ITE, in *Nitec* in Electronics in 2002. Although Akbar was from the EM3 stream in primary school, he did not allow this to demotivate him. His perseverance saw him finishing with a Certificate of Merit in ITE. But that was not all. His excellent results allowed him to be presented with the Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship to Encourage Upgrading, or LKY-STEP, Award.
- 15 Akbar may sound like a person totally devoted to his studies. But in fact, he was an all-rounder. He picked up the sport of fencing in ITE and became so good, that from 2001 to 2003, he became a national fencer. His all-

rounded abilities made him a recipient of the Tay Eng Soon Scholarship in 2002.

- 16 Akbar progressed to Singapore Polytechnic, where he received a Diploma with Merit in Electronics, Computer & Communication Engineering. And recently Akbar graduated with a First-class Honours Degree in Electrical Engineering from NUS. We wish him the best as he continues to soar and inspire more students to emulate his success.
- 17 I am heartened that our graduates, like Jun Wei, display a strong commitment to serve their secondary schools and the community. I am also encouraged by the impressive determination and technical excellence our graduates, like Akbar, display as they chase their dreams.
- 18 I know that there are many more ITE students and graduates who are juggling various responsibilities at school, at home or even at work, to succeed in their studies and in life. I am confident their education at ITE has imbued in them a steadfast and persistent attitude to overcome challenges and be focused in achieving their goals.

## **Conclusion**

- 19 Last but not least, I would like to thank all ITE lecturers and staff. Your patience, passion and care have helped groom our students into the successful and confident graduates here today. I believe that your unwavering efforts and dedication have touched them and ignited them to shine.
  
- 20 Let me, once again, congratulate all our graduands on your success. I wish you all a bright future ahead.
  
- 21 Thank you.