

ADDRESS BY MR BRUCE POH, DIRECTOR AND CEO/ ITE, AT THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SEMBCORP MARINE LIMITED (SCM) ON FRIDAY, 23 JUL 2010, 1400 HRS AT SEMBCORP MARINE (JURONG SHIPYARD)

Mr Wong Weng Sun
President & CEO, SembCorp Marine (SCM) Limited

Friends and Colleagues from SCM and ITE

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

1 Good afternoon.

2 It is my pleasure to be here this afternoon to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SembCorp Marine Limited.

3 ITE launched its ***ITE Innovate*** Plan this year, with a vision to be a “Global Leader for Innovations in Technical Education”. Strengthening our strategic connectivity and widening industry partnerships and engagement is one of our key focus to spearhead innovation. I note that SCM’s vision is to be “The World Leader in Ship Repair, Ship Building, Ship Conversion, Rig Building and Offshore Engineering and Construction”. We have much in common in terms of our organisations’ strategic intent and direction. Hence, we are confident of forging a win-win partnership with SembCorp Marine Limited, a leader in the Marine and Offshore Engineering Industry.

Prospects in Marine and Offshore Industry

4 Marine and Offshore Engineering is a key pillar in our economy. Singapore holds a commendable **70%** share of the world market for both Jack-Up Rig construction and FPSO (or Floating Production, Storage and Offloading vessels) conversion, and **20%** of the world’s ship repair market. To maintain and enhance our global reputation and competitiveness, it is critical that we continue to excite young Singaporeans to join this industry and develop them to take on dynamic challenges and technological advancements. The strategic collaboration between a leading industry player and a visionary technical institution would indeed be the most effective way to achieve this synergy of developing the future human capital for this growing industry.

5 ITE is committed to providing the best quality technical education for our students, so as to prepare them to be competent and responsive to the manpower needs of our rapidly-changing economy. With the opening of our first comprehensive campus for ITE College East at Simei in 2005, and the opening

of our brand new, mega ITE College West campus at Choa Chu Kang Grove in July this year, we are now embarking on building a new futuristic campus for ITE College Central and ITE Headquarters under our “One ITE System, Three Colleges” Governance and Education Model at Ang Mo Kio, by 2013. The three comprehensive campuses will collectively provide a wide range of skills training courses covering almost all key sectors of the economy for young school leavers and adult learners.

Symbiotic Partnership

6 Besides these infrastructural developments, we will continue to reinforce our core strengths and venture into new areas to meet industry needs by offering new programmes and services. ITE’s collaboration with SCM will support the launch of the new **Higher Nitec in Marine Engineering** course in 2011, targeted to produce market-relevant and flexible graduates to add value to the Marine industry.

7 I would like to take this opportunity to thank SCM for your strong support in the setting up of the joint **Marine Engineering and Quality Centre at ITE College Central**. Our strategic partnership with SCM would, indeed, open up more learning opportunities for our staff and students, and facilitate the active exchange of ideas and best practices in technology applications and authentic pedagogical approaches. The **Scholarship Awards** offered by SCM would also go a long way towards encouraging more students to embark on a career in this industry, while the **Attachment Programmes** would prepare our students for the real working world. In addition, the partnership offers opportunities for our ITE faculty to keep abreast with technical advancements and changes in the Marine and Offshore Engineering field.

Conclusion

8 On behalf of ITE, I would like to thank Mr Wong Weng Sun, for your strong support for technical training, and for investing in the future of our students and the competitiveness of our future workforce. Our appreciation also goes to the staff of both ITE and SCM for your commitment and professionalism towards making this collaboration a success. May SCM continue to grow locally and globally. Thank You.