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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR BRUCE POH, CHAIRMAN/
WORLD SKILLS SINGAPORE COUNCIL, AT THE OPENING
CEREMONY OF THE WORLD SKILLS SINGAPORE 2016
COMPETITION HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 JULY 2016, AT 11
AM, AT AUDITORIUM, TAY ENG SOON CONVENTION
CENTRE, ITE**

Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister & Coordinating
Minister for National Security

Mr Bob Tan, Chairman/ITE

Members of the ITE and Polytechnic Board of Governors

Polytechnic Principals

**Colleagues and Partners from Polytechnics, ITE and
Industry**

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

- 1 Good morning. On behalf of the WorldSkills Singapore Council, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you, to the Opening Ceremony of WorldSkills Singapore 2016. It is an honour to have Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean with us today. Thank you, DPM.

Enduring Relevance of WorldSkills Competitions

- 2 Singapore has been participating in the WorldSkills National, Regional and International Competitions since 1994. The competitions have evolved and grown over the years. They continue to be flagship events that encourage us to break-through limiting beliefs about the value of skills, to think anew about skills-based education, careers and opportunities.
- 3 The first breakthrough that WorldSkills offers is that it goes beyond qualifications in the pursuit of excellence. Our competitors have learnt that to achieve Skills Excellence, besides acquiring deep **Skills**, you must have the **Will**, too, if you want to excel.
- 4 The second breakthrough is that it goes beyond the classroom to recognise the value of applied learning and learning for life – resilience, persistence, practice, and being proactive in learning and trying new things. These are skills that last a lifetime.
- 5 The third breakthrough is that it goes beyond narrow definitions of success to recognise that everyone excels at different things, in different ways, and that we can all excel if we apply our minds, hands, and hearts to what we do.

6 And we see this in all the skilled young professionals who represent their institutions and countries as Team Singapore at the WorldSkills Competitions. We see how they emerge more confident, better skilled, more aware of workplace demands, and even more driven to succeed in their chosen fields and in their personal lives.

WorldSkills Singapore 2016 (WSS 2016)

7 In keeping with the spirit of the WorldSkills, WSS 2016 promises to be bigger and better. In its 12th run, WSS will test and showcase the skills and mettle of the competitors who hail from ITE, the five polytechnics, ST Aerospace Technical Training Centre, and the Shatec Institute. The stakes are high. Winners have the opportunity to represent Singapore at the 44th WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi in 2017.

8 The Competition, however, is no longer just about pitting technical skills. We want it to be an influential movement for advocating skills excellence and development. In line with this, we have repositioned the WSS as a platform to also deliver **education and career guidance**, or ECG, in short.

9 The post-secondary education institutions, the Ministry of Education, the Workforce Development Agency, and industry have collaborated to put together a range of ECG

activities, programmes and resources to develop an experiential programme linking the education front with the world of work.

- 10 MOE has prepared and shared a pre-event package with secondary students. During the competition, students will visit the Competition Sites and booths set up by post-secondary institutions and WDA's industry partners under four **Skills Hubs**. Students and the public can also attend talks, workshops and skills demonstrations this coming Saturday, based on their personal interests.

Concluding Remarks

- 11 On behalf of the WorldSkills Singapore Council, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation and thanks to:

- Our two **Principal Sponsors**, the **Tote Board** and the **Workforce Development Agency of Singapore**, for their strong support of skills development and promotion in Singapore.
- Our **Platinum Sponsors, Gold Sponsors, Supporters and Partners** from industry and education institutions, who have not only made generous sponsorships, but also shared their expertise to help us plan and organise this competition.

12 I wish the competitors the very best, and would like to invite all of you to visit the competition areas. We hope that you will feel the energy and pride of our young competitors, and give them the encouragement and support they need. Thank you.