

**ADDRESS BY MR BRUCE POH, DIRECTOR & CEO/ITE, AT ITE STUDENT ACHIEVERS' AWARDS 2016 PRESENTATION CEREMONY, ON FRI 27 MAY 2016, AT 10.00 AM, AT THE AUDITORIUM, TAY ENG SOON CONVENTION CENTRE, ITE HEADQUARTERS**

Distinguished Guests

Parents

Award Recipients

Colleagues, Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

**Introduction**

- 1 Good morning and welcome to the ITE Student Achievers' Awards Presentation Ceremony 2016.
- 2 Today, we are pleased to honour some **380 students** for their outstanding achievements in Co-curricular Activities; Sports and Arts; Innovations and Holistic Development.
- 3 Each of you has demonstrated a strong sense of purpose and resilience in pursuing your aspirations and goals. Your passion and perseverance have set you apart from the rest.

**Towards Greater Success**

- 4 I am sure all of you have your own unique journeys and stories to tell. Many of them would remind us that no matter what challenges we face along the way, a positive attitude and strong sense of belief can steer you towards greater success. Take for example, **Lim Wei Jie**.

**It's All in the Attitude**

- 5 **Wei Jie** mixed with the wrong company and scored poorly for his GCE 'O' Levels. Undeterred, he enrolled for a *Nitec* course of his interest. He was determined to start afresh and prove his mettle. With his positive attitude and

resoluteness, Wei Jie rose to become President of the College Central Student Council.

- 6 Another student, **Jeslina Angel Arudas**, grew up in a big family of seven. When her family met with a financial setback, and her siblings moved out, Jeslina did not despair. She remained positive and worked hard. She made it to the ITE Director's List Award for three consecutive semesters.
- 7 **Neo Yizhe** had failed every subject in his GCE 'N' Level prelims. Despite her disappointment, Yizhe's mother encouraged him to do better. That spurred Yizhe to work hard. He scored 15 points and qualified to progress to Secondary 5. Instead, he chose to enrol at ITE. Today, he has a perfect GPA of 4 and is reaching for the skies – his ambition is to be a pilot.

### **Conclusion**

- 8 These three students are recipients of the **Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award**. They are perfect examples of how a positive mindset can help you overcome challenges. If there is anything I want you to take away today, it is this. Be positive.
- 9 So I would like to invite you to go up to your peers – not just the award winners – and talk to them. Be inspired by each other's stories. As Wei Jie has said in an interview with my colleagues, *"Never give up on your dreams. The journey may be tough, but it's worth it."*
- 10 With that, I'll leave you to celebrate your achievements with your family and friends. Congratulations once again, and I wish you all the very best.
- 11 Thank you and have a good day!