

**SPEECH BY MR BOB TAN, CHAIRMAN/ITE, AT THE  
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE VTC-ITE INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT SEMINAR, ON MONDAY 15 JUNE 2015, AT  
9.00AM, HONG KONG DESIGN INSTITUTE**

**The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam**

Chief Secretary for Administration, Hong Kong SAR

**Mr Jacky Foo**

Consul-General of Singapore in Hong Kong SAR

**Dr Clement Chen**

Chairman, Vocational Training Council (VTC)

**Members of the VTC and ITE Board**

**Mrs Carrie Yau**

Executive Director, VTC

**Mr Bruce Poh**

Director & CEO, ITE

Distinguished Speakers, Guests, Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

**Introduction**

- 1 I am delighted to be here this morning to join you for the VTC-ITE International Student Seminar 2015. I thank Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary for Administration, Hong Kong SAR, for your presence and strong support for the learning of our students.

- 2 We began organising International VTC-ITE Student Seminars in 2007. We have been able to do so for many years, thanks to the friendship and strong partnership between ITE Singapore and Hong Kong VTC.
- 3 The International Seminars have provided students with a useful platform to meet and to discuss current issues and exchange ideas that impact our community. The feedback I receive from students who have participated in the Seminars has been overwhelmingly positive. So we are very happy to be here, to launch the fifth series of this joint Seminar.
- 4 Stepping into the Auditorium this morning, I sense an air of excitement, energy and anticipation. I know the students have worked hard to prepare, and are excited to meet new friends, have new experiences, share ideas and learn new ones.

### **Seminar Theme – Social Innovation**

- 5 This year's theme, ***Social Innovation***, seeks to explore different approaches in creating, developing and integrating new concepts and practices to meet the complex challenges of today's society. *But why is social innovation an important theme to explore and think about*

*for this seminar, and for the young people of Hong Kong and Singapore?*

- 6 Living in an increasingly global and interconnected world, issues that affect people in one country affect another – be it environmentally, economically or socially. As responsible global citizens, we cannot turn a blind eye to these issues and problems; yet we know that our resources are not unlimited. This is where Social Innovation can come in, to develop plausible solutions with the resources that we have.
- 7 As you expound on the theme of Social Innovation, think about the driving forces that are affecting the people in Hong Kong, in Singapore, and what we can do about these. *What positive roles can we play, and how can we help? How can we innovate in the way we help?*
- 8 So for student delegates, this is your chance to look at social issues that connect you with the Family, the Community and the World, and be creative in proposing ways to bring about a better and more caring society.

## **Enjoying Hong Kong's Hospitality**

9 I understand that our hosts have planned visits to the History and Science Museums, and the Hong Kong Industrial Park. This sounds exciting. It will be enriching for ITE students, I am sure, to experience Hong Kong's vibrant culture and entrepreneurial spirit.

## **Conclusion**

10 I would like to thank the Organising Committees, both from VTC and ITE, for arranging this excellent learning opportunity for our students.

11 My appreciation, too, to the three guest speakers for sharing your wealth of knowledge, and to Dr Clement Chen, Chairman/VTC, and Mrs Carrie Yau, Executive Director/VTC, for your strong support for this collaboration in organising the Student Seminar.

12 I wish all student delegates an enjoyable and fruitful seminar.

13 I look forward to hearing your presentations at the end of the Seminar. Enjoy the seminar and make new friends!

Thank you.