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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WorldSkills Singapore 2016

My Skills, My Future - Onward to Abu Dhabi

After three days of intense competition, WorldSkills Singapore (WSS) 2016 came to a close on 9 July. A total of 150 young talents went through gruelling test projects and assignments, for the honour of being recognised as the best in their skills and trades.

2 On Friday 15 July, at 2.30 pm, Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills), officiated at WSS 2016 Closing Ceremony at ITE and presented Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals to winners, together with Cash Awards of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively. Top Medallists from 17 skill areas (of which two are team events) will stand a chance to represent Singapore at the 44th WorldSkills Competition (WSC) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in October 2017.

Nurturing Skilled Talents

3 Organised by the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) with the support of the five Polytechnics, Ministry of Education (MOE) and Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), WSS 2016 was strongly supported by 15 sponsoring companies. The invaluable contributions from industry reflect their keen interest in developing the next generation of skilled talents. As one of the two Principal Sponsors for WSS 2016, Mr Fong Yong Kian, Chief Executive, Tote Board, said, "Tote Board is pleased to support the WSS, since its inception to its 12th series in 2016. WSS aligns with Tote Board's strategic objective of enhancing the quality of education of our youths. WSS is an excellent platform for our youths to showcase and be recognised for their technical skills, signalling the importance for Singaporeans to hone their skills as master craftsmen."

Showcase of Education and Careers in Skills

4 Apart from the competition, WSS 2016 welcomed 5,000 secondary school students, and students from institutions of higher learning. The secondary students learned more about skills education and career pathways through a structured visit programme that complements MOE's Education and Career Guidance initiative. The programme included a guided tour of WSS 2016 competition sites and the four Skills Hubs (Engineering & Electronics, Health & Applied Sciences, IT and Info-Communications, and Services), as well as a choice to attend an Education and Career talk or workshop, according to personal interests.

Skills for Life

5 More than **1,600** members of the public also picked up a skill or two through participation in **66 free workshops** on 9 July 2016 at ITE College Central. Several of these 1.5 hour long workshops, such as *Google Fun*, *Healthy Eating Made Easy* and *Learn First Aid: The Basics of CPR and How to use an AED*, experienced overwhelming response.

My Skills for the Future

6 Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) said, “The participants of the WorldSkills Singapore 2016 have what it takes to be masters of their chosen fields – because they are committed and passionate to their craft, proud to be so, and eager to continue to learn and hone their skills. It is important that society starts to give more recognition to such talents. Next year, the best amongst them will be participating in the WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi. This is the World Cup of skills competition, and I would like to be there to cheer them on.”

7 From 7 to 9 July, WSS2016 attracted more than **10,000** visitors. Mr Bruce Poh, Chairman of WorldSkills Singapore Council, shared: “I hope everyone who participated in the WorldSkills Singapore Competition – be it competitors, experts, and coaches – will see this competition as a step towards skills mastery. The acquisition of skills is a lifelong journey. I’m heartened to see members of the public with their families, trying out new skills and recognising the importance of skills in their daily lives. The Winners of WorldSkills Singapore have demonstrated resilience and perseverance to be young role models in their skill areas. I am confident that the new Team Singapore will do us proud at the next WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi in 2017. With the will to be master of their skills, they have a bright future.”

Results and Interviews

8 Results of the WSS 2016 are attached. For further information and arrangement for photography and selection of competitors for interviews, please contact:

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About WorldSkills Singapore

ITE, in conjunction with the five Polytechnics, organises WorldSkills Singapore (WSS) every two years. WSS is a skills competition aimed at encouraging youths who are skilled in technical skills to excel in their skill area and test themselves against demanding standards. Successful competitors will have the opportunity to be selected to represent Singapore at the biennial international WorldSkills Competition (WSC) the next year.

If you would like to learn more about WSS, please visit our website:
<http://www.worldskills.sg/>

