

**WELCOME REMARKS BY MR BRUCE POH, DIRECTOR & CEO/ITE, AT SUPPLEMENTAL MOU SIGNING CEREMONY AMONG ITE COLLEGES, STATE ACADEMY FOR IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOLS, AND COLLEGES OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORTS, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY, ON 9 MARCH 2016, 2.30 PM, ITE HEADQUARTERS, SINGAPORE**

**Mr Hartmut Mattes**

Minister Advisor, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports,  
Baden-Württemberg, Germany (KM)

**Principals and Directors from KM Colleges and Institutions, Germany**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Introduction**

- 1 Good afternoon friends, partners and colleagues. For our German partners, welcome back to ITE and Singapore. For those who are here for the first time, I hope you will enjoy your visit to Singapore and the opportunity to experience the multi-ethnic food and cultural experience of Singapore.

## **Background**

- 2 2016 marks the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of our successful collaboration in Vocational Education and Training (VET) with Ministry of Education, Youth And Sports, Baden-Württemberg (KM), Germany. The first MOU signed between ITE and KM was in June 1991.
  
- 3 ITE's partnership with KM has since grown from strength to strength. I can say KM is ITE's longest-standing and most important international partner. Our partnership over these 25 years has yielded significant developments for ITE, our students and staff.
  
- 4 I am very happy that we are continuing, and deepening, this partnership through today's renewal of the **Supplemental MOU among KM's Academies and Colleges, and ITE Colleges.**
  
- 5 Besides **Gottlieb-Daimler-Schulen (GDS) 1 and 2; Carl-Benz-Schule, Gaggenau (CBS); Kerschensteinerschule, Stuttgart (KSS);** and **Kaufmännische Schule, Göppingen (KSG);** the Supplemental MOU will now be extended to the **State Academy for In-Service Training and Human Resources Development for Schools, Esslingen,** and **Gewerbliche Schule, Göppingen.**

- 6 We are honoured to have the Principals and Directors from KM, who have travelled all the way to Singapore, to cement this partnership on this milestone occasion.

### **Successful Collaboration in VET between Singapore and Germany**

- 7 Our partnership has benefitted us in many ways:
- In the earlier years, ITE adapted your renowned **Apprenticeship System** to develop our Traineeship Scheme and **Industry Trainer's Programme**.
  - The underpinning of **ITE's Pedagogic Model** is based on KM's key concept of **Technical, Methodological and Social Competencies**, or what ITE terms as "Hands-on, Minds-on and Hearts-on" Education.
  - More recently, since 2014, we have worked with KM on enhancing our lecturers through a **Discipline-Specific Pedagogy (DSP) Development Training Programme**. By April this year, a total of 17 ITE Master and Principal Mentors would have benefitted from the programme.
  - In fact, since 1991, ITE has sent some **162 students and 131 staff to Baden-Württemberg** for exchange visits, and hosted **154 students and 163 staff from KM**, its

colleges and the State Academy for In-Service Training and Human Resources Development at Esslingen.

- Last, and certainly not least, we have worked with KM in offering two joint **Technical Engineer Diplomas** (or TED) – in Machine Technology, in 2008, and Automotive Engineering, in 2010 – as progression opportunities for ITE graduates to deepen their skills in niche areas.

### **Moving Forward**

- 8 The MOU that we are renewing today reaffirms our commitment to continue to work together in mutual areas of interest – both existing and new areas. We will collaborate in Product and Fashion Design, in areas that we have identified with Kerschensteinerschule Stuttgart.
- 9 We will also explore joint industry projects among our TED students and international projects in other countries. And we look forward to hosting more students and staff from Germany to enhance cross-cultural understanding and learning.

### **Conclusion**

- 10 On behalf of ITE, I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to **Hartmut Mattes** for his strong belief and support in our partnership for nearly two decades. Your leadership and conviction in the benefits of our collaboration, as well as your friendship and trust, have helped to sustain this excellent and long partnership.
- 11 I would also like to put on record our deepest appreciation to **Elisabeth Moser and her team, past and present Principals and Directors from KM Colleges and Institutions**, Germany, for your personal commitment and friendship in ensuring the successful outcomes of our collaboration.
- 12 I am confident that we will continue to reap maximum benefits through this win-win partnership.

Thank you.