

OPENING ADDRESS BY MR BRUCE POH, DIRECTOR & CEO/ ITE, AT THE 2016 PROJECT FAIR FOR TECHNICAL ENGINEER DIPLOMA IN MACHINE TECHNOLOGY, 10 MARCH 2016, 10 AM, AT THE HALL, TAY ENG SOON CONVENTION CENTRE, ITE HEADQUARTERS, SINGAPORE

Mr Hartmut Mattes

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

Principals and Directors from KM, Germany

Industry Partners

Distinguished Guests

Students and Parents

Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

1. Good morning and welcome to ITE's seventh Technical Engineer Diploma (TED in short) in Machine Technology Project Fair.

Celebrating our Longstanding Collaboration with KM

2. The collaboration between Singapore and Baden-Württemberg, Germany, is a long-standing one, dating back to 1991. Since then, successive generations of leadership in Singapore and Baden- Württemberg's Ministry of Education and Youth and Sports (or KM), have continued to nurture the relationship, and strengthened collaboration for mutual benefit.
3. I am very happy to share that 2016 marks the 25th Anniversary of our very successful collaboration in the field of Vocational and Technical Education. We renewed a sixth MOU on 26 Feb 2016 in Germany, and signed a supplemental

MOU with six KM Colleges, and the State Academy for In-Service Training and Human Resources Development for Schools in Esslingen, just yesterday. This will expand the areas of collaboration, exchanges, and joint projects that will benefit students and faculty of institutions from both countries.

4. On behalf of ITE, I would like to put on record our deepest appreciation and gratitude to **Mr Hartmut Mattes, Mrs Elisabeth Moser, past and present Principals and Directors from KM Colleges and Institutions**, Germany, for your personal commitment and friendship in ensuring successful outcomes of our collaboration.

TED in Machine Technology

5. The TED in Machine Technology is an example of this. In fact, four weeks from now, we will be welcoming our ninth intake of TED students. The state of Baden-Württemberg is renowned for its expertise in science and technology, and its dual system of vocational education. The curriculum offered in this TED programme draws upon these strengths. It provides rigorous and comprehensive training and equips our students with industry-relevant skills and knowledge.
6. As a result, a significant number of our TED graduates have gone on to do well. Our graduates are well regarded by the Precision Equipment and Aerospace Machining sectors, with many receiving good feedback from their employers. I have two examples to share.
7. Hyflux is a leading water solutions Singapore company and one of the world's top desalination plant developer. It hired four of our TED graduates last year. And the company has shared that it has found our graduates well-trained, with positive attitude and a willingness to take on challenges at work. For this reason, they have sent all four to the Netherlands, for further training and skills deepening. This is a strong testament to the rigour and industry-focused approach of the German VET model.

8. Another achievement is **Roy Lim**, a TED graduate from our fourth intake. We have just been told that Roy has been accepted by virtue of his TED results, and will be pursuing his undergraduate studies later this year at the Duale Hochschule Baden Wuerttemberg, or Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University. Roy will be funded by his employer, “IFM Electronic Pte Ltd”, a German company located here. My heartiest congratulations to Roy.

TED Project Fair 2016

9. To this year’s graduating batch of TED students, today is a momentous occasion. Today is not only about showcasing your final-year projects. It’s also about celebrating your innovation and entrepreneurship; and the beginning of a meaningful skills-based career in engineering.
10. The 11 projects on display today are developed in collaboration with industry. They range from product design and productivity improvement tools, to special purpose machines. All these are developed as part of ITE’s authentic learning philosophy, to solve real-world problems.
11. As part of the project, our students had to plan, design and develop innovative solutions and work within budget and timeline to successfully execute their projects. The last nine months must have been challenging, and I am proud to say that they have handled the pressure very well.

Conclusion

12. Congratulations, once again, to the graduating cohort on the successful completion of your Final Year projects. Many of you will join industry upon graduation. I am sure the training you have in ITE will stand you in good stead. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. May you continue to find success and happiness in everything that you do.
13. Thank you.