

STATEMENT BY MR BRUCE POH, DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ITE, AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH 'ITE TRAILBLAZER' ON MON 16 FEB 2015, AT 10AM, AT ITE HEADQUARTERS

TRAILBLAZING THE FUTURE

Introduction

- 1 Good morning members of the media. Welcome to ITE, and thank you for joining us today.

The Last Twenty

- 2 Every **five years**, we formulate a new **roadmap** to ensure that our technical education system remains **current and relevant**.
- 3 The **past 20 years** under our **four strategic roadmaps** have seen the development of a technical education system that is built on **strong fundamentals**.
- 4 Under our **fourth** strategic plan, ***ITE Innovate***, we have made deliberate and sustained efforts to innovate and make ITE education attractive:
 - We have enhanced **educational choices and pathways** for students.
 - We have adopted **new pedagogical approaches for authentic learning**.

- We have consolidated our 10 satellite campuses into **three world-class comprehensive colleges**. Today you are in one of the three colleges – the latest, the HQ and ITE College Central.
- We have also turned around **public perception of ITE and vocational education**, and put ITE on the world radar.

Every year, we receive more than 1,300 foreign visitors. Some of them include kings, presidents, ministers and so on.

5 These were important steps in achieving our mandate of **inspiring, nurturing and growing our students**. Our students are kinesthetic and social learners. They learn best by doing and through practice. Through our **Hands-on, Minds-on and Hearts-on education philosophy**, we have provided them a transformational educational experience.

6 ***With a fast-changing economic and social landscape, how do we ensure our relevance for the future?***

7 We cannot predict what the future holds. But we are prepared to develop a new generation of students with competencies for tomorrow's world. This requires new thinking and a new vision. That is why, building on the

strong foundation laid, we will be embarking on our fifth strategic roadmap this year.

8 It is called the ***ITE Trailblazer***.

ITE Trailblazer (2015-2019) – A New Vision for a New Future

9 In our next phase of growth, we aim to become a '***Trailblazer in Career and Technical Education***'. That means is that we will move away from the existing **trade-specific** preparation model, towards a more **career-oriented, professional skills** preparation model.

10 To achieve this, we will focus on **three main priorities**:

a. **First**, we will **empower learners** by building strong foundations in technical and life skills for continual and self-learning. We will be bringing new technology into learning, adopting discipline-specific pedagogies, and reinventing our learning spaces to provide more opportunities for flexible and self-directed learning.

b. **Second**, we will focus on helping our students and graduates **master skills** through internships and applied learning in real work environment. We will develop new pathways for our students to gain real work experience, and to deepen their skills after they graduate.

c. **Third**, we will help our graduates **build successful careers and meaningful lives**, through **structured career guidance, greater learning support**, as well as **values education and holistic talent development** programmes.

11 We recognise that beyond the initial qualification, what matters most in building a lasting career is a commitment to a lifetime of honing one's craft. Under this Plan, we will also **reinforce the attainment of life-long learning skills** – that is, learning in every way: on the job; through courses; mentoring; or simply, self-directed learning – as part of one's life-long career development process.

12 All in all, ***ITE Trailblazer*** is really about giving students the opportunities to bloom, and to help them blaze through new career possibilities and life challenges.

A Plan for Everyone

13 Besides students, the ***ITE Trailblazer*** is a **plan for everyone** – including staff, stakeholders and partners.

14 Under ***ITE Trailblazer***, we hope to have a **new paradigm in career-based technical education**, where **skills are viewed as a passport to respectable careers and success in life**.

15 Specifically, we hope to achieve the following **outcomes**:

- a. Provide an **engaging and empowering learning experience both in and out of ITE**. One that will prepare students and graduates to be **active, skilled and ethical participants in the global economy**;
- b. Grow **staff** to be **passionate educators and skills masters**; and
- c. **Strengthen engagement with industry and partners** to develop a **competitive and resilient workforce who can adapt, deepen and hone their skills**.

So in a nutshell, the outcomes would be: confident and well-rounded students, career and world-ready graduates, professional and passionate staff, and engage and value partners.

Conclusion

- 16 Today, we unveil the new ***ITE Trailblazer*** chapter with commitment and conviction to push new limits.
- 17 I am confident that through our shared purpose and engagement with our stakeholders and partners, we will be well poised to nurture students to succeed as individuals in their own right, and to meet the needs of Singapore in the years ahead.

18 With this, I will now hand the session over to my colleague, Sabrina, who will share more on the new Plan, before we take questions. Thank you.