

ADDRESS BY MR BRUCE POH, DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ITE AT THE ITE SG50 GIFTING EVENT, ON THU 20 AUG 2015, AT 9.30AM AT THE MULTI-PURPOSE HALL (BLOCK F LEVEL 4)

Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Minister of State,
Ministry of National Development & Ministry of Defence &
Mayor, South East District

Representatives from beneficiary institutions

ITE Staff and Students

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

- 1 A very good morning to all, and a warm welcome to ITE SG50 Gifting. Thank you, **Dr Mohamad Maliki**, for joining us in this community service event organised by ITE, in conjunction with MOE's SG50 Giving initiative.
- 2 At ITE, we have in place strong and structured engagement of the community through the 'Hearts-on' component of our ***Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on*** education approach. Over the years, our students have been actively involved in community service projects.

These include the SAFE Home Project to modify thousands of HDB homes with elderly-friendly features; blood donation drives; working with nursing homes to create greater awareness of dementia; and partnering community organisations, to organise camps for children from lower-income families. Through their involvement, our students exemplify care and compassion for the needy and less fortunate. This helps them to reflect on how they, too, can play a part in making Singapore a better home for all.

- 3 With the additional support from MOE, under the **SG50 Giving initiative**, we are happy that our students will be able to do more in supporting meaningful causes in the community.

ITE SG50 Gifting

- 4 MOE has allocated **\$250,000** to ITE to work with various Institutions of Public Character, or IPCs. In the spirit of giving, our students will be matching the donations given to the IPCs, by volunteering their time with these IPCs not just for today, but on a sustained basis, over a longer term, to do meaningful work that is mutually beneficial to recipients and students, in the community.

- 5 Some examples of such student engagement include: - working with Sunlove Home for the intellectually-challenged to lead and run art and music therapy classes; conducting monthly visits to the Lions Home for the Elders; and running enrichment activities at the Melrose Home for the Children's Aid Society. These organisations are among the **650 beneficiaries** who have joined us for this morning's ITE SG50 Gifting event.
- 6 As part of this event, over **350 ITE students** will be leading in a community programme that includes teaching our guests to assemble dish gardens and make *pandan* leaf roses. We would like to thank **NParks** for its generous support in making possible this community programme organised by our students.

Launch of ITE SG50 Portal

- 7 While we want our students to develop a heart for the community, we would also like the community to have a better understanding of ITE and the talents of our students. So I am happy to share that, today, we will also be launching the **ITE SG50 Portal**, as part of the SG50 celebrations, too. This is a new web portal that will give the community, and our own staff and students, a better understanding of ITE's journey and contributions towards

nation building in the last 50 years, and our aspirations for the future.

- 8 The portal is an excellent platform to showcase the talents and abilities of our students. From video production to photography, animation and website development, this portal was entirely developed by students, guided by staff. It took over 2,000 hands and hard work of staff and students from various courses in the three Colleges to put it together. This includes submissions of 450 student projects, such as videos, songs, poems and scrapbooks, to be included as content in the portal. I hope you take the time to browse this portal, and find it useful in understanding ITE's rich history.

Conclusion

- 9 It has always been the aim of ITE education to inspire, nurture and grow our students. This involves providing ways for them to enhance their skills and acquire values taught beyond the classroom. We believe that both ITE SG50 Gifting and the ITE SG50 Portal would be good learning opportunities to help students look beyond themselves and use their talents to good use.
- 10 Thank you and I wish everyone an enjoyable day ahead.