For immediate release

SINGAPORE'S ONLY NATIONAL SCIENCE COMPETITION FOR 'N' LEVEL STUDENTS A BIG HIT

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (or STEM) – normally the domain of academically-stronger students – is now more accessible to Normal Stream students. And the driving force behind this initiative is ITE.

The ignITE Skills Challenge is one of ITE's moves towards promoting the relevance of STEM and the importance of skills in daily life. Open only to N Level students, the competition is also the only national competition for Normal Stream students in secondary schools.

"This year, we have built on the ignITE brand and merged two marquee competitions organised by ITE – the ignITE Science Challenge and ITE Skills Challenge. The combined event draws on the strengths of the two events to bring STEM closer to N Level students and make it more accessible for them," said Dr Lionel Lau, Director/School of Applied & Health Sciences, ITE College East, and Chairman of the organising committee.

Since March, a total of **68 schools** and **over 1600 students** have participated in the workshops and preliminary rounds. On **24 May 2016**, 366 students from 122 teams will vie for the top prizes in the Finals held at **ITE College East**. These teams were shortlisted from the preliminary round. They will be competing in 12 areas (see **Annex A**).

Dr Janil Puthucheary, Minister of State, Ministry of Communication and Information, and Ministry of Education, will officiate as Guest-of-Honour for the event.

About ITE

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE) is a post-secondary education institution established in **1992** under the Ministry of Education. As a principal provider of career and technical education, and a key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards, ITE's **Mission** is to create **opportunities** for students and adult learners to acquire skills, knowledge and values for employability and lifelong learning. ITE's Vision is to be A **Trailblazer** in Career and Technical Education. Our **Values** are **Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence** and **Care**. ITE comprises the ITE Headquarters and three ITE Colleges - College Central, College East and College West.

IgnITE Skills Challenge

The IgnITE Skills Challenge is the only national competition for N Level students in Singapore. From building their own flying saucers to concocting an energy drink, students will be able to put their creations to the test and compete for a chance to win awesome prizes. More importantly, students can enjoy and learn from the fun-filled and hands-on activities. Once students sign up for a competition, they will learn the necessary skills needed for the competition in the training workshops.

The workshops were conducted from 21 March 2016 to 1 April 2016 for over 1600 participants. These participants then underwent a preliminary round of competition on 21 April 2016 held at each ITE College. The final challenge brings together 366 students who were shortlisted from the preliminary rounds. The 12 areas of competition and the description of each area are listed in the table below.

The top three teams from each category will take home trophies, medals, and a prize from our sponsors (varies with each category).

The Challenge	Challenge Description
Pixel Magic	How can you get these different shades of colours with just the primary colours of Red, Blue and Yellow? These paint mixologists have to figure that out and replicate a given pixelated image within a given time frame. The team that produces the most accurate replica wins! **Winner:** Zhonghua Team 3 from Zhonghua Secondary School
Flower Power	Our competitors have painstakingly created their rainbow rose, would of course, need a beautiful showcase. So the competitors will also show off their creativity by decorating their cube to reflect the beauty of their roses. Come and be mesmerised! **Winner:** 4A1 from Ang Mo Kio Secondary School
Flying Saucer	Batteries and wires can be fun, as the 12 finalist teams demonstrate! Using basic knowledge on electrical circuits, they will build a propeller circuit to control their very own 'flying saucer'. The flying saucer that can fly the highest and longest wins! **Winner:** Sensor Boys from Pioneer Secondary School
Bullet Vessel	It's got to stay afloat, move fast and look good - qualities a winning Bullet Vessel should have. Catch the competing teams in action with their hand-made, self-designed vessels - all made from lightweight, recycled materials. Ten teams will battle windy conditions to race against time, and other teams, for the title of fastest Bullet Vessel. **Winner:** Crest Bullet from Crest Secondary School
CanDIY	Roti prata! Chicken Rice! Chilli Crab and more! Your local foods now come in the form of candies, thanks to these 10 creative teams. They've mastered the art of combining the science of creating the perfect candy - too soft and your candy will not hold its shape - and the art of turning the sugar treats into realistic-looking food. **Winner:** H.I.1 from Holy Innocents High School

Sportalicious	Ten teams, ten sports drinks. Which one looks refreshing, tastes delicious and has the right mix of ingredients to re-energise you after a workout? And who can make the best sales pitch to sell their sports drinks? **Winner:** Vinjanade from Serangoon Secondary School
2Fast 2Furious	F1 fever came early this year for our 10 finalist teams. Using the same 'engine', each team has to design and build their dream car and pit their 'driving skills' against each other. How you accelerate and brake along the tracks will determine who the winner is! **Winner:** Dunman 13 from Dunman Secondary School
Keep Kool	These top 10 teams of cool kids will race against time (and each other) to construct an air-conditioning system. The best performing team will be this competition's coolest kids! **Winner:** SE3 from Springfield Secondary School
Mad Mocktail	Think it's easy to make an attractive-looking drink? A single drop of the wrong liquid may be all it takes to turn a beautiful rainbow-layered drink into a cloudy mess! The teams will have to put their knowledge of various juices and syrups to good use in this competition. By layering liquids of different densities, they must produce the best-looking mocktail ever to impress the judges! **Winner:** 3GEBB1 from Teck Whye Secondary School
Towkay 101	In business, it's all about the marketing. The top 10 teams of *Towkays* will now compete to see who can sell their product in the most creative way. Who will have what it takes to be the next top *Towkay?* **Winner:** Towkay 007 from St. Andrews Secondary School
App-Tastic	Pre-schoolers have short attention span. So can our finalist teams come up with a fun app to teach them math without boring them? Using the MIT App Inventor, each team has to build a winning app that engages and educates pre-schoolers. **Winner:** App 1 from Junyuan Secondary School
RoboMech	Mastery, competency and efficacy are the key ingredients needed to ace this challenge. Watch competitors pit their specially-programmed robots against time in the competition arena. The robot that collects the most rubies wins! **Winner:** Robomechtics from Clementi Town Secondary School

Participation

Total: 1,662 participants from 68 schools

Finals: 366 participants from 50 schools
- 10 teams of three per category (there are 12 teams for Flying Saucer)

Sponsors

Category	Sponsors
2Fast 2Furious	HUAWEI International Pte Ltd
App-Tastic	Zopim by Zendesk
CanDIY	• SIS'88 Pte Ltd • Meiji Seika (Singapore) Pte Ltd
Flower Power	Xpressflower.com Pte Ltd
Flying Saucer	• Murata Electronics S'pore (Pte) Ltd • Yukin Pte Ltd
Keep Kool	Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte Ltd
Mad Mocktail	Honey-Land International Pte Ltd
Pixel Magic	Staedtler (Singapore) Pte Ltd
RoboMech	A-Main Objectives
Sportalicious	• Crosspoint Telecom Pte Ltd • LiveFit.Asia
Towkay 101	• Singa Goody • Ohsofickle and The Bomb

Photos

Keeping Kool: *A team from Holy Innocents High School races against time to assemble an air-con cooling system. They are taking part in the 'Keep Kool' category.*

Candy-licious: *Team H.I.1 from Holy Innocents High School explain their candy creation, 'Zi Char Confectionary' to Guest-of-Honour, Dr Janil Puthucheary, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Education. Using candy-making techniques they learnt during the workshop, the team created a realistic-looking Chilli Crab dish with accompanying sides.*

Beating the Odds: *Team Crest Bullet from Crest Secondary School beat 60 other teams competing in the Bullet Vessel category. Their vessel, though simple (just a plastic board and two Styrofoam boards), zipped past its competitors to reach the other side of the pool in the quickest time.*