



**Closing Ceremony of the ITE-VTC International Student Seminar 2017
29 June 2017 (Thursday)**

**Dr Carrie YAU, GBS, JP
Executive Director**

Mr Baey (the Guest of Honour), Mr Tan (ITE Chairman), Mr Heng (ITE Deputy Chairman), Dr Chen (VTC Chairman), Ms Low (ITE Chief Executive Officer), ITE and VTC Colleagues, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the VTC, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of you for your active participation in the ITE-VTC International Student Seminar 2017, and jointly we made this event a tremendous success.

This year, the curtain of this Seminar was unveiled by the launch of the Cookbook, “A Taste of Two Cities”. This cookbook, featuring specialties and iconic dishes of Hong Kong and Singapore, is the fruit of the hard work of our professional teams at ITE and our Chinese Culinary Institute (CCI) of the VTC, another achievement that ITE and VTC students have made together.

In fact, since 2007, biennially, the Seminar provides students of both ITE and VTC with a platform to broaden their perspectives on global issues and inspire them with insights to become responsible global citizens and future leaders. We all live in a highly globalised world. We enjoy the benefits derived from this trend but at the same time we are also subject to a lot of impacts it brings, knowingly or unknowingly, positive and negative. This Seminar, entitled “**Globalisation: Threat or Promise?**”, is a timely reminder for us to reflect the pros and cons stemming from globalisation from the social, economic and environmental sides.

A lot of ITE & VTC students have brought up this issue of how

technology has brought everyone together through mobile apps and skypeing, etc. Some of the existing jobs may disappear soon, or in the next five or ten years. That means the skills of our students learn or use now in the workplace may not necessarily be the skills they need in the future. I believe that we should not over worry as to whether this means people will be unemployed due to job loss since it seems more new jobs will appear. For example, app developer, social media manager, Uber driver, cloud computing manager, big data analyst, YouTube content creator, drone operator, etc. These jobs did not exist 10 years ago!

This forum is a wake-up call not just for students. I believe it is also a wake-up call for us as adults, for administrators, policy makers, teachers and the support teams of both ITE and VTC. You as students have reminded us to keep on asking questions like “What vocational education providers should do in order to make young people more competitive?”, “How can we anticipate and adapt to the next skills crisis so as to better prepare all students of all ages for future needs?”, “In Hong Kong, for example, should we, set up an overarching body within government or under an educational institution to look at SkillsFuture policy, like what Singapore has done?”.

As educators, we wish to see in you, who hold the key to the future, an all-round development covering both hard skills and soft skills, and hopefully these are also transferable skills. We also wish to see in you the ability to integrate modern technology together with ideas, creativity and critical thinking with a global outlook. My colleagues and I are very pleased to see that there has been a wonderful spirit of friendship demonstrated between students from both institutions throughout the seminar. We are also impressed by the quality of students’ presentations as well as the energetic and rewarding discussions that followed. The breadth and depth of these discussions fully reflect your ability to examine and analyse issues from various angles. Not least is that students’ exhibitions have generated a platform for you to make a first attempt to paint a better globalisation roadmap. The exchange will no doubt make you more determined to make a difference to the lives of families, to the local community and to the world.

The exemplary participation of you has promoted the spirit of solidarity. The Animazing Race event in the World’s Best Rainforest Zoo not only brought students closer to the underlying responsibility of protecting

endangered species, but also allowed you to build friendship in the collaborative games. I am sure you all enjoy this Seminar, that helped you develop your communication, cooperation and problem-solving skills. I hope you will continue with the friendships you have forged in the past few days now that you have started to build your own “global network”.

Before I end, I must take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Chairman of ITE, Mr Bob TAN and ITE Chief Executive Officer, Ms LOW Khah Gek, and all the principals and deputy principals who have been with us throughout the day, especially principal Dr Goh Mong Song, for giving us this lovely site to host this event. I also hope this programme will not only be the platform of exchange between ITE and VTC but we will grow to serve as a springboard for the other international partners to network with our two institutions for the benefit of our teaching staff and students.

Last but not least, I must thank the Organising Committee, Ms Low, Mr Peh Wee Leng and also Dr Daniel Yan. I understand they have exchanged thousands of email to make this event possible.

See you in Hong Kong in 2019. Thank you very much.