



**Opening Ceremony of the ITE-VTC International Student Seminar 2017
27 June 2017 (Tuesday)**

**Dr Clement CHEN Cheng-jen, SBS, JP
Chairman of VTC**

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

It is my great pleasure being here today for the opening ceremony of the ITE-VTC International Student Seminar 2017, which will shed light on ways our young people can contribute to the community as we seek to build an inclusive and caring society.

We began organising this ITE-VTC International Student Seminar in 2007. This biennial event, jointly organised by ITE and VTC, has been held alternately in Singapore and Hong Kong. Throughout the past 10 years, we have been able to engage thousands of student participants with five successful international seminars to share a good deal of wisdom, and build friendship and strong partnership between ITE and VTC. I am most delighted to witness the growing importance that ITE and VTC have attached to this seminar and the opportunities it provides for our students to exchange ideas and experiences.

It is a great privilege for our students to have such an interactive platform to reflect and deliberate on current global issues and strengthen their commitment towards shaping a better society. This year's theme, "Globalisation: Threat or Promise?", is especially important as it addresses issues that will be impossible to avoid in the years to come from the social, economic and environmental dimensions. In the course of globalisation, we, as global citizens, are always at a crossroads, namely lifestyle versus poverty, business development versus sustainable environment, international cultural sharing versus search for local heritage, and a lot more. The topic well addresses one of the most pressing concerns facing the world right now.

Being two of the region's global cities, Singapore and Hong Kong have similarities in various aspects. We each have a highly educated workforce, metropolitan outlook and impressive economic accomplishments. Inevitably, as our societies and economies have continued to develop, we have found ourselves confronted with fresh challenges. I believe we can share our insights and learn from each other's experience to find solutions to these issues in ways that bring out the best in young people and help them to build a firm foundation for future generations.

Stepping into this Auditorium this morning, I sense an air of excitement, energy and anticipation. I know the students have worked hard to prepare, and are excited to meet new friends, share ideas and gain new experience. This Seminar Programme is a valuable opportunity for you to develop friendships and networks that will last for a long time. Probably very soon you might meet each other again in the global work space.

Finally, I would like to thank again our great partner, the Institute of Technical Education, for hosting this event and I wish all students a very fruitful and enjoyable social and learning experience.

Before I end, I would invite everybody to give a round of applause to all the staffs of ITE and VTC, and the students that participate in this event.

Thank you very much.