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ADDRESS BY MS LOW KHAH GEK, CEO/ITE, AT THE ITE AUTOMOTIVE CONFERENCE 2018 ON TUE 27 FEB 2018, 9.30 AM, NETWORKING LOUNGE, ITE COLLEGE WEST

Mr Andrew Bujtor, Managing Director of Tower Transit Singapore Pte Ltd

Dr Falk Hartmann, Head of Department, Mechanical Engineering and Automotive Technology, Carl-Benz-Schule Gaggenau, Germany

Partners and students from Carl-Benz-Schule Gaggenau

Partners and Guests from Industry

Colleagues and Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

- ITE Technical Diploma in Automotive Technology is developed in partnership with Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (KM) Baden-Württemberg.
- Started in October 2010 with a first intake of 20 students. Over the years, there have been growing interest and the cohort size has grown to 37 in AY2017 and this year, we expect an intake of 42.
- Each year, we organise a Project Fair to showcase the Final Year students' projects. This year, for the first time, we have added a Conference segment and invited prominent industry practitioners to share their experience, insights and thinking on latest developments and innovations in automotive technology and business models.
- I thank all of you for coming to support our students and to participate in the Conference.
- In particular, my appreciation to our German partners who have flown in to Singapore to be with us today.

- My appreciation also to **Mr Bujtor**, Managing Director of Tower Transit Singapore Pte Ltd who has given us much support in terms of training resources for our staff and internship opportunities for students.

The Evolving Automotive Landscape

- In recent years, the automotive industry has been seeing many new developments, innovations, change and opportunities. They include autonomous vehicles, enhanced connectivity and electrification, and shared mobility. These trends will disrupt and transform the automotive industry's business models.
- According to the Automotive & Assembly Report, published last month by McKinsey & Company, 2018 will be an even more exciting year for the automotive industry as it is poised to embrace artificial intelligence in a much bigger way.
- We have invited four industry experts and policy makers to help us make sense of this 'evolving automotive landscape'. Our four speakers will speak on a range of issues and challenges such as Singapore's Plans for e-mobility, Autonomous Vehicles in Car-lite Singapore, Clean Energy and Electric Cars, Innovations and New Business Models. We look forward to these exciting presentations later this morning.

Updated Training Curriculum, Equipment and Facilities

- At ITE, we have been actively rejuvenating our Automotive Technology curriculum and training facilities.
 - Introduce new modules on hybrid and electric vehicles
 - Acquire a wide range of training vehicles with petrol, diesel, electric and hybrid engines; we also have a wide range of light vehicles from Fiat, Nissan, Hyundai, Toyota, Volkswagen and Audi. For heavy vehicles, we have brands such as Scania, Hino and Caterpillar. Our latest is an Audi A4 cut-up vehicle that reveals the internal workings of the car. I am told the cut-up vehicle just arrived yesterday from Germany!

- Renovated the training facilities to better simulate a modern automotive workshop
- All these would make learning more effective and exciting, and the automotive courses look set to attract even more students!

Internship Programme

- To ensure our automotive students make a smooth transition into their workplace upon graduation, ITE, together with our industry partners, have put in place a comprehensive Enhanced Internship programme. This programme gives students exposure to real-work environments and deepens their skills.
- Recently, **40** of our automotive students had an enriching experience at Tower Transit Singapore's new 10-hectare Bulim Bus Depot. The second-year *Nitec* in Automotive Technology (Heavy Vehicles) students were able to immerse themselves in all aspects of Tower Transit's engineering operations. They also got a first-hand look at the inner workings of a major bus depot.

Thanking Our Industry Partner

- Let me now take this opportunity to recognise all our industry partners that offer internship opportunities for our students. To all **50 companies** thank you very much for providing authentic learning for our students.

Signing of Three MOUs

- Today, we are also pleased to announce the signing of MOUs between:
 - ITE and Tower Transit Singapore;
 - ITE and HDT Singapore Holding; and
 - ITE and Gates Industrial
- These MOUs affirm our collaboration to enhance the training of our students and staff in areas such as Electric Vehicles, Industrial Power Transmission and Heavy Vehicles and Omni-Buses.

- Together we will build a sustainable pool of competent and qualified technicians for the automotive industry.

Conclusion

- In conclusion, I thank Tower Transit Singapore, HDT Singapore Holdings and Gates Industrial, as well as all our industry partners and our speakers for your strong and unwavering support for ITE. Our collaboration and partnership will give the future of the industry a major and significant boost.
- Thank you, enjoy the conference and have a pleasant day ahead!