

ADDRESS BY MS LOW KHAH GEK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ITE AT THE ITE GRADUATION CEREMONY 2018, ON TUESDAY 3 JULY 2018, AT 3.00PM, AT THE AUDITORIUM, TAY ENG SOON CONVENTION CENTRE, ITE HEADQUARTERS

Introduction

- 1 My heartiest congratulations to all **14,234** graduands!
I speak on behalf of all ITE staff, your parents and our invited guests, that we are very proud of your achievements. Your determination, perseverance and hard work have paid off.

Strong Record in Career and Technical Education

- 2 Last year, we celebrated ITE's 25th Anniversary. Over the years, ITE has built a strong record in Career and Technical Education. Recognising the shifting needs of industry and the diversity of interests, strengths and talents among our students, we transformed our infrastructure, curriculum and pedagogy. I am heartened that these efforts have borne fruits and many of our graduates are making their mark in the workplace and the community.
- 3 Today, the ITE education is a choice brand, well accepted by students progressing from secondary schools, by employers and by members of the public.

In Pursuit of Dreams and Passion

- 4 In pre-employment training, ITE is well-placed to impact young lives by equipping them with market-relevant skills, knowledge and values to realise their dreams and passion. We provide a

'High-Tech, High-Touch and High-Trust' environment for students to learn, explore and grow.

5 I will highlight the journey of two ITE graduands.

- The first graduand is Lee Si Pei

Si Pei is not afraid to take the road less travelled. Upon the completion of her N levels, Si Pei did not enrol immediately into ITE. She worked for three years and spent time exploring and understanding where her true passion and talent lie.

When Si Pei enrolled in Social Media and Web Development *Nitec* course, she was confident that this was the sector she would want to work in. In her two years in ITE, Si Pei was determined to learn and build her skills. She was also proactive and independent. She searched for internship opportunities and wrote to many companies, including Mediacorp. Si Pei was successful in getting a three-month internship with Mediacorp and they were very impressed by her skills and work attitude. Upon graduation, Si Pei was offered a job at Mediacorp, as a Set Designer.

I commend Si Pei for being unafraid to chart her own pathway – going to work first before enrolling in an ITE course and going to work after graduating from *Nitec* course before planning her next step. Given her clear-headed and 'go-getter' spirit, I am sure Si Pei will thrive and continue to make progress in building her skillsets and her career.

- The second graduand I'm highlighting is Cook Elray Danish

Elray is graduating with a *Nitec* in Aerospace Technology. In his early school years, Elray was disinterested in his studies and his

mother cried when she saw his PSLE results. At ITE, Elray blossomed and is one of the top graduands this year. He had also been active outside the classroom. He was the President of ITE College Central's Student Council. He participated in overseas exchange programmes to Hong Kong and Australia. He completed the US Embassy-ITE Mentoring Programme where he received mentoring by corporate and business leaders.

Elray is grateful for the many opportunities that ITE has given him and for leading him to the path of becoming a licensed aircraft engineer in future.

- 6 I hope Si Pei's and Elray's stories will inspire more students to value their unique strengths and interests, be bold to chart their own development, and leverage the rich learning opportunities available in ITE to bring them closer to realising their aspirations.

In Pursuit of Skills Upgrading and Career Progression

- 7 Graduands, even as you graduate today, do keep in mind that learning is for life. You cannot stop. Technology is changing. Industry is changing. The way we work and live is changing. We cannot be the one thing that does not change.
- 8 ITE has always played a key role in providing Continuing Education & Training for working adults and ITE graduates. We constantly review our slate of CET offerings. We engage with industries and work with trade associations, including some less conventional ones like Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (long name for drones) Industry Association of Singapore, Security Systems Association of Singapore, Workplace Safety and Health Council,

and Singapore Lift & Escalator Contractors & Manufacturers Association. We seek to understand emerging skills demands. We have launched (and are still launching more) short Certificate of Competency courses in specific skills areas such as Drone Technology, Security Systems, Workplace Safety, Vehicle Electronics, Lift Systems and Technology as well as Digital Environment Services & Technology. Our CET courses enable ITE graduates and working adults to upgrade their skillsets and meet new industry demands.

- 9 In April this year, ITE launched our first four **Work-Learn Technical Diplomas (or WLTDs)** – in Marine & Offshore Engineering, Mechanical & Electrical Services Supervision, Rehabilitation Care, and Security Systems Engineering. This new Work-Learn Diploma pathway allows ITE graduates to be employed (it means receiving monthly salary), to work and learn on the job, and be assured of career progression upon completion of the diploma.
- 10 In the coming years, ITE will continue to develop and launch more Work-Learn Diplomas, cutting across all industry sectors – hospitality, ICT, business, engineering, applied sciences, design and media. I urge all ITE graduates to look out for these new Work-Learn Diplomas and consider signing up for this pathway to pursue work, learning, career progression and a diploma.

In Pursuit of Lifelong Learning

- 11 In his Committee of Supply speech in March this year, Minister Ong said that in today's system, "**one never really graduates**". Indeed, one needs to learn and relearn throughout one's lifetime –

to update and master one's craft in a particular field, or to re-discover and re-develop in a new field altogether.

- 12 There are adult learners in ITE who are re-skilling to prepare for a career switch. Mr **Richard Chai** is one of them. You had a glimpse of Richard in the video earlier. As a degree holder, Richard could have gone to other CET providers to reskill, but he chose ITE as he knew that, here, he can pick up hard technical skills that are highly relevant and applicable to industry. He enrolled in a **CET Nitec in IT Networking & System Administration** course, and, it has helped him to get a new job very quickly.
- 13 We look forward to more adult learners like Richard, degree and non-degree holders, to utilise the relevance and value of ITE's part-time learning options.

Conclusion

- 14 Graduands, today's graduation is a milestone in your learning journey. You may have graduated from an ITE course but you never graduate from learning. Learning is a lifelong process.
- 15 Success in a changing world will require more than just the acquisition and deepening of skills. It calls for adaptability, empathy and a deep sense of purpose in life. In your pursuits, do remember to thank and treasure your teachers, families and friends who have journeyed along with you.

16 Once again, my Congratulations to all graduands!
I wish you every success in your future endeavours.
Thank you.