



News Release No. 04/17

## **ITE Celebrates 25 Years of Inspiration, Transformation and Excellence**

*ITE commemorates a journey of inspiring dreams, transforming lives and achieving excellence*

Since its formation in April 1992, ITE's work has impacted over 1.5 million learners. Through its Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on<sup>®</sup> Education, it has provided a unique brand of skills education that has enabled young people to start and build meaningful careers, progress in life, as well as contribute to the community and to Singapore's economic success.

On Fri 26 May 2017, ITE will celebrate 25 Years of Inspiration, Transformation and Excellence at the Tay Eng Soon Convention Centre, ITE Headquarters. The Guest-of-Honour is **Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) & Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies**.

### **Inspiration, Transformation and Excellence**

ITE had completely transformed Singapore's Technical and Vocational Education Training System since its formation as a post-secondary institution. The key milestones in ITE's journey are in **Annex A**. Through successive five-year strategic roadmaps, purposeful execution and staff's resilience and care for students, ITE has transformed the lives of aspiring youths, inspiring them to pursue their dreams and enabling them to achieve excellence. ITE has received significant accolades for its superior quality of technical education and impact (listed in **Annex B**).

Over the years, ITE has sharpened its unique ability to provide a holistic education through creation of authentic learning environments that simulate industry and the workplace as well as provision of a wide range of industry-relevant courses. A key factor behind ITE's success is its strong and strategic links and collaborations with industries, community and international partners. DPM Tharman will present ITE Distinguished Partner Award to **25 partners** at the Celebration. **Annex C** lists these distinguished partners. Of these, the Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport (KM), Baden-Württemberg, Federal Republic of



Germany (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Baden-Württemberg, Federal Republic of Germany), will receive the *ITE Premier Partner Award*.

Ms Low Khah Gek, Chief Executive Officer, ITE, said, “In the last 25 years, we have transformed the ‘what’ and ‘how’ of our educational and training programmes. But the ‘why’ has not changed. ITE remains steadfast in its duty to train students for careers and employment and equip students with strong values and competencies to navigate their future and lead productive lives. Our greatest satisfaction lies in creating opportunity and providing hope for a better future for all our students.”

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#### **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.

**ITE'S KEY MILESTONES**

YEAR	MILESTONE
1992	<p><b>Inauguration of ITE</b></p> <p>On 1 April 1992, ITE was formed as a post-secondary education institution to replace the Vocational &amp; Industrial Training Board. ITE was established to provide excellent technical education and training to enhance the quality of the workforce and meet the emerging skilled manpower needs of Singapore.</p>
1992	<p><b>10-Year Physical Development Master Plan</b></p> <p>A 10-year Physical Development Master Plan (1992 to 2002) was implemented to bring technical education to the doorsteps of the people. The Plan would see the development of 10 modern and well-equipped campuses in densely-populated areas.</p>
1994	<p><b>First National Skills Competition</b></p> <p>In an effort to publicise and showcase the importance and status of skills, ITE took the lead in organising the first National Skills Competition (later renamed WorldSkills Singapore Competition). The competition also aimed to give recognition to technically-skilled young Singaporeans. Top winners of the competition would represent Singapore at the biennial international WorldSkills Competition series.</p>
1994	<p><b>ITE Launches OJT Scheme to Strengthen Workplace Training</b></p> <p>In 1994, ITE launched the Certified On-The-Job Training Centre (COJTC) Scheme to complement the former National Productivity Board's effort in promoting OJT in Singapore. COJTCs have the autonomy to develop and conduct OJT programmes. The number of COJTCs has since grown from 14 in 1994 to 280 in 2017. In addition, ITE collaborates with industry partners to form Approved Training Centres to provide more learning programmes for adult learners.</p>

YEAR	MILESTONE
1995	<p><b>Strategic Blueprints for Charting ITE</b></p> <p>Since 1995, ITE's transformation has been carried out in five successive waves, each led by a five-year Strategic Roadmap. <b>ITE 2000 (1995 - 1999)</b> was launched to build ITE into <i>An Established Post-Secondary Technical Education Institution</i> by the year 2000. <b>ITE Breakthrough (2000 – 2004)</b> was launched with the aim of building ITE into a world-class institution. ITE's third strategic plan – <b>ITE Advantage (2005 - 2009)</b> – was rolled out with the aspiration <i>to be A Global Leader in Technical Education</i>. ITE continued to make waves in the local and international vocational and technical education scene with the fourth plan, <b>ITE Innovate (2010 - 2014)</b>, to be <i>A Global Leader in Innovations in Technical Education</i>. The current strategic plan, <b>ITE Trailblazer (2015 - 2019)</b> is aligned to the <i>SkillsFuture initiative</i> to ready Singapore for the next phase of development as an advanced economy and society. ITE's vision is to be <i>A Trailblazer in Career &amp; Technical Education</i> to deliver the best for students and adult learners.</p>
1997	<p><b>Celebrating our Alumni with an Alumni Association</b></p> <p>The idea for the formation of the ITE Alumni Association was mooted by then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan, during the Opening of ITE Headquarters and ITE Dover, in 1996. On 17 February 1997, the ITE Alumni Association was established and registered. Through an active calendar of activities, networking sessions and publications, ITE alumni are also actively contributing back to ITE through internship placements, entrepreneurship development activities and fund raising for financially challenged ITE students.</p>
1998	<p><b>Initiation of Branding Campaigns to Change Public Perception</b></p> <p>ITE embarked on its first branding campaign, <i>Make Things Happen</i>, targeted at the general public and opinion leaders, such as teachers, parents and employers to change public perception. The aim was to re-profile and enhance the image of ITE and technical education. The campaign emphasised the key roles ITE graduates play in everyday lives and the impact of the skills they had gained at ITE. Since then, ITE has had six branding campaigns, each aligned to the strategic plan of the relevant period. The current branding campaign is themed, <i>Equip for Life</i>.</p>
2002	<p><b>New ITE Certification System – National ITE Certificate (<i>Nitec</i>)</b></p> <p>A new Certification System was introduced to replace the National Technical Certificate (NTC) system in place since the 1970s, and to streamline ITE's certifications. The new certifications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National ITE Certificate (<i>Nitec</i>)</li> <li>• Higher National ITE Certificate (<i>Higher Nitec</i>)</li> <li>• Master National ITE Certificate (<i>Master Nitec</i>)</li> </ul> <p>Today, in addition to these Certificates, ITE also awards Technical Diplomas -</p>

YEAR	MILESTONE
	issued in collaboration with renowned overseas institutional partners from Germany and France.
2003	<p><b>ITEES is Established</b></p> <p>ITE Education Services Pte Ltd (ITEES), the private arm of ITE, was established to share Singapore’s expertise in career and technical education with the international community.</p> <p>Services of ITEES include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership and system development</li> <li>• Pedagogic and teaching development</li> <li>• Infrastructure and programme development</li> </ul> <p>It has worked with partners from government ministries, education institutions, multinational companies, and small and medium enterprises from countries in Asia, Africa and the Americas.</p>
2005	<p><b>Implementation of One ITE System, Three Colleges Governance and Education Model</b></p> <p>ITE implemented the ‘One ITE System, Three Colleges’ Governance and Education Model. Under this system, the ITE Headquarters oversees policies, systems, standards and resources. The 10 satellite campuses were regrouped into three entities – ITE College Central, ITE College East and ITE College West – with the aim of facilitating better interdisciplinary learning, creating a more vibrant campus environment and consolidating resources. Under this Model, Colleges are aligned to organisational goals, policies and standards, and are given greater autonomy to innovate and carve out niches of excellence and competencies, to differentiate themselves.</p>
2005	<p><b>The First Comprehensive College – ITE College East</b></p> <p>ITE’s first comprehensive College, ITE College East, opened in Simei Avenue in 2005. The new campus was hailed as the ‘College of the Future’, as it redefined the teaching and learning environment and changed the delivery of VTE.</p> <p>ITE College East is a <i>College of Enterprise and Innovation</i>, with niche areas in Applied &amp; Health Sciences, Beauty and Hair Design.</p>
2005	<p><b>Going Global with Global Education Programme</b></p> <p>The Global Education Programme (GEP) was introduced as part of ITE’s holistic education, to expose students to global perspectives and develop a global mindset.</p> <p>Today, one in three students has the opportunity to go overseas for Overseas</p>

YEAR	MILESTONE
	Experiential and Attachment Programmes.
2006	<p><b>First International Conference on Vocational &amp; Technical Education</b></p> <p>ITE organised and hosted its first International Conference on Vocational and Technical Education (VTE). The Conference aimed to bring together VTE policy makers, VTE professionals and experts to share challenges, experiences and leading practices in VTE. It was also an excellent platform to network and learn from regional and international experts for future collaborations. Held triennially, ITE has organised four International Conferences on Vocational and Technical Education thus far.</p>
2007	<p><b>First Global Award</b></p> <p>ITE received its first international award for excellence – the Global Harvard-IBM Innovations Award in Transforming Government – from Harvard University’s Ash Centre for Democratic Governance and Innovation.</p> <p>The award recognised ITE’s role in creating a highly successful and sustainable model for transforming educational institutions worldwide.</p>
2007	<p><b>International Student Seminar Takes Off</b></p> <p>The biennial ITE Student Seminar, inaugurated in 1997, went global in 2007 with ITE’s collaboration with the Vocational Training Council (VTC), Hong Kong. Both ITE and VTC took turns to host youths from the two institutions to encourage students to discuss and reflect on issues from multiple perspectives, and to be the advocates and agents of change in current and emerging issues that affect the community.</p>
2008	<p><b>ITE Launches Technical Diploma Programme</b></p> <p>ITE’s first diploma, the Technical Engineer Diploma in Machine Technology, was developed in collaboration with the Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport (KM), Baden-Württemberg, Federal Republic of Germany (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Baden-Württemberg, Federal Republic of Germany), to help ITE graduates deepen their skills in selected careers. Two more Diplomas were launched later – one in Automotive Engineering (also with KM) in 2010; and one in Culinary Arts, in collaboration with Institut Paul Bocuse, from Lyon, France, in 2011.</p>
2010	<p><b>Second Comprehensive College – ITE College West</b></p> <p>ITE College West at Choa Chu Kang Grove, welcomed its first batch of students in July 2010. With its opening, five satellite campuses, namely Ang Mo Kio, Bedok, Bukit Batok, Clementi and Dover, were closed.</p>

YEAR	MILESTONE
	<p>ITE College West is a <i>College of Service and Innovation</i> with niche areas in Hospitality and Land Transportation. It has a borderless and green campus with authentic learning facilities, such as a 22-room Training Hotel and four training restaurants opened to the public.</p>
2011	<p><b>First Gold for ITE at WorldSkills Competition</b></p> <p>Shuner Villanueva Leong made history by being the first ITE participant to win a Gold medal at the biennial International WorldSkills Competition. She represented Singapore in the Beauty Therapy skills area in WorldSkills London 2011. Subsequently, Catherine Boey, also from ITE, won a Gold Medal in Beauty Therapy in WorldSkills Leipzig 2013.</p>
2011	<p><b>First Education Institution to Achieve Singapore Quality Award with Special Commendation</b></p> <p>ITE became the first education institution to win the Singapore Quality Award with Special Commendation for World-Class Business Excellence and the Public Service Premier Award for Organisational Excellence.</p>
2012	<p><b>ITE Launches Book to Relive Transformation Journey</b></p> <p>ITE celebrated 20 years of Educational Excellence in 2012, with the launch of the Commemorative Book, titled, <i>Reliving ITE's Transformation</i>, by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean. The book tells ITE's transformation story and shares rich lessons and experiences behind ITE's journey by stakeholders and staff.</p>
2013	<p><b>Third Comprehensive College and Headquarters Opens</b></p> <p>Opened in January 2013, ITE College Central and the new ITE Headquarters celebrated their Official Opening with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. This marked the completion of the 10-year 'One ITE, Three Colleges' Master Plan.</p> <p>ITE College Central is a <i>College of Creativity and Innovation</i> and has niche areas in Design and Media, Aerospace, Marine and Precision Engineering. It houses a one-stop commercial facility to showcase products and services by students - ITE Epitome - and a dedicated aircraft hangar with a Boeing 737 passenger jet to train Aerospace students.</p>
2015	<p><b>Launch of Enhanced Internship Scheme</b></p> <p>An Enhanced Internship Scheme was launched under <i>SkillsFuture</i> to provide real workplace experiences, and ensure students and graduates are prepared for the working world, and are able to continually learn and deepen skills. Enhancements were made to the internship curriculum, including establishing defined learning outcomes and structured activities so that students undergo meaningful work-based</p>



YEAR	MILESTONE
	learning.
2017	<p><b>25 Years of Inspiration, Transformation, Excellence</b></p> <p>The journey of inspiring dreams, transforming lives and shaping excellence continues. ITE will continue to be forward-looking to enhance curriculum to meet current needs of industry, improve the learning environment, provide opportunities for students to shine, and strengthen collaboration with industry and international partners.</p>



**AWARDS ITE HAS ACHIEVED**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AWARD</b>
2016	<b>*Public Service Premier Award</b>
2015	Wenhui Award for Educational Innovation (Winner) (established by the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, and coordinated by the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development)
2014	Corporate HR Champion Award President's Award for the Environment 2014
2013	Minister for Defence Award Minister for Home Affairs Award Lee Foundation Singapore Environmental Achievement Award 2013 (Public Sector) ISO14001:2004 Environmental Management System
2012	Singapore HR Awards BCA Green Mark Platinum Award Singapore HEALTH Award (Platinum)
2011	<b>*Public Service Premier Award</b> <b>*Singapore Quality Award with Special Commendation</b> Singapore Service Class Singapore Innovation Class Aon-Hewitt Best Employers in Singapore
2010	Public Service Distinguished Award Public Service Best Practice Award (Stakeholder Engagement) Human Capital Corporate Champion Award Singapore HR Awards
2008	Public Relations in the Service of Mankind (PRISM) Excellence Award - Outstanding Overall Corporate Reputation Enhancement Programme Singapore HEALTH Award (Platinum)
2007	President's Social Service Award <b>*Harvard-IBM Innovations Award in Transforming Government (Top Award)</b>
2006	Public Relations in the Service of Mankind (PRISM) Excellence Award - Best Public Service Campaign (Government)
2005	Distinguished Public Service Award for Organisational Excellence <b>*Singapore Quality Award</b>



YEAR	AWARD
	Outstanding Innovation & Quality Circles Organisation Award Singapore HEALTH Award (Platinum)
2004	Singapore HEALTH Award (Gold)
2003	Public Service Award for Organisation Excellence Singapore HEALTH Award (Gold)
2002	ISO9001:2000 Quality Management System (since 2002) Singapore HEALTH Award (Gold)
2000	People Developer Public Relations in the Service of Mankind (PRISM) Excellence Award - Best Public Service Campaign (Government) Outstanding Innovation & Quality Circles Organisation Award
1999	Singapore Quality Class Corporate Volunteer Award (Commendation)
1996	Outstanding Innovation & Quality Circles Organisation Award

***\*Noteworthy Awards***



## Annex C

### 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DISTINGUISHED PARTNER AWARD

ITE recognised institutions, industry and community partners who have helped to raise ITE's quality and status as a world-class institution for career & technical education in the last 25 years by presenting the **Premier Partner Award (one recipient)** and **Distinguished Partner Award (24 recipients)**.

The Awards celebrate the unique and unstinting contributions of long-time partners who have generously extended opportunities for learning and development to ITE staff and students, strengthened the fabric of ITE Education, and helped raise the brand name of ITE in Singapore and beyond.

These partners have helped enhance the development and training of ITE students through knowledge and skills transfer, sponsorship in cash and kind, internship opportunities and through the provision of expertise in development and review of curriculum and programmes in new and emerging skills areas.

The Award Recipients are:

#### **Premier Partner Award**

- Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport (KM), Baden-Württemberg, Federal Republic of Germany (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Baden-Württemberg, Federal Republic of Germany)

#### **Distinguished Partner Award**

- Box Hill Institute, Australia
- Changi General Hospital
- Cisco Systems (USA) Pte Ltd
- Festo Pte Ltd
- Institut Paul Bocuse, France
- ITE Alumni Association
- Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd
- Kirkwood Community College, USA
- Les Amis Group Pte Ltd
- Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte Ltd
- National Trades Union Congress
- National Youth Achievement Award Council
- NCS Pte Ltd
- PSA Corporation Limited
- Samsung Asia Pte Ltd
- SATS Ltd
- Security Systems Association of Singapore
- SembCorp Marine Ltd



- Shell Companies in Singapore
- SMRT Corporation Ltd
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Canada
- ST Aerospace
- Systems on Silicon Manufacturing Co Pte Ltd
- Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong