

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MS LOW KHAH GEK, CEO, ITE, AT THE  
TECHNICAL ENGINEER DIPLOMA IN MACHINE TECHNOLOGY 10TH  
ANNIVERSARY AND PROJECT FAIR 2018 ON 9 MARCH 2018 AT 0930  
HRS AT THE HALL, TAY ENG SOON CONVENTION CENTRE**

Guest-of-Honour

**Mr Knut Zuchan**

First Secretary and Head/Science & Technology Department  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

**Mrs Elizabeth Moser**

Director and Board Member  
Landesakademie, Germany

**Mr Holger Esch**

Principal  
Gottlieb-Daimler-Schule 1

**Ms Karin Bieber-Machner**

Principal  
Gottlieb-Daimler-Schule 2

**Associate Professor Wang Lingyun**

Shanghai University of Engineering Science, China

Friends and partners from Germany

Industry Partners

Distinguished guests

ITE Colleagues and students

Ladies and Gentlemen

## Introduction

- It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ITE's Technical Engineer Diploma (or TED) in Machine Technology.
- This TED programme was launched in 2008 with the aim of training technologists to support Singapore's Precision Engineering industry which is core to the manufacturing sector.
- The programme was the result of ITE's long-standing partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. ITE collaborates with Germany's Gottlieb-Daimler-Schule 1 for the TED curriculum, pedagogy and assessment.

## Shining Examples of Outstanding Graduates

- In the past decade, the course has produced close to 300 successful graduates. Our latest Graduate Employment Survey shows that **96%** of these graduates hold a full-time job with mean salary of **\$2,500**.
- Allow me to share two success stories with you.
- **Chan Yan Hao** graduated from Higher Nitec in Mechanical Engineering in 2008 and joined the TED programme. In 2013 (after the TED programme and National Service), Yan Hao was hired by Singapore Technologies Kinetics Limited, a company that deals with land systems and speciality vehicles.
  - As a Senior Technician in their Quality Assurance department, Yan Hao's job scope includes development of test plans according to engineering specifications; design, qualify and commissioning of test jigs, as well as operate and analyse instrument data for these speciality vehicles.

- From day one, Yan Hao impressed his colleagues with his positive attitude towards learning new skills, and being able deliver quality work despite challenges.
- Three years later, he was promoted to Associate Engineer. Yan Hao's supervisor commended him for his exemplary leadership, ability to motivate his subordinates, and timeliness in completing projects.
- **Qamarul Syafiq bin Hosri** graduated from Nitec in Medical Manufacturing Technology and enrolled in the TED programme. Last year, Qamarul joined **JEP Precision Engineering Pte Ltd** and already stood out for his exceptional work performance.
  - At the new plant in Seletar, JEP invested significantly in a Flexible Manufacturing System which manufactures aircraft landing gear components. Qamarul was given the opportunity to operate the new system, a responsibility that he shouldered with competency and ease, with his strong technical competency and ability to pick up new skills. Qamarul exemplifies the qualities of TED graduates – the ability to grasp new knowledge and adapt to new equipment, systems and processes.
- For both Yan Hao and Quamarul, their bosses value them as assets to the respective companies. ITE and our German partners are proud of them. The quality of all our TED graduates testifies to the quality and effectiveness of the curriculum and pedagogy developed jointly

by ITE and GDS1 as well as the high professionalism and commitment of the staff from ITE and GDS1.

### **Industry Support and TED Project Fair**

- Collaboration and partnership with the industry continue to be the core strength of the TED programme. All final year TED students must do a nine-month project that require them to deal with and provide a solution to a real industry problem. We are grateful to our industry partners for providing these authentic technological problems to challenge our students and enrich their learning.
- The students' Final-Year Projects are showcased today and they cover areas ranging from industrial automation to innovative product design and productivity improvement. These are not just assignments for students to take on just so they can get a grade for their studies. These projects have added real value to the companies and industry. Let me provide two examples.
  - First, **BAUMANN Spring Co. (S) Pte Ltd.** Baumann Spring is in the business of manufacturing springs which are used in automotive, medical and electrical equipment. This year, the TED students developed an innovative solution to enhance ease the transfer of heavy boxes for palletising. BAUMANN Spring likes the solution and intends to deploy 4 units of this solution into their operations. Ms Lilian Cheong, BAUMANN's CEO for the Asia Stamping Division said such industry projects are mutually beneficial as her company gained a new industry solution while ITE students gained in their learning and skills. I

agree with her completely. <Slide to show photo of students' solution>

- Second example is **Carrier Transicold Pte Ltd.** Carrier Transicold manufactures transport refrigeration equipment and also provides refrigerated supply chain monitoring solutions. This year, our TED students were given the challenge of combining two receiver brazing jigs into one to improve productivity at Carrier's assembly line. Our students designed, fabricated and tested their new 'combination jig' on site. I am told that Carrier's Production Manager, **Mr Yau Chang Fook**, was very pleased with the new design concept, and will be implementing the students' 'combination jig' which would help Carrier Transicold reduce set-up time, cycle time and work-in-progress inventory, thus improving productivity by 17.5% and achieve manpower reduction from 2 staff to 1 for the same operation.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memento**

- To commemorate the TED's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a multi-disciplinary team comprising staff and students of ITE College Central's School of Engineering, School of Design & Media, and School of Electronics & Info-Comm Technology, have specially designed and made a 10th Anniversary memento. (You will find it in the carrier bag).
- This model biplane is fashioned out of galvanised steel and combines the precision of CNC laser cut and the artistry of hands. Its two

wings, bearing the names of ITE and GDS1, are symbolic of how our partnership has taken flight and will power us to new heights in the years ahead.

- You can also download the “TED 10th Anniversary” app on your mobile device to enjoy the Augmented Reality view of the model plane. <Slide to show AR 3D view through a phone>

## **Conclusion**

- In closing, let me take this opportunity to thank all industry partners who have offered internship and authentic learning opportunities to our students. Your support has made a significant difference to the TED programme and students.
- Our industry partners have also given their strong support for this afternoon’s seminar entitled ‘**Smart Solutions for Manufacturing**’. I encourage you to attend the seminar to network with industry practitioners as well as learn about Industry 4.0 transformation and the latest innovations in manufacturing.
- I would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Elizabeth Moser, past and present Principals and Directors from KM Colleges and Institutions, Germany, for your strong belief in and support of our partnership. We will continue to innovate, change and grow to ensure that our TED graduates always add value to industry.
- Special appreciation also goes to **Mr Knut Zuchan**, First Secretary and Head/Science & Technology Department,

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany for gracing today's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of TED (Machine Technology).

- My Congratulations to the graduating TED students on the successful completion of your Final-Year projects. As Precision Engineering remains a key pillar in Singapore's manufacturing sector, I am confident that you will have fulfilling careers in the years ahead.

Thank you.