

ADDRESS BY MR BRUCE POH, DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ITE AT THE ITE GRADUATION CEREMONY, ON FRIDAY 22 JULY 2016, AT 3.00PM, AT THE TAY ENG SOON CONVENTION CENTRE

Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence

Mr Bob Tan, Chairman/ITE Board of Governors

Members of the ITE Board of Governors

Graduands, Parents, Colleagues

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

- 1 Welcome to the 2016 ITE Graduation Ceremony. We would like to thank Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, for celebrating this special occasion with us.
- 2 Today, **13,849 ITE students** have reached an important milestone in their education journey. They will be graduating from ITE's full-time, traineeship and part-time courses in Academic Year 2015/2016.

- 3 For **675** of them, the occasion is even more special. They will receive **Certificates of Merit** for excelling in their courses. Among these, **226** will also receive **Course Medals**.
- 4 Another **10 graduands** will receive the **Tay Eng Soon Scholarship Awards** for outstanding results and exceptional contributions in Co-curricular Activities.
- 5 To all graduands and award winners, **Congratulations!** You have made good use of the opportunities in ITE and have achieved success. I am very happy for you.

ITE Trailblazer Plan

- 6 This year, we have a full-time enrolment of **28,100 students**. These numbers attest to the confidence and strong endorsement that parents, students and the public have of ITE. It is also a testament of the quality of education and training we provide.
- 7 In response to SkillsFuture, we launched the **ITE Trailblazer**, our latest Strategic Plan, last year. The fifth in the series, our priority in the next five years is to focus on careers in technical education. This reflects our emphasis in helping students succeed with skills that will undergird their careers; not just skills for a trade alone.

- 8 To do this, all **101 ITE courses** – which include *Nitec*, *Higher Nitec*, and Technical Diploma courses – will provide students with strong and holistic foundations in technical skills that will be reinforced by workplace skills gained through internships. By **2020**, all our courses will have Enhanced Internship as a feature of their learning. Through learning on the job, students have the opportunity to apply their learning, and to develop the right values and attitudes to succeed in their chosen careers.

Global Education Programme (GEP) Award

- 9 So, yes, skills are important, but that is not enough. To stand out, our students need both hard skills and soft skills. And in an age of globalisation, global mindsets, the ability to work with people of different cultures and perspectives become particularly important. That is why one of the key programmes in *ITE Trailblazer* is the holistic development of students through enriching experiences that **build character**.
- 10 One such programme is our **Global Education Programme**, or GEP. The GEP provides ITE students with overseas exposure through student exchange, industry attachment, community service or cultural and sports activities.

About **one in three ITE students** have the opportunity to go on a GEP. Such experiences are life-changing for them.

- 11 **Seth Tan**, a graduand of the *Higher Nitec* in Filmmaking (Cinematography) course is one student, who has benefitted from the GEP. Seth participated in an overseas exchange programme where he was attached to the Hong Kong Design Institute. Through his attachment, Seth gained first-hand experience on the technical aspects of television programme production in Hong Kong. This was eye-opening to him.
- 12 In June 2015, Seth was had the opportunity to be attached to MM2 Malaysia, a company that was doing post-production work for Jack Neo's movie, '*Long Long Time Ago*'. During the attachment, Seth had the chance to do real on-set post-production editing for the film under the guidance of a professional production team.
- 13 I am sure Seth has had many fond memories of his stints in Hong Kong and Malaysia, and these have sharpened both his mind-set and skillsets.
- 14 However, we also hear of students who receive opportunities to go for longer stints overseas, but are unable to, due to financial reasons. So, to strengthen our

GEP, we will be introducing a **Global Education Award** worth **up to \$5,000** per award from next year. It will be awarded to four outstanding students at each College, or a total of **12 students** each year. It will be funded from donations from the **Singapore Business Federation Foundation**, for students selected for the Overseas Study Exchange Overseas Industry Attachment Programmes.

Skills Mastery Journey of an ITE Graduate

- 15 These are exciting times for ITE students. They have many interesting courses to choose from in ITE. They have many opportunities to develop themselves to the fullest. And, their futures are bright. Allow me, in closing, to share the story of **Roy Lim**, who was featured in the Graduation Video.

- 16 Roy was enrolled in our **Nitec in Machine Technology** course after his N Levels in **2008**. When he graduated in 2010, he decided to deepen his skills. He enrolled in the **Technical Engineer Diploma in Machine Technology** course offered by ITE in collaboration with Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. He did very well.

- 17 After completing his National Service, Roy decided to further upgrade his skills. While working for **ifm electronic**

Asia Pte Ltd for a year, a German engineering company with a branch in Singapore, he applied for and was awarded a Scholarship for a work-and-study programme in Germany.

18 Roy is now doing a German language programme in Germany, and will start his Bachelor of Engineering degree at the **Duale Hochschule or Cooperative State University** in Baden-Württemberg in October this year.

19 Like Roy, you, too, can go far in life, if you have the interest and determination to work hard. Work a few years after you graduate, understand the jobs you can do with your ITE Certificate, and then deepen your skills by continuing to master your skills at work or through further studies. Like Roy, the sky is your limit. Many opportunities await you.

Conclusion

20 On this note, I would like to congratulate all graduands in this auditorium. I wish you all the best and I hope to see you reach greater heights in your career and in your life. Remember to thank your parents and teachers. They have supported you and encouraged you in your learning journey!

Thank you and best wishes.