

SPEECH BY MR BOB TAN, CHAIRMAN/ITE, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ITE-VTC INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SEMINAR, 27 JUNE 17, TUESDAY

Mr S Iswaran

Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry)

Dr Clement Chen

Chairman, Vocational Training Council (VTC)

Ms Low Khah Gek

CEO, ITE

Dr Carrie Yau

Executive Director, VTC

Members of the VTC and ITE Boards

Distinguished Speakers, Guests, Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

- Thank Minister for his presence and support.
- ITE started the biennial Student Seminar in 1997 to engage ITE students on local and global issues.
- 10 years later, the Student Seminar was expanded into an international event with VTC, to provide a global perspective for our students and to open their minds to new ideas and experiences.
- First International Student Seminar was held in Hong Kong in 2007 and was a resounding success. Although they were from different cultures, the students found plenty of similarities in terms of aspirations and outlook.
- Now into its fifth edition, the Seminar continues to excite and encourage participants to discuss current issues and share ideas that affect our community. A testament of the strong partnership between ITE and VTC.

ISS – The Result of Globalisation

- Globalisation – the process that increases the movement of people, culture, technology, ideologies and information across the world.
- Both our economies have benefitted strongly from the opening up of markets around the world.

- From a daily perspective, we see it every day and it is very apparent in this Seminar:
 - Cheaper and a greater number of flights have made it possible for the VTC participants to attend the Seminar in Singapore, and vice versa. This facilitates the exchange of culture and ideas across two different nationalities.
 - Technology has enabled our speakers to give their talks in the TED style – conveying powerful messages in engaging, short talks, and students collaborating on your ideas before coming together, physically here.
 - Technology has also enabled ITE and VTC to work together on a cookbook titled ***A Taste of Two Cities***. It is an e-cookbook, and all participants present will receive an abridged version of it.
- The dishes featured in the cookbook were served during Hong Kong Nite and Singapore Nite in 2015 and 2016 respectively. During Hong Kong and Singapore Nites, the culinary teams from ITE and VTC's Chinese Culinary Institute come together to plan and execute a menu.
- This exchange of ideas, experiencing the working culture of each country, and the forging of friendships across borders are good outcomes of globalisation and something we want to encourage.
- Not everything about globalisation is good. But we want each Seminar participant to focus on the benefits of globalisation and use it to their advantage. Get to know other cultures, contribute towards improving the world.

Conclusion

- I would like to thank the Organising Committees from ITE and VTC for arranging this excellent learning opportunity for our students.
- My appreciation, too, to:
 - The three guest speakers for sharing your wealth of knowledge:
 - **Ms Kuik Shiao-Yin**, Nominated Member of Parliament and Director of Thought Collective
 - **Mr David Yeung**, CEO and co-founder of Green Monday, Hong Kong
 - **Dr Tan Lai Yong** – Director, Outreach and Community Engagement, College of Alice & Peter Tan, National University of Singapore

- And to **Dr Clement Chen**, Chairman, VTC; **Professor Eric Yim**, Deputy Chairman, VTC; **Mrs Carrie Yau**, Executive Director, VTC; **Khah Gek, CEO/ITE**, and the ITE team, for your strong support for this collaboration in organising the Student Seminar.

- Look forward to an exciting and meaningful International Student Seminar