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Close to 1,600 Companies Now Offering Enhanced Internship to ITE Students

Over 6,000 ITE students have benefitted from the programme this year

As one of its commitments in the five-year strategic roadmap, the *ITE Trailblazer*, ITE has given more students the chance to hone their skills through the Enhanced Internship programme. Since the programme's roll-out in January 2016, more than **6,000** second-year students from **over 60 per cent** of ITE courses had the opportunity to take part. By 2020, all second-year ITE students are expected to undergo Enhanced Internship.

How Enhanced Internship has Benefitted Students

Students on Enhanced Internship enjoy the benefits that come from structured training via a prescribed task list agreed by both ITE and the companies. This ensures that students undergo meaningful work-based learning that allows them to apply what they have learnt in the work place, while deepening their skills set.

Mr Bruce Poh, Director & CEO, ITE said, "In line with the national *SkillsFuture* agenda and *ITE Trailblazer* Plan, we want to ensure that our students have opportunities to work alongside experienced professionals in the industry. This will not only help sharpen their skills, but give them opportunities to learn both work skills and life skills. Through Enhanced Internship, our students will be more prepared for their careers straight after graduation, and have a strong foundation to build their careers on."

Industry Partnership Vital to Training Students

Industry's involvement is important to creating meaningful Enhanced Internship experiences for students. Currently, **1,586** companies across all industry sectors are on board to provide Enhanced Internships for ITE students. This is a sharp increase from 57 companies in 2015. These companies work with ITE to co-create learning outcomes and meaningful experiences under the guidance of a trained industry mentor under the Enhanced Internship framework.

On Monday 14 Nov, members of the ITE Board of Governors visited NCS Pte Ltd and ST Electronics (Info-comm Systems) Pte Ltd to better understand these companies' Smart Nation initiatives, and how ITE students have benefited from internships at these companies. NCS and ST Electronics (Info-comm Systems) have been providing ITE students with Enhanced Internships since April this year.

Mr Chia Wee Boon, CEO of NCS Pte Ltd, shared, "Having talents with the right knowledge and skills to develop smart city solutions is critical to realising Singapore's Smart Nation vision. By virtue of our heritage as the largest employer of Info-communication Technology (ICT) professionals in Singapore, NCS has the added responsibility of inculcating new blood to support local ICT requirements and to build a future-ready talent pool. Therefore, we are committed to develop a long-term partnership with ITE to provide students with the opportunities to gain hands-on experience on ICT projects."

"Internship has been part of ST Electronics' efforts to attract and nurture young talents to meet our business needs and to enhance the competency level of Singapore's talent pool to meet the demands of the ICT job market. Under the ITE Enhanced Internship Programme, students get to experience a real working environment where they can gain useful on-the-job training and deepen their skills and knowledge under the guidance of our experienced mentors. We will continue to work closely with ITE to provide relevant exposures for the students to enable them to make better transition to work upon their graduation," said Mr Lee Fook Sun, Deputy CEO & President, Defence Business of ST Engineering and President of ST Electronics.

For more information and arrangement for media interviews, please contact:

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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.