

ADDRESS BY MS LOW KHAH GEK, CEO/ITE, AT ITE STUDENT ACHIEVERS' AWARDS 2017 PRESENTATION CEREMONY, ON WED 17 MAY 2017, AT 1000 HOURS, AT ITE COLLEGE WEST AUDITORIUM

Introduction

- 1 It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning as we honour the achievements of 393 of our students.
- 2 I see the faces of our award recipients beaming with pride and joy and these same emotions are reflected in the faces of your parents and your lecturers. Your achievements have generated much happiness. I extend my heartiest congratulations to you.
- 3 This year, we celebrate ITE's 25th Anniversary. In the last 25 years, we have witnessed countless ITE students and graduates inspired, transformed and excelled. Let me illustrate this through the stories of three awardees present today - **Ryan Tan Wen Ter, Kenny Tok Joo Tat and Dinie Kartika Asrie Omar.**

Inspiration. Transformation. Excellence.

Ryan Tan Wen Ter

- 4 In his secondary school days, Ryan spent much of his time engrossed in computer gaming. He neglected his studies, did not have a social life and had few friends. However, coming to ITE changed all that. He discovered the joy of hands-on learning and the deep satisfaction of using his skills to help others. He had caring lecturers who inspired and encouraged him. Today, Ryan has also a wider social circle and has made a lot more friends.
- 5 In short, Ryan was inspired to be an enthusiastic learner and transformed himself as he seized the many opportunities at ITE. Today, Ryan is one of our **Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award** winners. His pursuit for excellence continues as he set goals for himself. He plans to further his studies in Multimedia and Animation.

Kenny Tok Joo Tat

- 6 Kenny's story is unique. He took a little longer than others to discover his passion and motivation. When he first joined ITE after Sec 4, he was restless and unfocused. He actually left ITE before completing the course. The disappointment and sadness of his parents left a deep impression on him. He resolved to make his parents proud and enrolled at ITE a second time, after completing National Service.
- 7 This time, Kenny was motivated, focused and worked very hard. He excelled in his studies and CCAs. Kenny gave an excellent description of his ITE journey. He shared: "Back then, I was like a bowl of unpolished rice. Military training transformed me into a bowl of cooked fragrant rice. And ITE transformed me into a plate of flavourful fried rice!"

Compassion and Courage

- 8 ITE students are also known for their compassion and courage as they reach out to help others. In the 3 May incident of the burning taxi at Buona Vista, **Muhammad Yazid**, our automotive engineering student at ITE College West, went forward to help the passengers of the burning taxi despite the danger. He was burnt by flying debris from the blast. MP Christopher De Souza visited him and praised him for his courage and selflessness. We are proud that our ITE students have big hearts and demonstrate care for others, and care for the community.

Dinie Kartika Asrie Omar

- 9 This generosity of the heart and spirit is evident in this **Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award** winner, **Dinie Kartika Asrie Omar**. She was active in several local and overseas community projects while at ITE. She was a champion for the **Buddy'IN Project**, which sees ITE students pairing up with special needs students and befriending them. Today, she continues to promote awareness on Diabetes Management at the Siglap Community Club.

Creativity and Innovation

10 I would also like to give special mention to the **Lee Kuan Yew Technology Award** winners. ITE provides avenues for our students to demonstrate creativity and innovation. By coming up with practical and innovative solutions to everyday problems, our students' products have improved safety, increased productivity, enhanced efficiency, reduced energy consumption and resulted in various benefits. I invite you to view these projects later.

Conclusion

11 For 25 years, ITE has worked hard to provide each cohort of students with the skills and values to succeed in life. We strove to inspire and transform our students so they can excel. To the 393 award recipients today, we are very proud of your achievements and your strength of character as you push yourselves and persevere to reach your goals. More importantly, we are proud of your courage and compassion as you give of yourselves for your family members, your friends and the community.

12 Once again, I offer my sincere congratulations to all award recipients. I hope your stories will inspire the next and future cohorts.

13 My best wishes to you for your future. Thank you.