

CLOSING REMARKS BY MR BRUCE POH, CHAIRMAN, WORLDSKILLS SINGAPORE COUNCIL AND DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ITE, AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE WORLDSKILLS SINGAPORE 2012 COMPETITION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 JULY 2012 AT 1630 HOURS AT ITE COLLEGE WEST

Mr Bob Tan, Chairman, ITE

Members of the ITE Board of Governors

Distinguished Guests

Colleagues from Polytechnics and ITE

Competitors

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

- 1 Good afternoon. We are honoured to have Mr Bob Tan, Chairman of the ITE Board of Governors as the Guest of Honour for this Closing Ceremony.
- 2 This ceremony marks the conclusion of another successful WorldSkills Singapore Competition. Organised by ITE, in conjunction with the five Polytechnics, WorldSkills Singapore is the platform to recognise and celebrate skills excellence among youths in Singapore.

WorldSkills Singapore 2012

- 3 WorldSkills Singapore 2012 had a total of **162 finalists** who made it from the preliminary rounds. The finals, held last week, saw a closely fought three-day contest where **competitors pitted their talents against one** another, in **19 different skill areas**, including Aircraft Maintenance, our new competition area.
- 4 We are happy to see all the competitors here this afternoon. You have been waiting anxiously to find out if you have made it as national champions in your skill

area. We have kept the results secret to add to the excitement of the occasion but we will find out soon. I wish all of you the best.

- 5 To every competitor, you have trained hard for this. I want you to know that regardless of the results today, you are already a winner. The discipline, resilience and skills you have shown during this competition will, I am sure, take you far in your future careers and endeavours.

The Challenge Ahead

- 6 The winners in each skill area will represent Singapore at the 42nd WorldSkills Competition to be held at Leipzig, Germany, in July 2013. The International competition will be extremely demanding. In fact, with more countries joining each year, the international competition keeps becoming more challenging. Our competitors will be up against the best of the best from around the world.
- 7 But our track record shows that the Team Singapore is tough and resilient. As the saying goes, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." We are confident the Gold Medallists announced today will be strong enough to give their best shot at winning Gold for Singapore.
- 8 At the 41st WorldSkills Competition in London in 2011, Team Singapore won **four Gold medals, one Silver medal, two Bronze medals and seven Medallions of Excellence**; which put us in **sixth position** out of 48 countries in the Medals Tally. We also won the **first ever Gold medal** in Beauty Therapy while achieving a hat-trick in **Caring**, by winning our third consecutive Gold medal since this area was introduced in 2007. In the **IT Network Systems Administration** skill area, we have brought home the Gold medal in the last six consecutive Competitions, again since the inception of this skill area in 2001.
- 9 While the standards have been set very high for the new Team Singapore, our observation during the three days of competition gives us hope. We witnessed passion and determination in our competitors. They lived out the competition's

theme of “***My Talent***”. They took pressure in their stride and let their talents shine. They were poised, confident, and determined.

- 10 The Chief Judges for the various competition areas have shared that the standard of competitors’ performance has risen. Clearly, our competitors are stepping up their performance and this augurs very well for Team Singapore at the next WorldSkills Competition in Germany next year.

Conclusion and Acknowledgements

- 11 The successful conclusion of this competition has been made possible by the strong support of many. I would like first to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Judges, Experts and Technical Working Groups for your time and effort, and for working tirelessly behind the scenes to make the competition a success.
- 12 I would also like to thank, on behalf of the WorldSkills Singapore Council, the following:
 - Principal Sponsors, Main Sponsors, Co-sponsors and Supporters;
 - Members of the Organising Committee and Members of Working Committees for their dedication and hard work to ensure a successful outcome for the Competition;
 - All others who have, in one way or another, contributed to the success of the event.
- 13 Congratulations to all the winners who will be selected to represent Singapore – you will serve as an inspiration for other youths pursuing skills-related studies or vocations. I wish you all the best as you strive to bring glory and honour to Singapore.

Thank you