

CLOSING REMARKS BY MR BRUCE POH, DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF WORLDSKILLS SINGAPORE 2011 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2011, AT 1600 HOURS, AT ITE COLLEGE WEST

Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Manpower

Ms Denise Phua, Member of Parliament for Jalan Besar GRC

Mr Bob Tan, Chairman/ITE and Members of the ITE Board of Governors

Principals and Colleagues from the Polytechnics and ITE

Judges, Partners, Competitors

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

1. Good afternoon and a warm welcome to you. We are grateful to have Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Manpower grace the Closing Ceremony of the WorldSkills Singapore Competition 2011. We would also like to acknowledge WorldSkills International delegates from Australia, Europe and South Africa who are here for the WorldSkills Technical Working Group Meeting.
2. This ceremony marks the successful completion of yet another WorldSkills Singapore Competition organised by ITE and the five Polytechnics. The WorldSkills Singapore Competition is a national platform for the promotion of skills excellence, and the value of education and careers in skills.

WorldSkills Singapore 2011

3. This year's Competition attracted **331** registered competitors, compared to 318 in the last series. We have **18** skills areas compared to 16 two years ago. And this year, we have a total of **159** competitors making it to the finals. These are strong indicators of the growing interest in and attention to skills from education institutions and industry.
4. As the competition grows, we are mindful of its impact on cost, the environment and the community. This year, we have introduced a new **Sustainability Award** to recognise Experts who promote sustainability best practices. I am pleased to announce that earlier, at the Appreciation Lunch for the Experts, we gave the top Sustainability Award to Experts from 'IT Network Systems Administration' while the 2 Merit Awards went to experts from 'CNC Turning' and 'Web Design'.

ASEAN Skills – Another Excellent Showing by Our Youths

5. Besides the WorldSkills Competitions, the WorldSkills Singapore Council also supports other opportunities where the talents of our youths can be displayed. The ASEAN Skills Competition is one such avenue. I am happy to report that at the 8th ASEAN Skills Competition in Bangkok last year, **28** ITE students represented Singapore in **14** skills areas. They did Singapore proud. The team won **seven medals** – two **Gold**, one **Silver**, four **Bronzes**, and **six Medallions of Excellence**. We will be presenting awards to them later.

Challenge for WorldSkills Singapore Winners

6. To the would-be winners of this year's competition, you will be representing Singapore at the 41st WorldSkills Competition, in London, in October this year. The 2009 Singapore Team had set a very high benchmark for you to follow. The team won **three Gold Medals**, one **Bronze**, and **eight Medallions of Excellence** in Calgary, Canada.

7. In the **Caring, or Nursing**, skill area, we have won the Gold Medal twice since the skill area was introduced in 2007. In the **IT Network Systems Administration** skill area, we have won the Gold Medal in the last five consecutive Competitions, since the area was introduced in 2001. In fact, competitors in this skill area from Nanyang Polytechnic have won the Albert Vidal Award twice – in 2005 and 2009. The Prize is the highest award given to the highest scoring competitor at the WorldSkills Competition.
8. As I walked around to look at the Competition last week, I sensed the pride and determination of our competitors. They have trained very hard and performed very well. So, to our Competitors, whether you win a medal or not, you are to me already a winner. And I am sure this experience will go a long way in anchoring you for success in work and in life.
9. To all the winners who will represent Singapore, I congratulate you and wish you the best in the London WorldSkills. You are our skills ambassadors and role models. You represent excellence in skills and in spirit. You carry on your shoulders the hopes of everyone seated here in the Auditorium.

Acknowledgements

10. The success of the competition would not have been possible without strong support from companies, institutions and individuals. This year, 59 organisations came on board as Sponsors. Many committed professionals also contributed time and effort, and worked tirelessly behind the scene as Judges and Members of the Technical Working Groups. To all of them, let me say a big “thank you.”

11. On behalf of the WorldSkills Singapore Council, I would like to thank the:

- **Principal Sponsors, Main Sponsors, Co-sponsors, Supporters, and Partners**, who have contributed cash and in-kind to support the Competition;
- Members of the **Organising and Working Committees**, who have worked very hard to ensure the success of the Competition;
- Experts, Judges and Officials, whom I know have spent many nights and days before and during the Competition;
- Student performers from various institutions; and
- Many others who have, in one way or another, contributed to the success of the event.

12. Thank you all. I look forward to your supporting Team Singapore, who will be flying the Singapore flag in London in October.