

**OPENING REMARKS BY MR BRUCE POH, EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, WORLDSKILLS SINGAPORE COUNCIL, AT THE AWARDS PRESENTATION FOR TEAM SINGAPORE, WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION 2017, HELD ON TUESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2017, 7 PM AT THE HALL, TAY ENG SOON CONVENTION CENTRE, ITE HEADQUARTERS**

**Ms Low Yen Ling**, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Trade and Industry

**WorldSkills Singapore Council Members**

**Colleagues from the Polytechnics and ITE**

**Team Singapore Competitors**

**Experts and Coaches**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Introduction**

- 1 Good evening. On behalf of the WorldSkills Singapore Council, welcome to the Awards Ceremony for Team Singapore. Tonight's dinner is organised to celebrate the achievements of our 21 competitors, as well as to recognise the hard work put in by the Experts, Coaches and other delegates in the Team Singapore contingent.

## **44<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi**

- 2 The 44<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi saw a record 1,251 competitors from 58 countries and regions competing in 51 skill areas. The increase in competitors, coupled with member countries such as China who have invested heavily in the competition, meant that our 21 competitors had to put up a much fiercer fight than before.
  
- 3 Despite the odds of a small nation participating in only 19 skill areas, Team Singapore managed to clinch two gold medals, three bronze medals and eight medallions of excellence. This puts Singapore at number 12 in the medal tally, outperforming some countries with much larger contingents. As individuals, each one of you put up a fierce fight over the four days in your respective skill areas. As a team, all of you made sure your presence were known with your roaring cheer every morning.
  
- 4 Your journey started many months before the competition, training for long hours with your coaches to hone and perfect your skills. Some of you felt the mental stresses and physical strains of preparation, but all of you

persevered till the end. For this, you were all winners even before the competition began.

### **Enhanced Focus on Skills**

- 5 We had the privilege of Minister Ong Ye Kung's support during this competition, where he visited the Team Singapore skill areas and gave his encouragement. He also joined the rest of the Singapore contingent at the stands during the closing ceremony, cheering the competitors on. While his presence was a boost to the team's morale, the message that skills excellence and mastery is the way forward, was clear and far reaching.
  
- 6 To reinforce this message, a new SkillsFuture Study Award for WorldSkills competitors was introduced this year. The \$5,000 cash award is to encourage past WorldSkills competitors to continue upgrading and deepening their skills in their respective fields.
  
- 7 I am happy to announce that we will be giving out the first eight awards to our past competitors, who had won a medal in the national or international WorldSkills competitions from as far back as 2006. These eight competitors, six of them who are here with us tonight,

competed in skill areas from Aircraft Maintenance to Caring to Web Design. They will be the first of many WorldSkills competitors whom we would like to help advance their careers through this award.

## **Conclusion**

- 8 To Team Singapore competitors, I hope the experience over the 10 days in Abu Dhabi will stay with you for many years to come. Let this not be the end of your journey with WorldSkills, but the beginning of a lifelong relationship where you can share your experiences and expertise to nurture the next generation of competitors. With your help, we are confident of pushing Team Singapore to greater heights.
- 9 The fruits of your labour can be clearly seen from the results at the 44<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition. Thank you for your sacrifices and hard work. You have all made Singaporeans proud.
- 10 Before I end, I would like to thank Minister Ong for his support, the Experts, Coaches and Team Leaders for training and looking out for the competitors, delegates in

the Singapore Contingent and family members who encouraged our competitors all the way.

11 I wish everyone an enjoyable evening.