

CLOSING REMARKS BY MR NG CHER PONG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SKILLSFUTURE SINGAPORE & CHAIRMAN OF WORLDSKILLS SINGAPORE COUNCIL

**AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF WORLDSKILLS SINGAPORE 2018
TUESDAY, 10 JULY 2018, AT 1030 HOURS, AT REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC**

Theme: Celebration of Skills for all

Introduction

Guest of Honour, Mr Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Trade and Industry,

Members of the WorldSkills Singapore Council,

Experts and Coaches,

Competitors and Parents,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today marks the official closing of the 13th WorldSkills Singapore National Competition, which has seen three days of very intense competition.

2. Let me begin by congratulating all the competitors who participated this year. You have every reason to be proud of yourself for taking up the challenge to showcase your talents in your pursuit of skills mastery. I know all of you are anxiously waiting for the results. But in many ways, you are all winners and role models.

WorldSkills Singapore 2018 – The Journey Begins and New Achievements

3. This year's WorldSkills Singapore National Competition has been significantly revamped, and I am pleased to share that we have achieved many milestones and set new records. With the number of records that have tumbled, it almost feels like a swimming meet. Allow me to share three highlights.

4. First, we saw close to 250 competitors at the finals this year. This is the highest number of competitors we have ever had, and represents an increase of more than 60% from the WorldSkills Singapore 2016. More importantly, we have broadened participation. For the first time, university undergraduates participated in the competition, and I am sure they have contributed to and benefited much from this year's competition.

5. Second, this year's competition featured 26 skills areas. Again, this is an all-time record and a sizable increase from the 17 skills areas in 2016. We have included new skills areas that are strategic to Singapore, such as Cyber Security, Rapid Transit Systems and Water Technology. This also reflects the forward-looking nature of WorldSkills Singapore, as we constantly review the breadth of skills needed by the industry for jobs of the future.

6. Third, we saw an increase in the number of industry partners contributing in different ways. A total of 59 industry partners and education institutions provided students and the public with a holistic learning experience for the Education and Career Guidance exhibition and activities. This is more than double the 21 industry partners we had in WSS 2016. Visitors had the opportunity to explore interactive booths, attend hands-on workshops, and learn about career options from industry experts. They were also kept engaged with the MySkillsFuture app that not only helped them navigate the event venue, but also allowed them to participate in quizzes to redeem souvenirs. The competition has become an important platform to strengthen education and career guidance for our students. I hope that they have been inspired and will be keen to pursue skills excellence.

7. The strong support from industry extends to the competition arena as well. In each of the skills area, we have benefited from industry experts who have stepped forward to serve in our Technical Working Groups, together with domain experts from

our institutes of higher learning. They have put in many hours to set realistic test projects, as well as conduct and judge the competition. Many of them have committed much of their time, returning unfailingly each round to contribute their expertise to the competition as they understand the importance of promoting skills amongst our youth. So, in recognition of their significant contributions, we will be awarding the inaugural Distinguished Service Award to a selected group of industry experts who have served for 20 years at 10 WorldSkills Singapore Competitions.

8. We are also thankful to more than 50 sponsors who had pledged their support for WorldSkills Singapore 2018. Many companies that stepped forward to support us this year are new to WorldSkills Singapore, and we look forward to your continued support in the future.

The Journey Continues

9. For the competitors, while today marks the end of WorldSkills Singapore 2018, this is but a milestone in your skills journey. The winners of this year's competition will have the opportunity to represent Singapore at the upcoming ASEAN Skills Competition (ASC) 2018, held in Bangkok in August this year. They will also represent Singapore at the 45th WorldSkills Competition, held in Kazan, Russia in 2019.

10. Last year, we also introduced the SkillsFuture Study Awards for WorldSkills Competitors to encourage past competitors to continue to develop and deepen specialist skills. I am pleased to share that to date, 11 recipients have received the award. I will briefly share how two of them have benefited from it.

11. First, Ms Jaslyn Yan. After graduating with a Diploma in Electronics (Aerospace Electronics) from Temasek Polytechnic in 2011, Jaslyn worked as an assistant engineer and is currently a team lead in ST Aerospace. In an industry where mistakes can be costly, she supervises a team to ensure tasks are carried out correctly. Despite a heavy work schedule, Jaslyn took part in WorldSkills Singapore 2014 in Aircraft Maintenance to test her skills and won a bronze medal. Jaslyn has tapped on the SkillsFuture Study Award to support her bachelor degree programme in Aviation Business Administration at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in order to broaden her knowledge of the business and management aspects of the aviation industry, deepen her skills in team

and project management, and to gain a holistic view of the aviation industry from the business to technical aspects. She is thus able to add value to the company by improving production and business processes.

12. Another recipient of the SkillsFuture Study Award for WorldSkills Competitors is Daniel Chan. He pursued a Diploma in Mechatronics in Temasek Polytechnic and took part in WorldSkills Singapore 2006 in Mechatronics, winning a Silver medal. Daniel started his career in JGC Singapore Ptd Ltd as a Piping Engineer. He then decided to pursue the passion he picked up at the WorldSkills competition and became an Instrument Engineer at Amgen Singapore. Today, he leads a team of instrument technicians, manufacturing biologic medicines using the next generation technology that is greener, leaner and more productive. Daniel sees himself moving into a senior engineering role as part of his career development. He therefore applied and was awarded the SkillsFuture Study Award to pursue a Master in Engineering (Industrial Automation), offered by the Engineering Institute of Technology to develop his skills in instrumentation, process control and industrial automation, allowing him to make better decisions and lead his team more effectively.

Conclusion

13. So, WorldSkills is not an end in itself. I wish all competitors the very best. I hope you will share your stories and passion with other youths, and continue to be an inspiration and role model to your peers and future generations.

14. All the best to those representing Singapore in the upcoming ASEAN Skills competition. Keep our Singapore flag flying high and do us proud!