



SPEECH BY MR GOH YONG SIANG, BOARD DIRECTOR, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH AND THE MEMORANDUM-OF-UNDERSTANDING SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION-SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC: TVET ASEAN QUALIFICATIONS REFERENCE FRAMEWORK IN THAILAND, HELD ON 27 JULY 2015 IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

Your Excellency Mr. Nakorn Silpa-archa,
Permanent Secretary for Labour, Thailand

Ms. M.L. Puntrik Smiti,
Director General, Department of Skill Development, Ministry of Labour, Thailand,

Mrs. Chua Siew San, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to Thailand,

Mr. Tan Choon Shian, Principal and CEO, Singapore Polytechnic,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

I am honoured to join you today at the official launch of this training initiative between Singapore and Thailand. Temasek Foundation is pleased to partner the Ministry of Labour, the Department of Skills Development, and Singapore Polytechnic on this programme to enhance and develop capabilities in the area of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (or TVET in short) in Thailand.

2 First, let me introduce Temasek Foundation. The foundation was set up in 2007 by Temasek, an investment company based in Singapore. As a philanthropic non-profit organisation, Temasek Foundation supports the building of human and social capital of communities in Asia. We

'Build People' through education and health care, **'Build Institutions'** through urban management and public administration, **'Build Bridges'** among regional leaders, and **'Rebuild Lives'** of those affected by natural disasters. Through our programmes, we hope to contribute towards building a shared future in Asia with our friends and neighbours in the region.

3 TVET plays a very important role in contributing towards the social and economic development of a country. It helps to upgrade the skills of the workforce, and increase employability and productivity. Thus, TVET policies and systems must continually evolve and keep pace with technology, so as to help the workforce remain relevant. Supporting capability building in TVET has been a cornerstone of Temasek Foundation's work for the past nine years. To date, **25%** of our annual grants are channelled to support TVET training programmes in Asia. In Thailand alone, the foundation has supported **20** programmes, of which **seven** are in TVET.

4 In 2011, Temasek Foundation and Singapore Polytechnic teamed up with the Department of Skills Development on our first programme, which focused on needs assessment, TVET curriculum design and development. As a result of the training, the 106 TVET leaders and specialists who participated in the programme have developed a framework with a set of goals on managing TVET institutions. This is wonderful news, and we hope the framework will be well-utilised and useful.

5 The success of the first previous programme encouraged us to extend our partnership to launch this second programme. Our grant of about **THB 14.2 million**¹ will support the sharing of Singapore's experience in formulating frameworks for skills training with 100 TVET specialists. Leaders and technical specialists from Thailand will be able to work together to enhance and align their national frameworks based on ASEAN standards. The frameworks, systems and processes will raise the overall standards of Technical and Vocational Education and Training. In the long run, we hope this will have a positive impact on the employability of the workforce.

6 As many of you may know, Singapore celebrates 50 years of independence this year, our Golden Jubilee. We have been fortunate to make friends with our regional neighbours like Thailand, and together, we have enjoyed many years of friendship and cooperation. Just as how Singapore in its early years benefitted from exchange with other countries, we are happy to share our experiences with our friends and neighbours in the region.

7 I would like to take the opportunity to thank His Excellency Mr. Nakorn Silpa-archa, and Ambassador Chua for taking time off your busy schedules and honouring us with your presence here today. I am sure that your presence and support for the programme will be a huge encouragement for all our participants. I would also like to thank Singapore Polytechnic for your long-standing partnership with Temasek Foundation. Finally, I wish the team at the Department of Skills Development every success as you continue to strengthen TVET education efforts in Thailand.

8 Thank you.

¹ TF Grant : S\$569,815. Based on S\$1 = THB24.92 (18 July 2015)