



**SPEECH BY MR GOH GEOK KHIM, CHAIRMAN, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF THE SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND
TRAINING (TVET) CONFERENCE 2015
GRAND COPTHORNE WATERFRONT, SINGAPORE ON 3 NOVEMBER 2015**

Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills), and Senior Minister of State for Defence,

Mr Heng Chiang Gnee, Deputy Chairman, Institute of Technical Education of Singapore,

Honoured Leaders, Director-Generals and Specialists in Technical and Vocational Education from Asia and beyond,

Mr Bruce Poh, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Technical Education,

Principals and Deputy Principals of Polytechnics in Singapore

Distinguished Speakers, Guests and Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

A warm welcome to all of you to the Singapore International TVET Conference 2015! It is an honour once again for Temasek Foundation to be the lead sponsor for this conference.

2 In the face of challenges in economic development and growth such as globalisation and technology, communities all over the world are constantly reinventing their education system to take advantage of the opportunities and stay ahead of the curve. In particular, many communities have recognised that Technical and Vocational Education and Training (or TVET) is an integral component of their economic and social progress.

3 Temasek Foundation sees this conference as an opportunity to bring together many distinguished thought-leaders, practitioners and educators to share and discuss, and perhaps even to forge new collaborations towards the future of TVET. I have no doubt that that the conversations over the next few days will be insightful and inspiring, and generate many ideas for the way forward.

4 The organisers of this year's Conference have selected the theme, "*Advancing the Future Skills Agenda*". It reflects the importance of looking ahead and getting our workforce to be future-ready. The needs in skills and capabilities in our workforce today may be vastly different from those for the future. Hence, policy-makers, academics, and educators need to work cohesively not just for the benefit of the workforce today, but also for the workforce and leaders of tomorrow.

5 People are truly a community's greatest asset. Thus, the core of Temasek Foundation's work has always been focused on building human and social capital of communities in Asia, in particular, in the areas of health care, education, urban management, public administration, and disaster-preparedness. We also support programmes that promote exchange, learning and positive networks of cooperation among leaders and student leaders.

6 Since we started our journey in 2007, Temasek Foundation has to date supported a total of 288 programmes in Asia. As of September 2015, the foundation has funded 61 TVET programmes in 15 countries. In all, we have committed about 40 million Singapore Dollars or 28.5 million US Dollars towards TVET programmes. This is 25% of the foundation's total funding, the largest share among the clusters of programmes that we support. Our TVET programmes cover a wide spectrum of topics ranging from policies and systems, to leadership and management, to pedagogy and curriculum.

7 Temasek Foundation plays an active role in our programmes. With our partners, we are involved at the conception of programmes and we follow through to the conclusion of the programmes with the intended outcomes being achieved. Together with our partners, we have seen many positive changes and improvements over the years. We are encouraged by the positive feedback, not only from the programme participants and their leaders, but also from the students who have benefitted from improved curriculum and teaching methodologies.

8 The organisers have put together an exciting line-up of speakers and topics for discussion, so we hope you will take advantage of the platforms to share ideas, build connections, and initiate new partnerships over the next few days.

9 Putting this Conference together has not been easy. I would like to take the chance to express our appreciation to people who have made things possible. Firstly, my deepest appreciation to our Guest of Honour, Minister Ong Ye Kung for taking the time to grace the opening session of the Conference. Next, to the organising committee led by Dr Benjamin Tan and Ms Sabrina Loi from ITE, and the various representatives from Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic of Singapore: Thank you for the hard work over the past year in conceptualising, planning and running the programme.

10 To all participants and delegates from overseas, please also take time to enjoy the sights and cuisines of Singapore. It remains for me now to wish all of you a fruitful learning experience.

11 Thank you.