



SPEECH BY MR BENEDICT CHEONG, CEO, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF TEMASEK FOUNDATION-SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC TVET LEADERS/SPECIALISTS PROGRAMME IN MONGOLIA
ULANBAATAR, MONGOLIA ON 9 JULY 2015

Your Excellency, Mr. Batkhuyag, Vice Minister for Labour, Mongolia,

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

Ms. Chong Phit Lian, Member of the Board of Governors, Singapore Polytechnic

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

How quickly time flies! Just a year ago, I was here in Ulaanbaatar to mark the start of the training programme for TVET leaders and specialists to draw up new institutional frameworks for skills development in Mongolia. Fast forward a year later, today, I am pleased to join all of you in celebrating the successful completion of the programme. Congratulations to the Ministry of Labour for Mongolia and our colleagues from Singapore Polytechnic for your hard work and commitment in seeing through the success of the programme.

2 Through the workshops conducted, I understand that the participants have made good progress in applying their new skills and knowledge. They have been able to develop strategic plans specific to their individual institutions, work on new policies and procedures, and produce guides on evaluation and certification. This is very positive and encouraging indeed. As I always share with the participants I meet in all our programmes, the hard work actually begins now – the next steps of sharing, implementing, and continuity in applying the enhanced procedures, policies, and strategic plans will be even more challenging. I strongly encourage the participants to keep connected and provide peer support to each other in working towards a common purpose of improving Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Mongolia.

3 Programmes that build capabilities in the field of TVET has been a key focus area of support for Temasek Foundation. Since 2007, the foundation has committed about **25%** of its total funds to programmes that building capabilities in TVET. Aside from TVET, the foundation also supports other programmes in education, health care, urban management and public administration, and in disaster-response. Since our inception in May 2007, we now support **281** programmes across Asia.

4 The foundation's partnership with Mongolia continues to grow from strength to strength and we thank all our partners for the opportunity and privilege of working with you. Thank you to Your Excellency Minister for your leadership and support for the programme, and to your staff from the Ministry of Labour for their hard work. Thank you too, to our partner, Singapore Polytechnic whom we know are always fully committed to delivering an excellent programme. We hope the good work will continue and this will be a positive start for TVET skills development for the workforce in Mongolia.

5 Thank you.