



**SPEECH BY MR BENEDICT CHEONG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TEMASEK FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL
AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL – ITEES TVET
PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA
EVENT HELD IN PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA ON 9 JANUARY 2017**

Your Excellency, Dr. Pich Sophoan, Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Kingdom of Cambodia,

Mr Tan Seng Hua, Chief Executive Officer, ITE Education Services Singapore,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning.

Thank you for inviting Temasek Foundation International to be here in Phnom Penh today. It gives us a warm feeling to renew our ties and reconnect with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training of Cambodia on this programme.

2 Some five years ago, in September 2011, I had the privilege to witness the launch of our first programme with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, and ITE Education Services. That first programme focused on management and pedagogy in vocational training and it yielded much success. At least nine out of the 14 participating institutions reported that they had made improvements to their curriculum and learning plans. I hope that these enhancements continue to be applied and will remain useful for a long time.

3 With our second partnership, the focus is on pedagogy and technical skills. Based on the current skilled manpower needs and vocational landscape in Cambodia, the areas of automotive technology, industry electronics and info-communications technology have been identified as the key training needs. It is our hope that the 80 participants will share their knowledge with their colleagues and together, further improve vocational training and education in Cambodia.

4 Technical and vocational education and training or TVET continues to be a key priority for many governments across Asia. TVET education is recognised as one of the pillars for successful industrialisation and life-long employment for its workforce. TVET is also critical to advancing the skills of youth and offering them a complementary track in their education. For many young people, not just in Cambodia but around the region, a good foundation in TVET skills enable them to be ready for a wide range of jobs.

5 The work of Temasek Foundation International centres on **Building Communities** through education, health care, public administration, urban management, and disaster-preparedness programmes; and **Building Networks of Cooperation** among leaders. For those of you in the audience who are familiar with us, you may have noticed that we have been recently changed our name to Temasek Foundation International. While we have the scope to explore new programmes outside Asia, the heart of our work will remain in Asia, and we look forward to your continued support, partnership, and friendship in building a shared future.

6 Since May 2007, Temasek Foundation International has supported over 330 programmes across Asia, and committed 127 million US dollars in programme grants. Of this, about 4.3 million US dollars has been committed towards 15 programmes in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

7. This second programme in the area of vocational training and education is supported by a grant of about 316,000 US dollars by Temasek Foundation International, and generously co-funded by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training in Cambodia.

8 My sincere appreciation to Your Excellency, Dr. Pich Sophoan for your presence here and your support for the programme. I would also like to thank Mr Tan Seng Hua and the team from ITE Education Services for your constant partnership. And most of all, I would like to wish the participants who are starting their programme today all the best and I hope you will find the exchange of knowledge and ideas meaningful and useful for your organisations.

9 Thank you very much.