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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SINGAPORE'S ITE EDUCATION SERVICES (ITEES) AND TEMASEK FOUNDATION TO HELP TRANSFORM VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN LAO PDR**

*ITEES and Lao Youth Union start a five-year partnership to change the Lao Vocational Education landscape*

Singapore and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) today strengthened their partnership in vocational education and training. On 21 February 2014, Dr Benjamin Tan, Chief Executive Officer of ITE Education Services (ITEES), Singapore, and Dr Vilayvong Bouddakham, Secretary General of Lao Youth Union (LYU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Istana, Singapore. The signing was witnessed by Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong and Lao PDR Prime Minister, Mr Thongsing Thammavong, who is on a State Visit to Singapore.

2 The MOU will pave the way for a five-year partnership to enhance the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system in Lao PDR. As part of the MOU, a leadership capability development programme between ITEES and the Lao Youth Union, funded by a grant of S\$330,000 by Temasek Foundation, was announced today.

3 The Lao Youth Union, which oversees the over 3 million youth in the country, is heavily involved in mobilising the youth for national development. It reaches out to the country's youth through more than 8,000 grassroots youth network nodes and 12 Vocational Training Centers across the country. Some 54 TVET leaders and trainers under the Lao Youth Union are expected to benefit from the 18-month programme. Training is scheduled to begin in March 2014, and will comprise the following areas:

- Curriculum Design, Development and Assessment Programme;
- Leadership Training Programme; and
- Strategic Plan Implementation Programme.

4 The training will also include sharing sessions by the participants to multiply and cascade the learning to benefit other trainers in the vocational education and training industry. An additional 70 Lao TVET leaders and trainers are expected to benefit from the sharing of knowledge.

5 Dr Benjamin Tan, Chief Executive Officer, ITEES, said, "We are honoured that we can use the ITE model to impact Lao PDR meaningfully. This partnership with LPRYU is an affirmation of ITE as a global leader in vocational and technical education."

6 Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer, Temasek Foundation, added, "Investing in our young people through education will prepare them for work and life. With this programme, leaders and trainers from the Lao Youth Union will enhance their capabilities in the training of youths in Lao PDR in leadership and technical skills to meet the challenges of the future. Temasek Foundation is pleased to play a part in supporting this initiative."

7 This programme marks the second TVET programme in Lao PDR that ITEES and Temasek Foundation are jointly supporting. The first programme, initiated in May 2012, provided training for 120 TVET leaders and trainers under the Lao PDR Ministry of Education and Sports.

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### **About Temasek Foundation**

Temasek Foundation (TF) is a non-profit philanthropic organisation anchored in Singapore that seeks to contribute to sustainable growth and a bright future of hope and opportunities for people in Asia. The foundation works with partners to support programmes that develop people through health care, education and research, programmes that build bridges between peoples, programmes that build institutions of excellence through good governance and ethics, and programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters. For more information, visit [www.temasekfoundation.org.sg](http://www.temasekfoundation.org.sg).

**About ITE Education Services**

ITE Education Services (ITEES) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Singapore. ITEES was established in 2003 with the objective of sharing ITE's experience in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) with the international community. Capitalising on more than 45 years of knowledge, capabilities and experience of ITE and its predecessor organisations, ITEES is able to help organisations meet the training needs and challenges of a rapidly-changing global economy. ITEES' vision is to be a Global Partner of Choice for Technical and Vocational Education & Training. For more information, visit: [www.itees.com.sg](http://www.itees.com.sg)

**About Institute of Technical Education**

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Singapore, was established as a post-secondary education institution in 1992 under the Ministry of Education. ITE is a principal provider of career and technical education and key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards to enhance Singapore's workforce competitiveness. Under its "One ITE System, Three Colleges" Model of Education and Governance, ITE has three Colleges, comprising ITE College Central, ITE College East and ITE College West. For more information, please visit [www.ite.edu.sg](http://www.ite.edu.sg)

**About Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union**

The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union was established in 1945 and operates under the direct supervision of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. It functions like a ministry of youth and reaches out to the country's youth through more than 8,000 grassroots youth network nodes and 12 Vocational Training Centers across the country.