



**SPEECH BY MR BENEDICT CHEONG, CEO, TEMASEK FOUNDATION AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION – SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC TVET “CONCEIVE-DESIGN-IMPLEMENT-OPERATE” SPECIALISTS PROGRAMME IN THE PHILIPPINES, HELD IN MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES ON 17 MARCH 2014**

Honourable Cynthia Rose Bautista, Commissioner, Commission of Higher Education (CHED), Philippines

Dr Ricardo Rotoras, President, Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC),

Your Excellency, Mr V P Hirubalan, Singapore Ambassador to the Philippines,

Mr Johnny Tan, Chairman, Board of Directors, Singapore Polytechnic International,

Principals, Programme Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

*“Mabuhay” (Good Morning!)*

I am pleased to join you today in the official launch of the joint training programme between Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), Singapore Polytechnic International and Temasek Foundation. This training programme will focus on developing a new framework for the teaching and learning of engineering education in the Philippines.

2           Capability building of Asian leaders and educators in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (or TVET) has been a cornerstone of Temasek Foundation’s work for the past seven years. All over Asia, governments place a strong emphasis on enhancing TVET pedagogy and curriculum, and integrating TVET education into its national education framework. Every year, the foundation receives many requests for TVET training and we try our best to provide support where we can. To date, we have committed 25% of our total funding to support 45 TVET training programmes in 15 countries.

3           Here in the Philippines, TVET is also a critical component of the national education system. Having worked with **TESDA** (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) and **CHED** (Commission of Higher Education) on earlier training programmes, and now with **PASUC**, we are confident that there is a strong level of commitment to improving and enhancing the overall TVET system in the Philippines. In this programme with PASUC, the main focus is to develop a “Conceive – Design – Implement – Operate” educational framework that will transform the teaching and learning approach towards Science and Technology. We hope that our grant of S\$757,620 towards this programme will contribute to the overall enhancement of engineering education in the Philippines.

4           Some of you who may not be familiar with the work of Temasek Foundation may ask – “*Why are we doing this? Why are we supporting this programme?*” As some of you would know, Temasek Foundation was set up in 2007 by Temasek, a Singapore investment company, to support the human and social development of communities in Asia. As a non-profit philanthropic organisation, the foundation funds programmes in health care, education, public administration, disaster-response capability, and programmes that promote positive networks of cooperation. Since 2007, we have committed about S\$135 million in grants to 222 programmes across Asia. All these programmes embody the idea of sharing and learning together as neighbours and friends in Asia. We believe that an Asia that grows together will be a more connected and prosperous Asia.

5           I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to some key people:

- Thank you to Honourable Commissioner Bautista and Ambassador Hirubalan for taking time to be part of the programme today. You have encouraged all our participants with your presence and support for the programme;
- To our partners, Dr Rotoras and everyone from the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), and Singapore Polytechnic International, thank you for your commitment and dedication in seeing through this programme; and
- To all the 200 participants present here today, I wish you the very best as you start your learning journey through the inaugural workshop over the next two days. As I often share with participants that I meet from all corners of Asia, while technology matters, nothing replaces the personal touch of a teacher, an educator. You are the agents of change that will make a difference in the lives you touch.

6           *Selamat Po* (Thank you).