



**SPEECH BY MR BENEDICT CHEONG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TEMASEK FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL
AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL – NATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (STEM)
PROGRAMME IN THAILAND
EVENT HELD IN BANGKOK, THAILAND ON 24 FEBRUARY 2017**

**Associate Professor Dr Tatchai Sumitra, Chairman, The Institute for the
Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology**

**Dr Pornpun Waitayangkoon, President, The Institute for the Promotion
of Teaching Science and Technology**

**Mr Wanit Uamsri, Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of the
Vocational Education Commission**

**Professor Tan Onn Seng, Director, National Institute of Education,
Singapore**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning - *Sawadee Khrap.*

Thank you for inviting Temasek Foundation International to be here today. We are honoured to partner The Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology, the Office of the Vocational Education Commission, and the National Institute of Education, Singapore to launch our joint programme in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) education.

2 Education is one of the key focus areas for TFI. One key programme that the Foundation has supported strongly not just in Thailand, but across the region, is the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme. TVET education is recognised as one of the pillars for successful industrialisation and life-long employment for its workforce. It is also critical to advancing the skills of youth and offering them a complementary track in their education.

3 Building on our progress in TVET education, we are also focusing on STEM education so that our young people will be “future ready” in meeting the needs and challenges of technology. STEM education is interdisciplinary and focuses on solving real-life issues and challenges. STEM education is gaining importance in many countries. It helps the workforce to be ready and competitive for the future. Therefore, it is natural for us to support STEM education in building the workforce of the future.

4 Temasek Foundation International is pleased to support this programme with a grant of USD345, 000 (THB 12 million). Over the next three years, trainers from Singapore will be sharing their experiences in STEM teaching methods and skills with 140 Thai educators to enhance their knowledge and skills in the teaching of STEM as an integrated discipline. These 140 educators will then share their learning to 100 more of their peers. In the long run, we hope this will have a positive impact on the students as they prepare themselves for the workforce.

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. Our work is centred mostly in Asia, as we believe that as close neighbours and friends, we want to grow together and learn from each other.

6 Over the past 10 years, the foundation has worked closely with many good partners in Thailand, such as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health. To-date, the foundation has supported a total of 23 programmes in Thailand, of which 16 are in the area of education. Other past programmes besides TVET include, teaching methodologies and competencies in English Language. We now look forward to expanding our support to build capabilities in STEM education.

7 I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Tatchai Sumitra and Mr Wanit Uamsri for your presence here today and for supporting the programme. I would also like to thank Professor Tan Onn Seng and the team from NIE, Singapore for making this programme possible. And most of all, I would like to wish all the programme participants all the best and I hope you will find the exchange of knowledge and ideas meaningful and useful for your organisations.

8 Thank you very much.