

**AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE PRESENTATION CEREMONY
2011**

**Friday 15 July, 4.00 PM
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
ADDRESS by GOH**

Secretary-General, Singapore Manufacturers' Federation,
Mr Gwee Seng Kwong

1. A very good afternoon to
 - Mrs. LAY-Tan Siok Lie, Deputy Principal, Temasek Polytechnic and Director, School of Engineering,
 - Management Team and Staff, School of Engineering,
 - Students of School of Engineering,
 - Parents and Guardians,
 - Distinguished guests,
 - Ladies and gentlemen.
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2. On behalf of Singapore Manufacturers' Federation or SMa, I would like to thank TP School of Engineering for the invitation to join you here today as we recognise the achievements of students and their dedication to continue to excel.
 3. Today, we will witness the Awards for Excellence presented to:

- a group of outstanding students who are in the Director's List, that is, the top 10% of the excellent academic achievers of each cohort,
- a group of students who have won scholarships
- a group of students who have shown the most improvement and
- students who have won in various competitions held locally and internationally.

4. Close to my heart, is the presentation of scholarships to those in the areas of Mechatronics, Electronics, Microelectronics, and Clean Energy. These 4 students will be benefitting from SMA Education & Training Fund or ETF. This Fund was established way back in 1971 to promote training and education that would value-add to the industrial development in Singapore.

5. In May this year, SMA presented a sum of \$50,000 to TP at a Cheque Presentation Ceremony. This amount will be disbursed over three years as:

- Student Project Prizes
- Graduation Prizes
- Funds for Clean Energy Centre Project (Fuel-cell bicycles) and
- Scholarships, particularly in the areas of Mechatronics, Electronics, Microelectronics, and Clean Energy

6. In total, over 3 years, more than 30 students will benefit from SMA's contribution. My heartiest congratulations to them and all the 320 award recipients for their achievement.

7. Most of you here may credit your success to your passion, consistent hard work and a 'never give up' spirit. Whatever the reason, I'm pleased to be here to celebrate with you. But as you savour your success, let's not forget the other proponents of society that have helped you in one way or another to get where you are today. These can include your family, your teachers, your school, your friends and of course, SMA and other sponsors.

8. In remembering these people or entities who have given you a leg-up, I ask of you to do the same likewise for others and the community. So, just as you've put in all you've got into what you have achieved academically with the help of the community, you must also do likewise in return to the community.

9. In the corporate world, we call this Corporate Social Responsibility or CSR. In conducting our business, we try to achieve a certain semblance of balance through CSR. Similarly, there must be this balance in your life – where on the one hand you channel all your energy into your academic or worldly pursuits; and on the other

hand, you give back to society with all the verve and compassion that you can muster. For as freely as you have received, you must also freely give. St Francis of Assisi once said that it is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.

10. I also like to quote an ancient Greek Philosopher, by the name of Plutarch. He said that even as we strive to achieve the best in life, what we achieve inwardly will change outer reality. I totally agree. Like it or not, we are connected to the rest of the world regardless of the disciplines we graduate from.

11. As such, it is essential for you to nurture strengths of character & moral values like integrity, compassion, respect, responsibility and resilience. Having a sound moral compass makes the difference in how we respond to the challenges we will face in life. It makes a difference whether we can ride out the storms in life by becoming stronger and wiser; or break and succumb.

12. Yet, having both knowledge and sound values alone are not enough to enable one to do well in life. It is very important to build greater self-awareness and skills in interacting with others in an engaging manner and to develop soft skills.

13. I have employed many people. At interviews, those who get the jobs are those who show flexibility, open-mindedness and have pleasant personalities.

14. One very important feature I look out for is the smile they wear on their face. Their body language gives me a hint as to what they are like as a person. So the most important thing is to always wear a good genuine sincere smile! 😊

15. A scholar may have lots of knowledge but the inability to communicate ideas to others effectively will be a big stumbling block to achieving his goals.

16. I believe Temasek Poly has prepared you well and has been holistic in shaping you into confident young adults equipped with knowledge, character and values. The rest is up to you. As long as you are willing to do your best, you can distinguish yourself as leaders in your field. Never let others' opinions drown out your own inner voice - and most importantly, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.

17. Once again, I would like to congratulate all of you who are receiving your diplomas, prizes and awards today. I wish you all much success.

Thank you.