

Good morning Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim
Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and National Development,
distinguished guests and fellow Professional Engineers

1. Thank you, Minister of State Dr Muhammad Faishal, for gracing this annual event. This is THE annual occasion where new Professional Engineers and Specialist PEs gather to receive their certificate, testimony of their engineering skills and professional ethics. We also give out certificates for ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers, eligible for current PEs with at least 7 years of experience. This is a recognition by ASEAN member states on the ACPE's regional status. Gold medal awards are also presented to undergraduates from the local Universities for their excellent academic results.
2. We have added a keynote presentation to this event, to highlight the future engineering works that we envisaged. Last year, PUB talked about coastal protection. This year, Yoong Heng from Arup will share with us how Artificial Intelligence can be harnessed in our engineering services.
3. Every two years, we recognise Professional Engineers who have distinguished themselves in their field of engineering. This year, I am pleased to welcome two more Professional Engineers into this distinguished circle. Both are involved in the nation building of

Singapore, one on water infrastructure, the other on land transportation. They represent both the private and public sectors respectively.

4. This is my second term as the President of PEB. I would like to thank my fellow PEs for voting me into the Board, and Board members for their support in choosing me as the President. In my first speech as President, PEB in 2021, I have said that we will give honorariums to PEs who are serving in the interview panels and investigation and disciplinary committees. This has been implemented. To provide more convenient e-services to the PE community and public, PEB is currently developing a new IT Portal System to replace the current aging web system. We will launch the new PEB Online system by the middle of next year.
5. Today, we are presenting certificates to 108 new Professional Engineers. We also welcome 9 Specialist PEs, and 8 ACPE. You will be part of the PE community that will be moving forward, embracing innovation and participating in the continual development of our nation. As you attain this pinnacle of your engineering career, treasure this achievement and respect the profession that you have chosen. Because with such great recognition comes great accountability.
6. PR – Professionalism and Respect. In our business, we need to be professional in our work. We must be able to articulate our ideas to

our clients and fellow professionals, based on our engineering knowledge and experience. It is important that our ideas, concepts, design and supervision are carried out professionally. In return, we expect respect from the team, comprising developers, project managers, architects, quantity surveyors, contractors and the authorities. It takes two hands to clap, and we must initiate this PR by being professional. We can only hope that this professionalism will be reciprocated with respect.

7. IT – Innovation and Talents. We need to retain our talented engineers.

To retain them, we must allow them to innovate. Talented engineers do not wish to just comply to regulations, codes and standards. They want to explore and propose new ideas, based on their engineering skills. If we curtail their innovation for fear of failure, we will lose them to other industries. The industry must welcome innovation and not impede them by requiring compliance. Do not throw the book at them.

8. Regulations, codes of practice and design standards are created for one important reason – public safety. Hopefully, this base will act as the springboard for innovation, instead of being a hindrance. The entire team has to balance carefully innovative ideas versus public safety. We are seeing modified engineering products being tested and used, and we see more creative designs being practised. The authorities should encourage new approaches and more performance-based

applications that are safe to push to the boundaries. They should not be blindsided by regulatory procedures and insist on strict compliance. This could lead to talent loss. Engineering solutions are multi-faceted, with possible multiple approaches. Do keep an open mind.

9. Harnessing technology – Yoong Heng will be talking about AI applications later.

The Board also want to encourage Professional Engineers to widen their horizon, and deepen their knowledge. This is critical for us to remain relevant and innovative. The Board will award additional PDU for critical courses that are important to the Built Environment.

As a start, we will give additional PDUs from November 2024 to courses on Corenet X, which has been piloted and will be implemented. I encourage all PEs to equip themselves to be ready to make submission in Corenet X to reap the benefits early. We will continue to monitor new technologies and skills, and encourage Professional

10. Prescribed branches – the world is changing, and while engineering fundamentals remain unchanged, the education framework will evolve. The Board recognizes that there are many engineers who studied other engineering courses, and wish to become Professional Engineers, but are not able to do so. We empathize with them, and will be looking at

possible solutions to allow them to achieve their aspirations, and reach the engineering pinnacle.

11. Standard Consultancy Agreement (SCA) – the government has just launched the SCA this month. This is the culmination of cooperation among the government procurement agencies and the TACs – including ACES, IES and SIA. The SCA recognises rising cost, heavy professional and social responsibility and the need to retain professionals in the Build Environment sector. It also provides for fee adjustment due to contract prolongation. This is a positive step taken together as a team, and such close cooperation will lead to a better sector where engineers are proud to have contributed to nation building and be rewarded fairly for their professional and social responsibilities, and we will be able to retain our talents. Professionals must not be regarded as commodities, and comparison of fees used as the determining factor in choosing a consultant. Each of us have our own particular strengths and skills, and excellent service should be the key to appointment of professionals. I hope the private sector will also follow closely on this SCA.

12. Congratulations to all the recipients. Distinguished Professional Engineers, Professional Engineers, Specialist Professional Engineers, ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers and Gold Medal winners.

13. Thank you.