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(SKILLSFUTURE), MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AT THE SKILLSFUTURE
FESTIVAL – ADULT EDUCATOR LEARNING DAY 2018, 30 JULY 2018,
2.00PM, LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE**

Good afternoon,

Valued Partners and Friends from the Training and Adult Education Community,

Introduction

1. Welcome to the inaugural Adult Educator or AE Learning Day, which is also part of the inaugural SkillsFuture Festival 2018. During the month-long SkillsFuture Festival, we organised activities across different professions, sectors and trades. During the planning phase, it was evident that we should have a special event that is dedicated to you as Adult Educators. Our objective for this event is to enable everyone in this community to keep abreast of key developments within the SkillsFuture movement, as well as celebrate achievements and mastery of skills and practices.

Continued Importance of Adult Education Professionalisation to Raise CET Quality

2. In 2015, the Institute for Adult Learning or IAL, piloted the Adult Education Professionalisation initiative (AEP) with the aim to recognise AEs for their professional and pedagogical excellence. Since then, we have expanded the initiative and are seeking to reach out to all AEs in the TAE sector.

3. Under the applicable eligibility criteria, qualified AEs may be recognised as Associate Adult Educator (AAE) or Specialist Adult Educator (SAE) in specific tracks of expertise, namely Curriculum Development or Facilitation or both. At the pinnacle is an

Adult Education Fellow (AEF) who is appointed by invitation, based on his or her achievements and contributions to his or her sector of professional practice as well as adult education.

4. You may ask: “Why be recognised under the AEP initiative?” The benefits are multi-fold. First, the titles indicate the quality standing of professional development and practice of the adult educator. Starting with IAL, all its AEs are already recognised or are working towards recognition under the AEP initiative as AAEs or SAEs. This directly translates to raising the quality of its programme and delivery. More training organisations and institutions are coming onboard to recognise their AEs under the initiative. Second, unique opportunities are provided to AAEs and SAEs to embark on the next level of development, through customised programmes, local and overseas learning journeys, and various communities of practice or special interest groups tailored for this group. The SkillsFuture Study Award (SFSA) for Training and Adult Education is also offered exclusively to eligible AAEs and SAEs. This afternoon, we will see 18 recipients who will each receive \$5,000 to be used to further deepen their skills in the TAE sector.

5. We also look to the recognised AAEs and SAEs to contribute to the TAE sector and community, to build a culture of professional development and practice “*by the community, for the community*”, which will collectively propel the profession forward. For instance, a group of 12 AAEs and SAEs recently concluded a study trip to Germany, where they learned first-hand how the German dual vocational training system works, how workplace learning strategies are being implemented, and how emerging technologies are helping to make learning more effective. Since their return, many of them have been busy putting what they learned into practice within their own spheres of influence. Later this afternoon after the networking tea, you can hear our AAEs share

their learning experience in one of the four workshops, *“The German Experience (AEP Study Trip 2018)”*.

6. On this note of the AEP initiative, I am pleased to be here joining you in the recognition and welcoming of 97 new AAEs and 22 SAEs. This brings the pool of professionals recognised under the initiative to over 1,400, with a good spread from both public and private organisations. For the rest, I encourage you to pursue and join this professional community contributing to the quality of CET impacting learning experience, effectiveness and outcomes in conjunction with the SkillsFuture movement. I look forward to welcoming more of you onboard in our journey together.

Highlights of AE Learning Day

7. Switching back to this afternoon’s AE Learning Day. There will be four workshops each led by an AAE or SAE, ranging from addressing industry transformations through implementation of the Industry Transformation Maps (ITMs), setting up your own TAE business in this new landscape where sectors are in transformation, focusing on creating learning and community spaces for T-shaped AEs, and of course as I have already mentioned, an international perspective from the German experience in the current wave of digital transformation in the world of work learned from the recent AEP study trip.

8. Two Adult Education Fellows, Professor Christopher Chia and Professor Lim Yeow Khee, will also share their stories about “unlocking transformation from within” in their respective professional pursuits, how they were able to re-invent themselves, their organisations, and lead changes with lasting impact. The learning from our Adult Education Fellows is timely and very pertinent, as the need is ever more to re-invent and transform ourselves in tandem with industry transformation, starting from unlocking from

within for each and every one of us. I look forward to the sharing by Chris and Yeow Khee.

Conclusion

9. In conclusion, today, more than ever, the Adult Educator is faced with many increasing demands – from the learners, and from the businesses, and these are set against the backdrop of disruptions and transformation that is affecting almost every industry. I thus urge that we continue to work together to evolve and transform as a community. To our newly-appointed Adult Education Professionals, congratulations and I look forward to us making the journey together, providing mutual support and taking the profession and CET quality to new heights.

10. I wish all of you a fruitful afternoon.

11. Thank you.