

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR LEE TONG NGE, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION, INSTITUTE FOR ADULT LEARNING AT THE IAL GRADUATION CEREMONY 2022, 22 JUNE 2022, 3.00PM, STEPHEN RIADY AUDITORIUM @ NTUC**

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Mr Tan Kok Yam, Chief Executive of SkillsFuture Singapore and Chairman of IAL Council

Professor Robbie Goh, Provost, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Distinguished guests

Industry Partners

Graduands

Friends from the Training and Adult Education Community

Ladies and Gentlemen

1 Good afternoon. It is my honour to represent the Institute for Adult Learning and on behalf of our Executive Director, Professor Lee Wing On, in welcoming all of you to the IAL Graduation Ceremony today.

2. I am also delighted that we are now able to gather in person, after a three-year hiatus since we last had our graduation ceremony in 2019, because of the pandemic.

3. First of all, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all graduands for your successful completion of the respective programmes – achieved through your determination, dedication, and hard work. To all the family and friends with us today, and to those who could not be here for this celebration, thank you for all your strong support and encouragement.

4 At today's graduation ceremony, we are very happy to see nearly 230 graduands of IAL's diploma and master programmes. Certainly, it had not been an easy journey for you, having to juggle work, studies, and families, while adapting to the changes in learning modes due to COVID-19. Words, such as "Zoom", FOL (or fully online), blended or hybrid learning became the new buzz words and the new norm!

5 As you graduate, we hope that you will continue to stay connected with IAL, SUSS, your fellow course mates and Adult Educators. This can easily be done via our social media pages, and our IAL Advance, a periodical e-bulletin that shares the institute's latest developments. We would also like to encourage you to join the new IAL TAELENT platform, spelt as "T-A-E-L-E-N-T", which means talents for the Training and Adult Education (TAE) sector, to be fully operational by end of this year. TAELENT is the first-ever portal in the TAE sector designed to serve the needs of TAE professionals, which all of you belong, to chart your career pathway with analytic tools for skills development and matching of jobs and career opportunities. TAELENT also serves as a community touchpoint to connect like-minded professionals through the Adult Education Network (AEN) membership, and the Adult Education Professionalisation (AEP) recognition scheme based on your practice and experience.

6 In our roles as Adult Educators, we would need to possess a strong set of cross-boundary critical core and emerging skills acquired continually through lifelong learning. As Education Minister Chan Chun Sing had said at the Straits Times Education Forum in February 2022, a "lifetime participation rate" in training and education is a more appropriate description of what the education system, especially the continuing

education and training (CET) wants to achieve, rather than the current practice of measuring cohort participation rate, which is more relevant for the pre-employment and training (PET) sector. It is thus more important now than ever to constantly learn, unlearn and relearn so as to stay relevant in this current climate.

7 At IAL, we are dedicated to contributing to the national lifelong learning agenda, in line with the SkillsFuture movement. We aim to enhance workforce learning and performance by constantly seeking to evolve adult learning pedagogies, translational research as well as programmes for Trainers and Adult Educators. With good support from the TAE community, IAL achieved over 21,500 training places comprising WSQ, non-WSQ, and continuing professional development programmes (CPD) in 2021. This does not include short bite-size or micro-credentialing courses, which are gaining acceptance and popularity. It is heartening to see that learning and knowledge acquisition continue to be a priority for adult learners and how IAL is the preferred choice and partner of the adult learners in pursuing their continual education.

8. In this connection, I encourage you to stay in touch with the institute on your career-learn, work-learn or personal-learn journeys and join us as an AEN member. IAL will be here to support your needs. On behalf of IAL, I wish all of you the best as an Adult Educator, or TAE Professional.

9. On the industry front, to bolster workplace learning capabilities in Singapore, IAL had signed eight collaborative agreements at the yearly Learning Enterprise Alliance (LEA) Awards Ceremony in November 2021 with leading enterprise partners from multiple sectors, including one with Singapore Airlines together with SUSS, to jointly pursue workplace learning

initiatives and develop academic programmes for their employees. I am also pleased to share with you that there are currently more than 100 enterprises onboard the LEA and partnering us on workplace learning consultancy projects.

10. Last, but not least, we would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), our industry partners and enterprises, our Chairman and members of IAL Council, President and Provost of SUSS for their strong support and advice, and to all colleagues in IAL for their commitment and hard work to make IAL a success.

11. Congratulations, once again to all our graduands. Thank you!