

WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR LEE WING ON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR ADULT LEARNING & PROFESSOR, OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AT THE IAL GRADUATION CEREMONY 2019, 21 OCTOBER 2019, 7.00PM, SINGAPORE CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE AUDITORIUM

Mr Ng Cher Pong, Chief Executive of SkillsFuture Singapore and Chairman of IAL Council

Professor Cheong Hee Kiat, President, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Distinguished guests

Graduands

Friends from the Adult Education Community

Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

1 Good evening and welcome to the Institute for Adult Learning's Graduation Ceremony 2019. It gives me great pleasure to address you on this special day. To the graduands, my heartiest congratulations to each of you on your achievements!

2 First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the graduation ceremony's organising committee for a well-prepared event, as well as our adjunct Adult Educators, programme partners and staff who

have shown great dedication and professionalism to support your learning at IAL.

3 For the institute, a graduation ceremony is always a gratifying occasion where we celebrate and give due recognition to graduands for successful completion of the respective programmes. We are encouraged to see the learning spirit in you. We also acknowledge the great support that your families and friends have given as you take on your learning challenges. For the graduands, it is a joyous occasion as months of your hard work have paid off, reaching a new height in your work life with a set of professional knowledge and skills to take you further in your endeavours. Perhaps, some of you might already be thinking about the next credential that you would like to take – and I certainly hope that IAL would be your first choice.

PURSUIT IN LIFELONG LEARNING

4 As a Professor, I am a strong believer in learning for life. Education has always been close to my heart. I have this firm belief to impart to others tomorrow what I learn today. It is through lifelong learning, be it formal, non-formal and informal learning that can bring about self-renewal and positive changes to mindsets and approaches - on top of gaining knowledge.

INNOVATING ADULT LEARNING

5 As Adult Educators, we would need to possess a strong set of transversal soft skills, acquired again through lifelong learning. It is the key to staying relevant, and would assist us in career pivots, or transitions, which would increasingly be the norm with changes around the world, in

the economy, within the TAE sector and even at the organisational level. It would be no easy feat, but achievable if we put our minds to it.

6 In fact, having a growth mindset allows you to remain competitive too. As a start, you could actively adopt technology-enabled learning in your practice, if you have not done so. Let me cite a recent Skills Codification study undertaken by IAL. One of the findings showed that professionals who leveraged technology-enabled in learning design do not apply knowledge and skills in isolation. With this, they are able to purposefully re-contextualise their work to bring about innovation to optimise their deliverables.

IAL'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CET LANDSCAPE

7 At IAL, we are committed to contributing to the lifelong learning agenda, in line with what SkillsFuture has set out for the adult learning space. We aim to create a paradigm shift from training to learning, and constantly seek to evolve adult learning pedagogies, applied research as well as initiatives for the Training and Adult Education community. Upon graduation today, make use of what IAL has to offer, and continue to stay in touch with the institute on your work-learn or personal learning journey. We look forward to staying in touch with you and for you to participate in our array of initiatives set out for the alumni.

8 On behalf of IAL, I wish all of you the best, and congratulations once again!