

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR TAN TAI YONG, PRESIDENT,  
SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (SUSS), AT THE DIGITAL  
ANDRAGOGY AND MOUS SIGNING CEREMONY EVENT ON 11 JAN 2023,  
2.30PM, AT THE LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE**

Minister Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education,  
Mr. Tan Kok Yam, Chief Executive of SkillsFuture Singapore,  
Mrs. Mildred Tan, Chairperson, SUSS Board of Trustees,  
Professor Robbie Goh, Provost of SUSS,  
Professor Lee Wing On, Executive Director of IAL,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Colleagues and friends.

1. A very good afternoon to all of you, and welcome to the Digital Andragogy and MOUs Signing Ceremony event.
2. I am delighted to join you to commemorate these partnerships in our continuous endeavour to develop a capable and resilient workforce and equipping them with effective tools to function and thrive in today's highly digitalised world.
3. Increasingly, as businesses function in fast-changing environments characterised by volatility, constant disruptions and dislocations, the ability to pivot will depend on how effectively businesses and their workforce can adapt and evolve.
4. This was emphasized by Minister Chan when he said at the 2021 Learning Enterprise Alliance Ceremony that "businesses that continue to thrive are those that have the ability (and the agility) to adapt their operating models to stay ahead of the curve.
5. This agility is beyond re-engineering business processes or investing in new equipment. It involves, more importantly, upgrading the capabilities and competencies of the workforce so that they can remain nimble and able to take

advantage of new technological trends to engage in lifelong learning and continuously upgrade their existing skillsets.

6. This is especially vital in today's world where having a fixed skillset is no longer sufficient or guarantees employment. The shelf-life of skills is shortening at a worrying pace.

### **MOUs Signing Ceremony with SNEC and Microsoft**

7. On this front, the Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) will be signing MOUs with two organisations today to signify a joint commitment towards advancing the digital andragogy agenda.
8. This partnership will leverage on the strengths of these enterprises as leaders of their respective industries while tapping on IAL's expertise in andragogy in order to drive, accelerate, sustain, and proliferate learning, especially in the area of digital learning.
9. With the Singapore National Eyecare Centre (SNEC), the designated national eye centre that spearheads and coordinates the provision of specialised ophthalmological services with emphasis on quality education and research, the partnership between IAL and SNEC serves to advance both the eyecare and adult education sector through the digitalisation of learning. In this aspect, IAL's provision of its adult learning expertise will support the bolstering of the skillsets of ophthalmic healthcare professionals, locally and regionally, thereby cementing SNEC's role as the designated national eye centre for Singapore.
10. The partnership between IAL and Microsoft serves to materialise a Digital Andragogical Framework that will leverage on the use of technology to enhance the effectiveness of adult learning through the adoption of digital tools. This framework seeks to promote and enhance workplace and, and by extension, adult learning through the digital platform.

11. Here, I wish to highlight IAL's role as the go-to institute for continuing education and training (CET) and its ability to integrate Microsoft's suite of digital tools, amongst others, to enhance adult learning effectiveness.

12. To summarise, the goals of the collaboration are two-fold:

13. One, to make learning more accessible to the workforce through the provision of digital learning courses; and

14. Two, to put together a digital andragogy framework for the adoption of digital tools with the purpose of enhancing their effectiveness especially for adult learners.

### **Closing Speech**

15. Through collaborative efforts with valued enterprise partners like SNEC and Microsoft, both leaders in their respective industries, we hope to demonstrate that such joint endeavours can drive, accelerate, proliferate and sustain digital-focused learning for the benefit of the workforce in Singapore.

16. Thank you.