



**Opening Remarks by Mr Teo Eng Cheong**  
**Chief Executive Officer, International Enterprise (IE) Singapore**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Singapore Infrastructure Roundtable**  
**Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, Singapore**  
**15 April 2015, 1330Hrs**

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Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and National Development;  
Mr Yin Zonghua, Vice Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade;  
Mr Nasrul Hamid, State Minister for the Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources,  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh;  
Mr Duan Jielong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of  
Singapore;  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon, a very warm welcome to IE Singapore's fourth Asia-Singapore Infrastructure Roundtable.
2. Asia's infrastructure investment need of US\$8 trillion between 2010 and 2020 is a familiar figure to many of you. But the question is: how can we mobilise the relevant expertise and resources to address the burgeoning need in Asia and bring infrastructure projects to completion?
3. Singapore is committed to serving as the regional infrastructure hub to plan, develop, and finance projects in the region. International Enterprise (IE) Singapore is actively working together with infrastructure industry players and other agencies to achieve this vision.
4. At the last three editions of IE Singapore's Roundtable, we are pleased to note the positive feedback from participants. In the short span of one and a half years, the

number of global participants at our Roundtable has grown from 100 in 2013 to an estimated turnout of more than 150 today. This is testament to how this event has grown in importance for driving fruitful exchanges on trends and issues in the industry.

#### Enabling market access to the region

5. A key focus of this Roundtable is to discuss how partnerships can enable companies to address the regional infrastructure gap innovatively. IE Singapore has always supported such collaborations. And we are constantly seeking new collaboration opportunities with different stakeholders and countries. Last year, we teamed up with McKinsey to discuss talent and operational efficiency. We also partnered the Bureau of Energy Resources of the U.S. Department of State and the Energy Market Authority of Singapore (EMA) to organize an energy-themed roundtable. Today, it is our pleasure to organise this Roundtable with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the China Enterprise Association. We hope to learn from their experiences in executing infrastructure projects in China and overseas.

#### Unlocking Financing for Infrastructure Projects

6. Singapore is known as an international financing centre with a strong and vibrant financial ecosystem. Just last month, with the support of IE Singapore, the International Chamber of Commerce, or ICC, launched the inaugural ICC Academy in Singapore. This is a significant milestone for Singapore's trade sector as ICC is a reputable world business organisation. It will not only help to develop and attract global talent specialised in banking and trade finance to Singapore, but also foster knowledge in the trade finance area. Another area of finance which I am sure many in the audience will identify with is infrastructure financing. It is useful for companies to know how to leverage on Singapore's unique position as a regional finance hub to fund infrastructure projects. We have a critical mass of companies, institutions and platforms which strengthens our proposition as one of the best places to finance infrastructure projects in Asia. That is why a major part of our discussion today, with key players such as Singapore Exchange and DBS Bank, will centre on this topic.

#### Developing Talent for Infrastructure

7. As Singapore continues to develop as the region's infrastructure hub, we recognise the need to nurture a strong pool of talent for this industry. IE Singapore's Young Talent Programme (YTP) is one measure to ensure a sustainable talent base. The programme is aimed at nurturing the next generation of talent and for them to forge an international career in infrastructure. Specifically, the sector needs talent with capabilities to develop and structure bankable projects. IE Singapore launched our Infrastructure Development Scholarship so as to groom future infrastructure

specialists. This scholarship supports the concurrent degree program for Masters of Science in Project Management with project finance specialisation.

8. DBS and Hyflux have partnered IE Singapore on this. We have also scaled up our Infrastructure Development Internship programme, increasing the number of participating companies from nine to 17. We have attracted an overwhelming response of over 300 applicants to date for 34 positions. We are very encouraged by the students' interest.

#### Conclusion

9. In conclusion, we seek your continued support for our roundtable series and other infrastructure initiatives. I encourage you to leverage on this roundtable platform to network and advance your projects. Let us all participate actively in the discussions and have a fruitful roundtable.

Thank you.

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