



SPEECH

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Speech by the Chief of Air Force, Brigadier-General Lim Kim Choon, at the Memorandum of Co-Operation Signing Ceremony and Inauguration for the Advanced Diploma Course in Aerospace Engineering and Management at Singapore Polytechnic

20 Jul 2001

Principal of Singapore Polytechnic, Mr Low Wong Fook;
Senior staff members of Singapore Polytechnic;
Friends from the Aerospace Industry,
Officers and men of RSAF,

It is my pleasure to be here today to commemorate the collaboration between Singapore Polytechnic and the RSAF in the development and launch of the Advanced Diploma course in Aerospace Engineering and Management.

I would like to begin by thanking Singapore Polytechnic for bringing this course into fruition. Over the last few decades, Singapore Polytechnic has shown a firm commitment towards supporting aerospace engineering training and education through jointly developed Diploma courses. This Advanced Diploma in Aerospace Engineering and Management is yet another milestone in the growing relationship between the RSAF and Singapore Polytechnic.

I understand that this course is the first of its kind in Singapore, both in terms of the level of aerospace technology instruction and in the specialised content. This course, which would otherwise be unavailable in Singapore, will help fill a training gap for the RSAF. It is a testament to the long term vision of Singapore Polytechnic as a premier institution in aerospace engineering education in Singapore and it is certainly an honour for the RSAF to have a professional institute of higher learning as our training partner.

The implementation of this course is another initiative towards building a First Class Air Force made up of World Class people. The RSAF recognises that quality people are our greatest asset -

an important resource that, unfortunately, is finite. This constraint requires that we attract and retain the best talents.

The RSAF is therefore committed to provide first class careers for all her people. In this long-term partnership, we want to ensure that our people are developed to their fullest potential. We need to continually raise the competency and professionalism of our critical human resource.

The one-year, full-time Aerospace Engineering and Management course highlights our investment in people. More specifically, our aim in this course is to prepare participants for the challenges of higher appointments in the RSAF. In today's environment, which is characterised by rapid changes in technology, the course will help participants not only to learn, but also to unlearn and relearn.

Hence, the RSAF is keenly supportive of a culture of lifelong learning, and promotes initiatives that help our people enhance their relevancy of knowledge and skills in the constantly evolving aerospace arena.

Indeed, the need to continually upgrade skills across the entire organisation is very apparent in the RSAF. As we embark into the new millennium with newer and more advanced aircraft, weapons and command and control systems, the technologies employed will become increasingly complex. Moreover, these systems are to be deployed in an ever more integrative manner to synergise their effectiveness. With this demanding backdrop, the key to success lies in the quality of our people.

Finally, to the 18 warrant officers in the pioneer class of Advanced Diploma in Aerospace Engineering and Management, I would like to congratulate you, not only for being selected for the prestigious study award, but also for your steadfastness in your quest for knowledge. I am heartened by your spirit of learning. You are prepared to face the heavy demands of this course even though most of you have not returned to school for many years. I urge you to persevere in this learning process and to prepare yourselves for the fresh challenges of tomorrow.

I wish all of you every success in your studies.

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