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INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
NEWS RELEASE

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WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR LAW SONG SENG, DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, AT THE OPENING OF ITE BUKIT BATOK AND THE OPENING OF THE 4TH NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28 JUN 2000 AT 1000 HOURS AT ITE BUKIT BATOK

On behalf of the Institute of Technical Education and the National Steering Committee on Skills Competitions, I extend a very warm welcome to all of you to this Official Opening of ITE Bukit Batok and the Opening of the 4th National Skills Competition (NSC). We are especially grateful to the Minister for accepting our invitation as Guest-of-Honour for today's function.

The New ITE Bukit Batok

2 Since ITE's establishment in 1992, we have worked towards the vision of building ITE into an established post-secondary technical institution. One of the major projects we have carried out to achieve this vision is the development of a network of 10 modern and well-equipped technical institutes. ITE Bukit Batok is our ninth new-generation technical institute to be built. The system will be complete when the new ITE MacPherson is

operationally ready by July 2001.

3 The new ITE Bukit Batok aspires to be "An Institution of Excellence – Your Preferred Lifelong Learning Partner". It supports ITE's new vision of "A World-Class Technical Education Institution for a Knowledge-Based Economy".

4 The new premises you see here in ITE Bukit Batok is typical of an ITE teaching and learning environment. These ITE technical institutes together provide a wide range of comprehensive training programmes for secondary school leavers and working adults. The training facilities are extensively used for full-time and part-time courses. Our mission is to create opportunities for school leavers and adult learners to acquire skills, knowledge and values for lifelong learning. ITE has an enrolment of 18,000 full-time students and some 30,000 working adults attend our courses every year.

5 ITE Bukit Batok was developed at a total cost of \$63 million on a 4.6-hectare site. This institute, with its distinctive identity, has an enrolment capacity for some 1,600 full-time students and 2,400 training places in the evenings and weekends for adult learners. Besides modern and up-to-date training facilities, the campus environment also supports a wide range of Co-Curricula Activities. ITE Bukit Batok is the first institute to offer a Chemical Process Technology course at the NTC-2 certificate level to support Singapore's manpower needs for the chemical industries. It is also one of the three ITE institutes that runs an Institute Attachment Programme for secondary Normal Stream students. As a new technical institute, it got off to a good start when it attracted 865 applicants for 672 places in its first intake of students in Jan 2000.

6 The function this morning will also witness the Official Opening of the 4th National Skills Competition. Spearheaded by ITE since 1994, these National Skills Competitions are jointly organised by ITE, the Polytechnics, Singapore Hotel and Tourism Education Centre (SHATEC) and the Singapore Labour Foundation (SLF).

7 This 4th NSC will see 87 young competitors, selected from a pool of over 1,000, vying for top honours in 13 competition areas in the Youth Category. In the Open Category, 28 working adults from industry will be competing in four areas. As in the previous three NSCs, gold medal winners in the Youth category stand the chance of being selected to represent Singapore in the 36th International Youth Skill Olympics (IYSO) to be held in Korea, in 2001.

8 We extend a special invitation to you, your families and friends to view the skills competition which will be held over the next four days, and participate in some of the special programmes organised by ITE Bukit Batok to celebrate its official opening.

Conclusion

9 On this note, I would like to acknowledge the excellent services rendered by the architects, consultants, contractors and ITE project teams for completing the project on schedule and within budget. Special thanks go to the ITE Development Committee, under the able leadership of Mr Lee Keh Sai, Deputy Chairman of ITE Board of Governors and Mr Tony Tan, Board member, for guiding and overseeing the implementation of the project.

10 As Chairman of the National Steering Committee on Skills Competitions, I would also like to thank the main sponsors, co-sponsors, supporters, industry experts and staff members of the various educational institutions and many others for their support and efforts in organising the 4th NSC.

11 I would also like to acknowledge the support of the Singapore Science Centre for the interactive projects in promoting science and technology.

12 To the competitors, I wish all of you success in the competition.

13 It now gives me great pleasure to invite the Minister, Admiral Teo Chee Hean, to deliver his opening address.
