

Good morning Minister Indranee Rajah, Second Minister for Finance and National Development, and Minister Prime Minister Office,; fellow Professional Engineers and Distinguished Guests,

1. Thank you, Minister, for gracing this occasion. You attended this Day of Dedication in 2025 and we are very happy that you are with us again today. Today we welcome 88 new Professional Engineers from the 4 main branches, 13 Specialist Professional Engineers and 8 ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers. 11 undergraduates from our local universities will be receiving their gold medals for their excellent academic results.
2. In 2016, the then Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip said that “everything not invented by God is invented by an engineer”. We perform an essential function that is almost irreplaceable. Tied to that essential function is our moral and professional obligation to ensure that public safety is protected.
3. This year, I would like to reiterate on important principles and theme for our profession.
4. PR – Professionalism and Respect. In our business, we need to be professional in our work. We must be able to articulate our ideas to our clients and fellow professionals, based on our engineering

knowledge. It is important that our ideas, concepts, design and supervision are carried out professionally. In return, we expect respect from the team, comprising developers, project managers, architects, quantity surveyors, contractors and the authorities. It takes two hands to clap, and we must initiate this PR by being professional. We can only hope that this professionalism will be reciprocated with respect.

5. IT – Innovation and Talents. We need to retain our talented engineers.

To retain them, we must allow them to innovate. Talented engineers do not wish to just comply to regulations, codes and standards. They want to propose new ideas, based on their engineering skills. If we curtail their innovation for fear of failure, we will lose them to other industries. The industry must welcome innovation and not impede them by requiring strict compliance. Do not throw the book at them. Always remember that scientists investigate that which already is, but engineers create that which has never been.

6. This year we are giving out 2 awards. The Innovative Professional Engineer Award, a biennial award that started in 2021. The other is the inaugural ASEAN Engineers Excellence Award, given by the ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineer Coordinating Committee to an ACPE from each of the member states. It is a regional recognition

for the engineering contribution of the recipients in their contributions not just to their own country but also other ASEAN member states.

7. In my first term as the President of PEB, our themes have centred on sustainability. Last year, the first year of my second term, we looked at Innovating the Future. This year we look at a Future Ready Profession. In the past, universities produced engineers with clear engineering skills – civil, electrical, mechanical and chemical. This will be muddled as engineers widen their education, and universities provide them with non engineering modules. But we know that we need capable engineers who have a passion for the profession. And the top brains are not likely to come from only the main branches.
8. So we look at three key areas. The engineers need knowledge – basic engineering skills with the relevant core modules. They must be competent – not just technically but also in running their business. And very importantly, they must resonate with the community – be ethical and contribute socially.
9. To the Professional Engineers who are registered this year, it has been a challenging and rewarding journey. You went through your tertiary education, the 2 examinations and an interview. You have now achieved the pinnacle of the engineering profession – you are now a Professional Engineer. This registration comes with responsibility.

You are now one of the gatekeepers to ensure public safety. I am sure all of you will do well.

10. This year, a friend sent me this plaque. He was at the Woodlands Polyclinic and took a photo of it. This is what our professions are all about. We built for our community, our generation and the generations to come. We work as a team within the build environment. And it is exhilarating to be recognised for what we have done three decades ago. This is why it is worth working as an engineer.



11. Congratulations to all the recipients. ASEAN Engineer Excellence, Innovative Professional Engineer, Professional Engineers, Specialist Professional Engineers, ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers and Gold Medal winners. Be safe and ensure safety. The future is yours.

12. Thank you.