

**Speech by Schneeberger Linear Technology GM cum Director (South East Asia)
Mr Lee Wan Loong at Singapore Polytechnic 58th Graduation Ceremony on 7 May
2018, 9.30 am**

Mr Soh Wai Wah, Principal and CEO of Singapore Polytechnic, Distinguished Guests,
Parents and Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

1. I am honoured to be here at the graduation ceremony of the School of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering Diploma Programme.
2. Congratulations to all graduands seated here. This is a proud moment for all of you, with the hard work and sweat you have put into the 3 years to pursue and obtain the course of your choice or interest.
3. Some of you may further pursue a higher education locally or overseas, and some of you may be planning to step into the workforce, into a new digital and technology-disruptive age that is shaping the future economy, the world and our lives. Especially for those who will venture first time as a working professional thinking with a happy smile that school life is finished, I like to share what your teachers didn't tell you: More exams and tests are coming!
4. Just kidding, but what is important is you will not stop learning. Jobs are being re-design and skills set are changing as we speak. With the digital age, you will attain new skills and new technologies; i.e. artificial intelligence, cloud computing, big data analytics, IoT and Industrial 4.0. Many of these are new to many companies, whom are grappling and incorporating into their businesses, so you are entering into an exciting time where companies are changing the way we work.
5. One thing I am sure of is you have chosen the right courses! Mechatronics & Robotics and Aeronautical engineering happen to fit into our future economy; the government grand scheme of moving the country to a knowledge-based and innovation economy.

Manufacturing and Engineering Industry

6. Let me talk a little about these two industries. Manufacturing is one of the key pillar of Singapore's economy, transforming from a labor-intensive economy to an innovation-intensive one. We are an export-oriented economy, but we

cannot just make or produce low cost goods and services, we need to move up the value-chain. R&D and technology will play key roles in high-tech manufacturing sectors.

The government has set Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME) domain as new opportunities growth in the 2020 plan, and in this domain the sector for growth happens to be Aerospace, Precision Modules & Components, Machinery & systems, medical technology manufacturing etc.

7. Earlier I mentioned about the digital age; AI, big data analytics, IoT and Industrial 4.0. The world is moving at a rapid pace into these fields, countries and companies are adopting and embracing these new technologies, Being a smart nation, Singapore is moving faster than others in the area of IoT and industry 4.0 with many high-tech manufacturers, especially Aerospace is the early adopter in digital manufacturing solutions in robotics and smart factory software.
8. Many of my company's customers in the precision industries are using a lot of industrial robots in their machines and production floor. There are also R&D collaboration in working with them to bring Industry 4.0 to fruition, i.e. how to make their machine smarter and know when to change tools, when maintenance service is due, feedback constantly by adjusting parameters on the fly to reduce parts rejects and waste, but it is still in its infancy.

What it means to you?

9. In these changing times, I strongly encourage you to learn new skills set, embrace technologies and learn from the best!
10. I graduated from Singapore Polytechnic in 1988, 30 years ago with a diploma in Mechanical engineering, that gave me a foundation to step into the engineering world in 1990 where I started my work life as an assistant engineer in a large Japanese precision company, my formative years include training in Japan, design & installing machines and equipment, automating assembly lines etc. At that time my company was one of the top companies in the adoption of high tech automation.
11. Then I had the privilege to work for many other multi-national companies; American and European. In each company I learn new skill sets, like business management, sales and marketing, channel distribution model. I learned new

technologies that improve the precision and accuracy of our customer's equipment, improve work efficiencies to improve and streamline process, new techniques that makes the customer's machine smarter to be able to 'see', 'feel' and 'measure'. In turn we also learn from some of my customers in the high-tech industry in a collaboratively manner to provide unique solutions and materials to manufacturing and parts producing.

12. I learnt much from these very innovative companies and their novel ideas. I wouldn't be where I am today if I did not constantly upgrade myself, and develop my career as a well-rounded professional.
13. I now work for an European precision company, managing a regional company with direct subordinates in sales, marketing, finance, logistics and assembly, working closely with our European factories to ensure we have the right parts and solution to provide to our customers in a timely manner half-way round the world.
14. I am still constantly learning, finding novel ways to serve our partners, adopting technologies and automation improve work efficiencies, peer to peer network and so on. Without constant upgrading you may be left out and taken over by eager competition.

Challenges ahead

15. Life is not smooth sailing, there will be obstacles, but don't lose sight of your goals and dreams. Things may not work out your way, but if you stay determined and focus, you will succeed!
16. Two weeks ago I was in Switzerland attending our company's International sales and business strategic meeting, and we had the honour of inviting an inspirational speaker, her name is Evelyn Binsack. She is Swiss, a professional mountain climber, adventurer and guide. She is the first Swiss woman who conquer Mount Everest, reach the South pole, as well as the North pole. This is one tough woman!
17. She shared with us 3 essential things she learnt from these tough expeditions; 1. Set your goals and do not waver in the face of obstacles, 2. Navigate and charter your own direction, and 3. Have trust in your team and

in her instance, ready to die for each other. I think the first two is very relevant lessons in life.

18. We all have dreams and goals, and I am sure many of you are excited to venture into a brand new world, filled with enthusiasm and fire to prove you can

Conclusion

19. I will like to end my speech by sharing with you a tragic incident that happen recently. One of my son's friend recently passed away, a young life snatch from the face of earth suddenly and left everyone in shock, and is about the same age as most of you here. There is so much to look forward to in life, and it saddens all of us that this young friend did not have the opportunity to complete her studies, fulfil her dreams and live life to the fullest.

20. So, please cherish what you have and seize the opportunities ahead of you. You are now a very exciting millennium and you can make changes, but be humble and never stop learning, you will gain more by learning from other wise people. Dare to dream and have lofty goals, and the world's your oyster. Thank you very much!