

WELCOME ADDRESS BY ASSOC PROF (PRACTICE) YEO LI PHEOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR ADULT LEARNING AT THE IAL GRADUATION CEREMONY 2023, 27 OCTOBER 2023, 3.00PM, SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Mr Tan Kok Yam, Chief Executive of SkillsFuture Singapore and Chairman of the Institute for Adult Learning Council

Graduands

Friends from the Training and Adult Education Community

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good afternoon.
2. It is my pleasure to join all of you here at the Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) Graduation Ceremony 2023. Personally, it is a special occasion with significance as my first time attending the ceremony, since I came onboard IAL in March this year, and to have the honour of celebrating the achievements of our graduands. To the graduands, my heartiest congratulations (applaud).
3. Certainly, it had not been an easy journey for you, having to juggle work, studies, and families, and many of you had to adapt to the changes in learning modes due to the pandemic. Amid these demands on your time and commitments, you have chosen to carve out a dedicated space for learning with IAL. Your dedication stems from the belief in the significance of lifelong learning — an avenue to enrich your knowledge and remain aligned with shifting industry demands and evolving skills. Undoubtedly, many of you may also find a sense of fulfilment in this learning journey.
4. Let me quote Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education and Minister-in-charge of the Public Service and this is what Minister said at the ¹Public Service Week: Spark, in July this year. I quote: “We are all human beings. We are all living organisms. Any living organism that does not grow will wither and die. We need to grow our professional knowledge, grow our networks. And we need to have a diversity of strength for our resilience.” I am sure all of you will agree.
5. I hope that IAL has provided you with a renewed perspective that you need to thrive and flourish, and at the same time given you the “elements” you need to propagate the seeds of skills and knowledge to others, who are ardent learners like you.
6. Now that you are all set for the next phase of your professional journey, I encourage you to stay connected with IAL. The institute is fully committed to supporting all of you in your continual learning and to help you develop and deepen your professional craft. As graduands,

¹ Source: PSD Website - <https://www.psd.gov.sg/newsroom/speeches/min-chan-chun-sing-public-service-week-spark/#:~:text=We%20are%20all%20living%20organisms,of%20strength%20for%20our%20resilience.>

you are strongly encouraged to tap on the Adult Education Network or AEN in short, which we establish as a nexus to the world of Training & Adult Education, or TAE in short.

7. AEN members will be able to enjoy a plethora of benefits, including access to a suite of Continuing Professional Development programmes to continue to deepen their professional capability needed to help our workforce navigate the increasingly volatile job landscape. They can be recognised as associate or specialist adult educators, as they earn skill badges across a wide range of learning tracks to further cement their professional status.
8. AEN members will also be invited to exclusive events and be able to access industry insights and mentorship. Increasingly, enterprises are gaining cognisance in the need to upskill their employees. As members connect with industry leaders who are in our Learning Enterprise Alliance and beyond, engagement opportunities abound to partnership opportunities in training assignments and projects. IAL welcomes graduands to share their experience and knowledge to current learners as they have stepped into the TAE sector and help the others to make the step.
9. Once again, on behalf of IAL, I wish all our graduands success in your future as a TAE professional and all the best in your endeavour for lifelong learning.
10. Thank you.