

WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR TAN TAI YONG, PRESIDENT, SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, AT THE INSTITUTE FOR ADULT LEARNING 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CUM OPENING OF THE ADULT LEARNING COLLABORATORY ON 1 AUG 2024, LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

Ms Gan Siow Huang, Minister of State for Education and Manpower

Madam Halimah Yacob, Chancellor of SUSS

Mrs Mildred Tan, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, SUSS

Mr Tan Kok Yam, Chief Executive of SkillsFuture Singapore and Chairman, IAL Council

Distinguished Guests,

Good morning,

1. In 2019, IAL underwent a significant transition, becoming an autonomous institute within the Singapore University of Social Sciences. Being a part of the university significantly enhances IAL as it provides the institute with access to academic expertise across various disciplines.
2. By aligning with the university's mission, IAL can access more resources like cross-disciplinary partnerships and extensive networks in academia and industry. This alignment also makes sure the institute's objectives are consistent with the university's commitment to academic distinction, creativity, and contribution to society.
3. We've utilized our mutual strengths, forming a vibrant alliance that goes beyond our respective institutions. For instance, in research, works such as the TAE Landscape Studies and global conferences on adult education have been effective in guiding policy makers and industry stakeholders about market needs and developments.

4. IAL's programs are regularly updated to offer content that matches the evolving environment, demonstrating our commitment to enhancing the professionalism and skills of our Teaching and Adult Education professionals. Through aligning with the shifting requirements of Singapore's workforce, we make sure that our educators have the necessary tools to enable learners.

5. In 2020, IAL launched its Strategic Roadmap with the objective of "Always Advancing" to meet the evolving needs of the dynamic workforce and build a future-ready Training and Adult Education (TAE) sector. Four years down the road, the mandate has become ever more pressing as the pace of change picks up.

6. IAL's mission advancement requires the support from its industry partners, realized through the Adult Learning Collaboratory. This innovative platform encourages an energetic exchange and experimentation among participants in adult learning, utilizing IAL's extensive research insights to energize the field.

7. In conclusion, I encourage business leaders and adult education experts to embrace the "Dream, Dare, Do" philosophy. Let's inspire future generations together. Our goal is to ignite aspirations and equip our adult learners and employees to become impactful innovators.

8. I commend the entire IAL team for your unwavering dedication, which has significantly influenced adult learning in Singapore. May we persist in working together, driving innovation, and enhancing the TAE framework.

9. Thank you.