

Speech by Prof Su Guaning, President Emeritus, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) at the School of Science and Technology, Singapore (SST) Groundbreaking Ceremony and Ngee Ann Cheque Presentation Ceremony, on 29 March 2010.

Ms Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State,

Ministry of Education and Ministry of National Development

Dr Lim Kee Ming, President, Ngee Ann Kongsi

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

On behalf of the Board of Directors, faculty, staff and students of the School of Science and Technology, Singapore (SST), I would like to thank everyone for your presence here today.

1. First, I would like to express my thanks to our Guest-of-Honour Senior Minister of State Ms Grace Fu for gracing this occasion. This is truly a proud moment for us, as we officially launch the construction phase of Singapore's newest school. Whether it is leading-edge scientific research or innovative technology for our globalised economy, there is a critical need for talent. With the establishment of SST, we seek to nurture and develop future leaders and technopreneurs, with a strong grounding in creative design and engineering sciences.

2. I am especially grateful to Dr Lim Kee Ming and members of the Ngee Ann Kongsi for joining us today. It is my great pleasure to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Ngee Ann Kongsi for their generous donation of S\$8.1 million to SST. We are privileged to have the foundation's support of \$1.62 million annually over five years to help SST students pursue a quality, well-rounded education.

3. With the funding, SST will be able to give out 15 entrance scholarships and over 50 bursaries to our pioneer batch of deserving students. Ngee Ann Kongsi's donation will also be used to promote student entrepreneurship and fund local and overseas student development programmes. These programmes are designed to prepare our students for the opportunities and challenges of a competitive and globalised economy. We are deeply indebted to Ngee Ann Kongsi for its support and look forward to strengthening this meaningful partnership in education. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank SST's committed educational partners, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), and our industry partners, the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN) and the DSO National Laboratories. Their contributions to SST are vital, creating opportunities for our students to explore beyond the classroom, giving them the authentic context to broaden and deepen their learning. Speaking on behalf of NTU, the University is committed to help SST succeed with its new model of science and technology led, innovation enabled education. On the SST side, our students will benefit greatly from mentorships and attachments with researchers who are the best in their field. These

collaborations provide a window for SST students and teachers to understand more about the commercialisation of research and technopreneurship. We look forward to strengthening these bonds, to give our students a nurturing environment and the best chances of success.

4. Next, I would like to thank the parents of the pioneer SST students. As key stakeholders in your children's education, your confidence and trust in our school are crucial. Since the school's opening in January, you have given the school much-needed support. Your active interest in the school's development and constructive feedback during School-Parent sessions are invaluable.

5. Last but not least, on the behalf of the school, I wish to express appreciation to the teachers of SST who have worked hard as a team to deliver a high-quality curriculum that emphasises academic excellence and the development of 21st century competencies for a globalised economy. SST's partners, NTU and NP, have contributed to shaping this curriculum with enrichment programmes and academic expertise.

6. As the brick-and-mortar part of the school takes shape, we reach the next stage of our exciting journey to nurture tomorrow's scientists, technopreneurs and laureates. With the continued support of our stakeholders, we are confident that the school will achieve its mission of developing world-ready leaders through Innovative Technology and Applied Learning.

7. Thank you.

