

**CITATION ON HONORARY GRADUAND, MR NG YAT CHUNG,  
BY PUBLIC ORATOR PROFESSOR JOHN THONG,  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) & PROVOST  
ON 13 OCTOBER 2022**

Mr Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance

Mr Bill Chang, Chairman, SIT Board of Trustees

Professor Chua Kee Chaing, President, Singapore Institute of Technology

Distinguished Honorary Graduand

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good morning. Today, we have the pleasure of honouring an individual who has contributed greatly to the success of SIT. It is none other than our founding Chairman, Mr Ng Yat Chung.
2. During his tenure from September 2009 to March 2022, Mr Ng Yat Chung steered the growth and development of SIT as the first university of applied learning in Singapore. SIT began humbly as an aggregator of overseas university partner programmes in 2009, when it was set up to expand the opportunities for Polytechnic graduates to attain high quality undergraduate degrees. With Mr Ng at the helm, SIT undertook three key initiatives which enabled it to grow from an aggregator role into an institution that confers its own degrees.
3. First, SIT evolved its own applied learning pedagogy, tailoring it to fit its student profile of predominantly Polytechnic graduates; second, SIT strengthened its partnerships with local employers, including introducing new work-study modalities; third, SIT built up the capabilities of its faculty to deliver learning in close collaboration with industry. SIT was subsequently gazetted as Singapore's fifth Autonomous University in March 2014. Since then, SIT has widened its programme offerings to close to 40 undergraduate programmes. Student enrolment has grown from nearly 3,500 in 2014 to about 9,000 in 2021, with a consistently strong employment rate of over 90% for its graduates.

4. Throughout these years of tremendous growth, Mr Ng kept SIT focused on its mission to develop individuals who build on their interests and talents to impact society. He emphasised that SIT should always remain responsive to industry needs and ensure that its graduates had skills that were relevant and valued by industry. In this regard, he underscored the importance of having a curriculum that would be adaptable to changing industry needs. He also placed a strong emphasis on practice-oriented learning, industry partnerships and integration of work and study in the curriculum. He steered SIT towards deepening its applied research capabilities, providing students with opportunities to undertake industry-inspired research that supports industry development, as well as enabling SIT's faculty to stay in close touch with industry and thereby ensuring that SIT's academic programmes kept abreast with business and technological developments in industry. In this regard, he encouraged SIT to adopt an intellectual property policy that incentivized collaboration with industry to develop innovative products and solutions. He also encouraged SIT to continue leveraging its overseas university partners to build an extended ecosystem of partners, so that SIT could react swiftly to new areas of growth and industry needs. Today, SIT is recognised as a university of applied learning that has strong linkages with industry.
5. Mr Ng also guided SIT to set up its Continuing Education and Training capabilities that delivered relevant courses to industry professionals as well as skills upgrading programmes for the industry workforce which are implemented in conjunction with their companies. In 2019, SIT also launched its Industrial Masters and Industrial Doctorate degree programmes to strengthen industry's innovation capabilities.
6. Mr Ng also played a key role in strengthening SIT's organisational structure, processes and culture, including in succession planning and talent development, internal financial controls and managing headcount growth, all critically important for a new university. A firm believer in enterprise risk management, Mr Ng ensured that SIT had effective processes to identify key risk drivers and appropriate mitigating measures to manage the risks of a young and growing university. He also encouraged greater digitalisation in SIT's academic and corporate activities and led SIT to be an early adopter of cloud solutions for its IT infrastructure and services since 2014.
7. Last but certainly not least, Mr Ng was a strong advocate for SIT's future consolidated campus that will be located in the Punggol Digital District or PDD. He envisioned that the co-location would facilitate cross-fertilisation of knowledge and collaboration between faculty, staff and students, and companies in PDD as well as the residential

community. The various projects that would arise from such exchanges and collaboration would benefit and contribute to the broader industry and community within the PDD area.

8. Today, SIT is honoured to confer on Mr Ng the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters.