

**SPEECH BY MR HARRY WOO, MANAGING DIRECTOR AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
(ASIA PACIFIC), PANDUIT SINGAPORE PTE LTD**

**SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN PANDUIT SINGAPORE AND INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION**

**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVE**

**27 JANUARY 2022**

1. A very good afternoon to my esteemed partners from the Institute of Technical Education:
  - a) Ms Low Khah Gek
  - b) Dr Yek Tiew Ming
  - c) Ms Alice Seow
2. Distinguished guests
3. Ladies and gentlemen
4. As we march into 2022 and look forward to new beginnings, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rear its ugly head. New variants of the virus have been appearing and this has taken a toll on public health in Singapore and globally.
5. In the past two years, the pandemic has ravaged the world economy, jobs and changed the way we live. We have seen digitalisation picking up speed across industries as organisations pivot to keep their business afloat or come up with new ways to innovate and thrive.
6. Schools have evolved as well during the pandemic. How education is delivered has changed: students and teachers are meeting more often online than face-to-face. At the same time, there is an urgent need to make sure our youths are equipped with the right skills to find jobs in the new economy.
7. We have read news reports that speak of youths as the lost generation. Most of them were born just after the 2008 global financial crisis. And about a decade later, they are swept headlong into the pandemic. These are unprecedented times that call for us to join hands to do more for them.

In response to this challenge, Panduit Asia Pacific has initiated a corporate social responsibility program known as 'SKILLS CHANGE LIVES' campaign.

8. As part of the 'SKILLS CHANGE LIVES' campaign, Panduit became an official sponsor of the WorldSkills Singapore in 2021. We at Panduit, believe in empowering young people through education. WorldSkills Singapore is a national skills competition held once every two years to uncover the best talents amongst local youths.
9. We're talking about engineering and vocational skill sets ranging from engineering to IT systems network, cloud computing, and even fashion. Outstanding performers of WorldSkills Singapore will represent Singapore to compete in the prestigious WorldSkills International Competition.
10. Information network infrastructure solutions is an exciting field with tremendous opportunities. In particular, trends surrounding structured cabling are evolving rapidly.
11. First, its role in data centres. Networks can only be as strong as their physical foundations. Data centre traffic is growing at an unprecedented rate, which makes it critical that data centres are purpose-built from the ground up to nimbly react to changing business demands.
12. Second, convergence and digitalisation of modern commercial buildings. New types of connections are being added to networks in record numbers. Multiple connected devices—lights, security, HVAC, AV, and even elevators converge on the IP network to communicate with each other, collect actionable data, and fuel efficiencies. This rapid growth in connections promises to push building infrastructure solutions to new heights. Power over Ethernet is at the core of the digital building revolution, and as it merges with technological advances in low voltage with IP networking, we have the Building Internet of Things.
13. Third, infrastructure solutions for industrial Networking. Designing and deploying a network infrastructure on the manufacturing environment requires a keen knowledge of industry standards to ensure the infrastructure supports various environments on the plant floor. Considerations such as shock and vibration, temperature, washdown areas, exposure to acids or oil mixtures, and electromagnetic noise must be considered when selecting solutions to support these harsh environments.
14. Today, I'm very happy to announce our collaboration with ITE on a multi-pronged programme over five years, to groom students who are keen on careers related to information network infrastructure solutions. With digitalisation happening at breakneck speed, our collaboration with ITE couldn't be more timely.

## **Programme information**

1. Here's what the programme looks like.
  - a) We will set up a lab, called the ITE-Panduit Centre for Information Network Infrastructure Solutions and equip it with state-of-the-art equipment to train students for the skills of tomorrow.
  - b) We have donated Cabinets & Cold Aisle Containment to ITE Data Centre Lab for the training of trainees pursuing the Work-Study Diploma in Data Centre Infrastructure & Operation. In addition, we will train ITE staff attached in Data Centre Operations.
  - c) Next, we will make available University of Panduit, a Learning Management System, so that our Panduit ONE<sup>SM</sup> Partner Program e-resources are easily available to teachers and students 24/7.
  - d) ITE students will be paired with Panduit partner companies for internships, so they pick up valuable skills on the job.
  - e) We'll provide financial assistance to students from underprivileged families, and
  - f) Lastly, we'll be sponsoring book prizes to deserving students to keep them motivated and equipped on their learning journey.
2. We hope our investment of at least \$400,000 investment will help groom industry leaders of tomorrow.
3. We're very excited to embark on this programme with ITE and look forward to a successful partnership.
4. Thank you!