Keynote Speech 1

"Learning, Teaching & Managing using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)"

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Summary of the Speech:

Information and Communications Technology, or ICT in short, has made tremendous technological advances in the last decade. It has inevitably invaded our lifestyles in every possible imaginable way. The way we communicate, the way we process information, and the way decisions are made are now influenced and in certain ways dictated by the latest ICT devices and platforms. Certainly it has made our lives easier and things get done fast and more efficiently, but ironically we are busier than ever.

In the education landscape, ICT has also influenced the way we conduct education, how students learn, how knowledge is transmitted and how education processes are managed. The keynote speech will attempt to paint the education landscape that has been reshaped by recent advances in ICT, and explore the immense potential that lies ahead of us as to how emerging and future ICT can radicalise the education process.

Biography of Mr. Fong Yew Chan:

Yew Chan graduated from the french grande école, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Ingénieurs Electriciens de Grenoble with a Diplôme d'Ingénieur in Electrical Engineering. He subsequently obtained a postgraduate degree, Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies, from the grande écoles, Ecole Centrale de Lyon and Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble.

After graduation, he was posted to the Defence Science Organisation, now called DSO National Labs, to serve his scholarship bond. There, he headed the Electro-Optics Laboratory where he spearheaded many classified R&D projects for the Air Force, Navy and Army.

He later joined Agilis Communications Technologies Pte Ltd as the Product Manager of the Satellite Communications Division where he led the R&D as well as the Product Transfer departments in the design, development and manufacture of VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminals) transceivers and satellite communication modems.

He also served at the National Science and Technology Board (NSTB) as the Deputy Director of Technology Infrastructure, administering the public sector R&D activities in Singapore. He was also a Board Member in many of the Research Institutes and the respective Holding and Investment Companies.

At the A*STAR's Institute of High Performance Computing (IHPC), Yew Chan served as its Director of Business Development. He was responsible overall for the Institute's R&D collaborations and partnerships with the local industries.

Yew Chan was the founding Director of the School of Engineering at RP, leading the formation of the school to what it largely is today. In 2008, Yew Chan was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) for his contributions to RP and the public service.

He was seconded for a period of 2 years to MOE HQ at the Higher Education Division where he managed the funding for academic research pursuits at the universities and innovation development at the polytechnics.

Yew Chan is passionate about technology and keeps a close watch on the latest scientific and technological advances. He remains true to his philosophy that technology should serve man, and not the other way around. Besides being a life-long learner, he enjoys photography, appreciates high-fidelity music and reads self-improvement books.