

## **Speech By Mr. Donovan Dua Jun Liang on Behalf of 2025 Lifelong Learning Scholarship Recipients**

A very good evening to

Ms. Jasmin Lau, Minister of State for Education,

Mr. Lawrence Tan Han Tong, Chairman of Tan Kah Kee Foundation,

Mr. Ng Chee Hwa, Vice-Chairman of Tan Kah Kee Foundation & Donor for the Ng Yong Yao Lifelong Learning Scholarship,

Professor Eugene Tan, Chairman of Tan Kah Kee Foundation Scholarship Committee,

Ms. Low Khah Gek, CEO of ITE,

Principals of ITE Colleges,

Distinguished Guests, Fellow Recipients, Ladies & Gentlemen,

My name is Donovan Dua, and I'm truly honoured to stand before you as a recipient of the 2025 Lifelong Learning Scholarship. I'm proud to accept this award on behalf of all my peers, as a celebration of our shared dedication to growth, curiosity, and the lifelong pursuit of knowledge. May it serve as a reminder that learning never ends and neither does our potential.

From the very start of my ITE Journey back in year 1, I was filled with hesitation and uncertainty about whether I could turn my vast ambitions into reality. I was just a student with big dreams and a deep passion to create meaningful change in an institution that, despite its incredible potential, still faced societal stigma and misconceptions. I wanted to challenge those perceptions and prove that ITE is a place of growth, excellence, and endless opportunities, where students can thrive not just for themselves, but for the greater community and the future generations who will walk these same halls.

It was during my Higher NITEC in IT Systems & Networks at ITE College West that I found the spark that would guide me forward: a passion for technology, particularly in the HealthTech sector. From the start, I was fascinated by how a single network switch could connect hundreds of devices across a campus, and how a well-configured firewall could protect an entire organisation. That curiosity soon evolved into purpose during one of the most defining experiences of my journey—my internship with Synapxe for the Institute of Mental Health (IMH).

There, I had the chance to apply both my technical knowledge and life skills in a real-world healthcare setting. It was where my interest in IT deepened into a true passion for HealthTech—and where both my leadership and technical abilities were truly put to the test. Serving simultaneously as Secretariat-General and Network Engineer throughout the projects, I was entrusted with responsibilities that demanded both precision and coordination. Whether it was troubleshooting network issues, safeguarding system security, ensuring that critical medical devices functioned seamlessly for patients, or collaborating with various stakeholders and key personnel on major initiatives like the IMH Big 3 go-live, each experience pushed me to grow. Every challenge deepened my appreciation for the meaningful impact technology can have, especially in the lives of those who rely on it most.

Building on that foundation, I'm proud to have graduated with a Distinction in my Higher NITEC programme. Moving forward, I'm currently pursuing my ITE Work-Study Diploma in IT Systems Integration, where I now balance my academic commitments with hands-on industry experience as an IT Engineer at Asiatel (S) Pte. Ltd. In this role, I support the real-world deployment of innovative systems and network solutions across various industries and communities at large.

My journey so far has reminded me that learning never stops. As I look ahead, I am eager to specialise in Infrastructure Management for Healthcare. I plan to pursue industry certifications such as Certified Healthcare Technology Manager (CHTM) and Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) to deepen my expertise. Beyond personal growth, I'm committed to sharing my knowledge by mentoring future cohorts at ITE. I firmly believe that by lifting others as we climb, we multiply the impact of this scholarship far beyond our individual achievements.

And with that, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to:

- Mr. Ng Chee Hwa, who has provided an additional ten Ng Yong Yao Lifelong Learning Scholarship awards; and
- Ms. Peggy Tan, Tan Kah Kee Foundation's Deputy Honorary Secretary, who has provided an additional two Tan Guan Kai Lifelong Learning Scholarship awards on top of the ten Tan Kah Kee Foundation Lifelong Learning Scholarship awards for this year.

I must also extend my sincere appreciation to the panel of interviewers:

- Professor Ren Ee Chee and Ms. Juliana Lim, both from Tan Kah Kee Foundation; and
- Mr. Soh Sze-Wei and Mr. Chong Leong Fatt, both from ITE.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated lecturers at ITE College West, whose expert guidance and unwavering support throughout my Higher NITEC in IT Systems & Networks empowered me to reach this milestone.

I am equally grateful to the representatives from my Work-Study Diploma company, Asiatel (S) Pte. Ltd., for joining us this evening: Mr. Yeo Poh Seng, Managing Director, and Mr. Choy Leng Siong, Director. Your presence and encouragement mean a great deal to me.

I have worked diligently to reach my current position, and I remain committed to striving even harder as I pursue future milestones. Life presents us with constant challenges; each day comes with its own set of worries and obstacles. To my fellow scholarship recipients, and to everyone present, I urge you to continue pushing yourselves, persevere through adversity, and always remember to give back to the community whenever you can. In the spirit of Mr Tan Kah Kee and his unwavering dedication to education, let us press on with a shared purpose, to learn, to grow, and to serve.

In closing, I am deeply grateful for this scholarship and for the trust you have placed in me. I look forward to contributing to the field of IT Systems Integration and to paying forward the generosity shown to me today. Thank you all once again for this honour.