

**SPEECH BY MR LOH LIK PENG,
CHAIRMAN, SHATEC BOARD
AT SHATEC GRADUATION ON 27 NOVEMBER 2019
(WEDNESDAY), 2.00PM,
AT UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTRE**

Mr Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State,
Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Education
Ms Kwee Wei-Lin, President, Singapore Hotel Association
Distinguished members of the tourism and hospitality industry
SHATEC Team Members
Graduands
Parents and friends of graduands
Ladies and gentleman

Introduction

1 Good afternoon and a warm welcome to our 34th Graduation Ceremony. It is our pleasure to have SMS Chee join us today to celebrate this milestone occasion with our graduands and their families.

2 To all graduands, today signifies the successful completion of your studies at SHATEC and the beginning of a new chapter in your life. Congratulations! To the families, friends and trainers, thank you for the support and encouragement that you have given to our graduands.

Developing Workforce Ready Talents

3 As the school of the industry, SHATEC's mission is to "offer a host of opportunities to nurture talents for rewarding careers in the hotel and tourism industry". Therefore, our curriculum and training methodologies are constantly updated, so as to enhance the employability of our graduates and to ensure that they have acquired competencies which are in sync with the needs of the industry.

4 A key advantage of being an industry school is that we can always count on our hotel members and work closely with them to provide the extended classroom experience, for example in the area of OJT. I am therefore pleased to share two programmes with new industry OJT elements which will be launched in 2020.

5 The first programme, will see a 20-week supervised field training component embedded into our full-time WSQ Diploma in Hotel and Accommodation Services. As part of the supervised field training, full-time students will fulfil 12 work-hours per week in a hotel during their last 2 terms of institutional training. Working hand in hand with our hotel partners, students under this programme will be able to adapt to the workplace environment before embarking on industrial attachment, which will in turn lead to rewarding employment and job retention.

6 The second programme in the pipeline is the Hospitality Employability Enhancement Programme, better known as HEEP. First announced by SMS Chee in July this year, HEEP is a collaborative effort by the Singapore Tourism Board, Singapore Hotel Association and SHATEC. The Part-Time WSQ Higher Certificate in Hotel and Accommodation Services will be the first programme to take off under HEEP in January 2020. It is designed to offer structured training to career switchers transiting into the hospitality sector as well as junior hotel employees advancing into middle supervisory roles. The programme will also support placement for a 2-month job adaptation stint in a hotel. Thereafter, trainees may progress on to the WSQ Diploma in Hotel and Accommodation Services under a Place-and-Train model. I highly

encourage all hotel partners to nominate your new hires on HEEP to upgrade themselves with SHATEC.

7 In support of SkillsFuture movement, I am heartened to highlight that SHATEC has been offering a wide range of programmes for the industry. In particular, our masterclasses and short courses under the Wines and Spirits Education Trust (WSET in short) have been highly well-received. On this note, I would like to thank the industry for the support and we look forward to your continued participation in all the Skillsfuture programmes conducted by SHATEC.

Yes, learning is a life long journey and we urge all graduands to continue subscribing to programmes by your alma mater for your professional and personal development.

SHATEC as the Recognised Brand for Hospitality

8 Before I conclude my speech, I would like to share with you two pieces of good news. The first, as you may have already known from our social media and email announcements earlier in October this year, SHATEC had received The BrandLaureate BestBrands Awards 2019 for Culinary and Hospitality Talent Development. The

BestBrands Awards feature consumer's preferred choice brands which are committed to providing the best of quality products and services in their brand promises. We are proud that SHATEC is one of the 35 top brands in the region honoured this year.

9 For the second piece of good news, allow me to extend my congratulations to our Chief Executive of SHATEC, Ms Margaret Heng. She has been presented the Executive of the Year Award for Talent Development and Engagement at the Singapore Business Review Management Excellence Awards 2019 which took place last night. The Award is given to outstanding leaders whose initiatives have brought tangible success to their companies. Congratulations Margaret!

Conclusion

10 SHATEC is without doubt one of the most established brands for talent development in hospitality. Whether you are a fresh graduate seeking out your first career, a mid-career professional or existing industry practitioner seeking your next advancement, your SHATEC qualification will be the passport which will continue to open doors for you.

11 The journey of self-discovery and learning is a life-long process. I look forward to your contributions in this industry and believe that you will continue to accumulate accolades for yourself and do your alma mater proud, just as SHATEC graduates before you have done so.

12 Congratulations once again to all graduands and please continue to fly high the SHATEC flag!

13 Thank you!