
Prof Er Meng Hwa,
Senior Associate Provost, NTU

Mr Loh Pui Wah,
Director, Career & Attachment Office, NTU

Participating Employers

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

I am very pleased to be here this morning to join you at the Official Opening of the NTU Career Fair 2011.

2. There is no better time for the career fair to take place than now. The economy is strong and the job market is vibrant. This is reflected in the strong participation at this NTU Career Fair 2011. A total of 175 employers are participating in this fair which represents a 60% increase in the number of employers when compared with the previous job fair held in January 2010. Collectively, these employers are offering more than 4,500 jobs for the graduating students. I was told that this is the biggest job fair
ever in NTU and is also the biggest job fair in Singapore! - A reflection of our current strong economy.

3. In terms of private and public sector representation at the fair: There is a 37% increase in the number of public sector employers this year. The increase in private sector employers are spread over many industry sectors, which includes: Aerospace, Banking & Finance, Construction, Clean Energy, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Marine & Offshore Engineering, Semiconductor and Shipping.

4. At this fair, NTU has also partnered the Public Service Division, Singapore Maritime Foundation and Spring Singapore to set up three pavilions: the Public Service, Maritime and Growing Enterprises Pavilions. These partners will also be conducting talks during the fair to inform students of the latest emerging trends within their respective industries and the exciting career opportunities that await them.

5. Career fairs are great avenues for students to mingle with employers, learn more about their chosen industry and the culture of participating organisations. At the South West Community Development Council (CDC), of which I am Mayor, we have conducted many career fairs of our own, tailoring them to specific job seeker profiles, like our Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technicians (PMETs) Customized Workshops cum Networking Session and Career Fair. At one session last year, we launched our first closed door PMETs networking session. Job “match-making” sessions such as those we have organised and the career fair today, provides networking opportunities, which is powerful job search tool for job seekers.

6. Today, Job “match-making” will go virtual. NTU will be launching the first-ever virtual career fair in Singapore for employers to reach out to its student community of 33,000 undergraduates and postgraduates. Visiting this innovative, informative and interactive web-based platform will be a fascinating experience for the new generation of students. Besides being able to learn about internship and graduate job
opportunities through your virtual booths, students can conveniently download company brochures. In addition, company CEOs, recruiters, line managers or alumni of NTU can share their experiences and passions via video which students can view from anywhere at any time. With the latest technology, company representatives can even chat with students online via webcam, voice or text.

7. One-to-one or panel interviews can also be conducted with suitable candidates from the comfort of your office without travelling. With iFair, all NTU students, including those who are on overseas exchange or engaged in attachment or internship programmes, will be able to meet participating employers in this virtual world.

8. The Class of 2011 is indeed fortunate to have access to such a wide variety of career options and prospects. The South West CDC is also working towards encouraging young university graduates, like you, to play a role in the community by volunteering for some community work, and in the process become leaders in the community.

9. In all, the development of young talent needs to be well rounded and inclusive to help you maximize your potential. This in turn will turn you into invaluable assets in the organizations you study, work and serve in as you will be the next generation of corporate leaders that would take Singapore forward in the global economy of tomorrow.

10. I wish you all a pleasant and fruitful time at the fair.

Thank you.