

**OPENING REMARKS FOR MOS TAN AT THE SOCIETY OF PROJECT
MANAGERS (SPM) 21ST ANNIVERSARY DINNER
23 SEPTEMBER 2016, 7.15PM – 9.00PM**

Mr Ting Seng Kiong, President, Society of Project Managers

Partners, Fellow Project Managers and Friends

1. I am pleased to be here today at the Society of Project Managers 21st Anniversary Dinner.

2. The Society of Project Managers (SPM) was one of eight associations that re-affirmed their commitment to workplace safety and health during the Construction WSH Leadership Summit 2015. Since the Construction Summit, with the support of the WSH Council, SPM has developed a list of specific stakeholders' action plans to improve WSH competency among Project Managers. This will be done through courses for Project Managers that integrate WSH fundamentals. The SPM has also taken the lead to roll out the accreditation of Project Managers. Taken together, these efforts will greatly enhance the level of professionalism among Project Managers. I applaud your efforts.

3. It is important for Project Managers to be equipped with the fundamental knowledge and principles of workplace health and safety. With overall control over construction work activities, Project Managers play a critical role in inculcating a culture of Safety and Care to the supervisors and workers.

4. Project Managers must ensure effective implementation of permit-to-work. They should prevent incompatible works to be carried out in close proximity to high risk construction work and be ready to stop the works and revoke the permit if the works are deemed unsafe.

5. Project Managers must also ensure that sub-Contractors produce Risk Assessment (RA) for their specific work activities customised to actual site conditions. Generic RA should not be accepted.

6. These are important safety measures and Project Managers must ensure that they are complied with and taken very seriously. Safety should never be compromised for progress of works and adequate safety measures must be in place before the commencement of any work. When Project Managers take reasonable measures to ensure the overall safe condition of the worksite, workers will feel assured that they can go home safely at the end of each day.

7. The Construction Industry WSH Action Plans is a good example of how Stakeholders groups from the Construction value chain come together to develop a set of actions plans, with the aim of reducing workplace fatality rate. In order to achieve significant progress in WSH, continued efforts and follow-through in driving the Action plans items is thus very important. I urge the SPM to continue with your good work and collaboration with the other stakeholders in working through the remaining action plans.

Thank you and have a good evening.