

## **VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH BY TARANJOT KAUR**

Good morning to

- Our Guest of Honour, Mr Eu Pui Sun, Managing Director, Senoko Energy Supply Pte Ltd
- Mr Boo Kheng Hua, Principal and CEO, Temasek Polytechnic,
- Members of the Board of Governors and School of Engineering Advisory Committee
- Deputy Principals, Directors
- Distinguished guests
- Parents, Fellow Graduates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1 I feel privileged and proud, to represent the Class of 20-13. I'm so happy to see so many smiling faces. Ladies & gentlemen, we're grateful for your presence, to witness our achievements. Our time in TP has been quite a journey. A wise man once said that a journey is best measured in smiles, *rather* than miles. Let us take a few moments to look back on our incredible TP journey, before we look to the future.

2 My personal journey is a little different from most of the graduates here, but what we all have in common, is how far we have come. I followed in the footsteps of my elder sister, also a proud TP graduate. To study at TP was always my goal, my motivation to work hard. When I received good results in the "O" levels in India, I was on my way ...

3 I started my journey as a TP freshman, not in Singapore, but at the AEC School, in Chennai, India. After one year there, I arrived in Singapore to start my junior year in TP, with eagerness and some trepidation in my heart.

4 By that time, most of my fellow students had already spent 12 months in TP and seasoned and comfortable in their identities, and groups of friends. It was all new and exciting for me. Still, I think all of us felt must have overwhelmed at times, but we survived... we grew...we became fearless.

5 Time flew by and soon, we faced the Final Year Project. For sure, it wasn't easy. My Major Project group was given the challenge to take part in the prestigious Singapore Robotic Games or SRG. From Day One, we learnt to work as a team, to communicate effectively, to understand each other's weaknesses, and to build on our strengths.

6 But above all, we had one mission -- to succeed at SRG. After 2 months of struggle, of troubleshooting and debugging, praying that the PCB wouldn't blow up, we made it. Every moment was challenging, pushing us beyond our limits, training us to work as a team and prove ourselves in a competitive environment. I'm proud to say that we won the SILVER in the Sumo Robot competition.

7 Fellow graduates, each of us has our own story about struggles and successes. Whatever we accomplished for the Major Project, has left an indelible mark on us. This has been our shared TP experience, which gives us the confidence to face future challenges. We will not be deterred by what life throws at us, or by what critics say.

8 I'd like to conclude by quoting the late Steve Jobs, who spoke at the 2005 Stanford University Commencement. The visionary co-founder of Apple

*said, “Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living someone else’s life. Don’t be trapped by living with the results of other people’s thinking. Don’t let the noise of others’ opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most importantly, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition, which somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.”*

9 On behalf of my fellow graduates, we thank our families and friends for their great encouragement and support. And we thank Temasek Polytechnic for the knowledge and skills we learnt, the Quality Education we received, and the wonderful memories we take away.

10 My fellow graduates, let us all follow our heart and achieve what we desire, because, truly, that is the key to ultimate success and enduring happiness. THANK YOU. (585 words)