

CLOSING SPEECH BY ER. TAN SENG CHUAN,
WFEO PRESIDENT-ELECT AT THE CLOSING OF UNESCO WORLD
ENGINEERING DAY 2025 ON TUESDAY, 4 MARCH 2025 AT 4.50PM AT
UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, ROOM II IN PARIS, FRANCE

VIPs to address;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Good afternoon.

It is my privilege to address you as we conclude World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development (WED) 2025 here at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. My heartfelt appreciation goes to all of you—whether here in person or joining us via live stream from around the world—for being part of this global celebration of engineering and its profound impact on our future.

2 The theme of WED 2025, “Shaping a Sustainable Future through Engineering”, underscores a fundamental reality: real progress toward the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is only possible when we unite. WED has contributed to this goal by bringing together engineers, governments, academia, industries and individuals to exchange ideas, drive innovation and take meaningful action. Its impact extends far beyond today’s event, with numerous locally-hosted events worldwide, all working collectively to move us towards a sustainable future.

3 Today’s session, centred around the theme of “Unleashing the Power of Engineers to Advance the SDGs”, has provided invaluable perspectives. We have explored:

- How engineering can shape policy design for sustainable development,

- The transformative role of digitalisation and capacity building in empowering communities,
- The challenges and opportunities for women in engineering worldwide and
- The critical need for sustainable energy and resilient infrastructure to drive lasting progress.

4 We have also witnessed the incredible creativity of young engineers in the WED Hackathon, where they demonstrated their ability to develop practical, sustainable solutions to real-world challenges. To the participants, well done! May this experience inspire you to continue to push the boundaries of what is possible.

5 As we bring today's discussions to a close, I would like to share three key takeaways for us to move forward with a shared commitment to action:

- **First, collaboration is essential.** Engineers, policymakers, businesses and researchers must work together to transform innovative ideas into real-world impact.
- **Education and mentorship are critical.** Equipping the next generation of engineers with the right skills and support is essential to tackling future challenges.
- **Diversity and inclusivity fuel progress.** When we bring together different voices, perspectives and expertise, we create stronger, more sustainable solutions.

6 The message is clear: engineering is not just a profession—it is the engine of global progress. As I step into my role as WFEO President in October, I am determined to work alongside all of you in advancing our shared mission.

7 I extend my deepest gratitude to UNESCO, the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and the WED Organising Committee for their unwavering dedication in making this event a success.

8 Let us continue to harness the power of engineering to improve lives, strengthen communities and build a more sustainable future.

Merci. Thank you.