

Speech at SIRE 2016 (Singapore International Robo Expo)

At Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre by

Mr Oliver Tian

President of the Singapore Industrial Automation Association

Our Guest of Honour, Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry and Deputy

Chairman for the Committee for Future Economies

My Organizing Partner, Mr Leck Chet Lam, Managing Director, Experia Events

Pte Ltd,

Country Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen, a very good morning to you.

1. Today, we bring to you the Singapore International Robo Expo – SIRE (for short). This is a result of one and a half years of efforts, that SIAA had been translating a “borrowed notion” from an overseas learning trip to the fruition of an event dedicated to Robotics only. The mention of “Robots” immediately catches everyone’s attention, from the very young in preschool to the elderly at homes.

Robotic technology has generated lots of curiosity, some level of anxiety and a keen interest to know more about it.

2. At home, the robot is a common topic between the grandchildren and the grandparents. At work, the businesses are diligently exploring how the robot can play a role in the workplace.

3. The Singapore Industrial Automation Association discovered that the robot has increasingly become matured enough to leave the factory and find its place in the services industries. As such, the SIAA started to look overseas to understand how service robots can be deployed. We have organized delegations on overseas mission to Europe, Taiwan, Japan and mostly recently, to Korea. The learning journeys created the opportunities for us to meet with robotic experts from all around the world, including the United States, The Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, China, Japan, Korea and Russia. And these teams brought home a good understanding of global experiences, not limited to success stories alone.

4. From our overseas mission, we realized that “our little red dot” has also received the attention of two globally recognized bodies, namely ABI Research and the International Federation of Robotics (IFR). They, too, have noticed a surge in activities from this part of the world.

5. During the recent trip to Korea, I met with Mr Joe Gemma who is the President of IFR, and we had a good conversation on trends on robotic adoption. If it had not been for his busy schedule, I would have invited him to Singapore. During another mission trip to France, the SIAA team met with Mr Dan Kara, Research Director of ABI Research and learned much from his presentation and global survey on robotics. We are extremely pleased that he accepted our invitation to come to Singapore to be our first Keynote Speaker.

6. In addition, we have also invited Dr KC Shin from Korea to be the next keynote speaker - a man who has dedicated 3 decades of his life to the development of commercial robots, initially, robots for the factories and in the last decade service robots for the home, schools and healthcare amongst other domain. Dr Shin has also served as President of the Korean Association of Robotics (KAR) for number of years in the past during which Korean robotic industry moved in leaps and bounds from the early days of factory automation.

7. Next, we have a charming lady from France, Ms Catherine Simon – I know of Ms Simon as a person who is very energetic and inspired by robotic technology. She will be able to bring us the European perspective.

8. Another influential speaker: Professor Sami Haddadin, is the inventor of the world's first robot that can build itself. Apps can be retrieved from the cloud. He

has successfully integrated Industry 4.0 technologies into an affordable robot.

(999Euro)

9. Traditionally, robotics are utilized in the manufacturing industries. Robotics technology has come of age. Through convergence, robotics technologies are evolving into services robots and beyond, integrating similar technologies, new capabilities and functions. This evolution enables robotic deployments in other verticals like Logistics, Lifestyle, Built Environment & Professional services.

10. Robotics is a core discipline in Industry 4.0. It is also a multi-platform enabling tool that is particularly useful to drive Industry Transformation Roadmaps; to enhance productivity, create new jobs and skillsets and empower business innovation. We are confident that with these new tools, we will be able to inject growth and spur competitiveness by way of industry transformation.

11. I'd like to thank our partner: EXPERIA EVENTS in their efforts in co-organizing this event and building it towards a world-class robotics platform right here in Singapore. I express appreciation to STRATEGIC PARTNER: INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE SINGAPORE for helping us to put this together. And to supporting agencies: EDB Singapore, GovTech Singapore, InfoComm Media Development Authority, A*Star's SIMtech, Spring Singapore, and in particular the Singapore Tourism Board for their support to this event.

12. On that that note, I hope you have a delightful learning experience today and enjoy the exhibition. Have a great day ahead.

13. Thank you very much.