

# Chairman's Message

## SHAPING THE NEXT CHAPTER OF SIT'S JOURNEY

FY2024 was a defining year for the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). The move to our purpose-built campus in Punggol was more than a physical consolidation when we used to operate in 6 different campuses – it marked a significant milestone in our evolution as Singapore's first University of Applied Learning. This new home unites our students and academic staff with industry within the larger Punggol Digital District. It represents a bold investment in the future, designed to foster innovation, partnerships, and expand the impact of applied learning for generations to come.

## ANCHORING OUR LONG-TERM VISION – SIT2034

This year also marks the launch of SIT2034, our 10-year strategic vision to firmly establish SIT as Singapore's University for Industry. We will strengthen our close nexus with industry, providing a pipeline of talent, and delivering innovative solutions through our applied research focus.

This vision builds upon our first decade as an Autonomous University (AU). We pioneered the applied education pathway in the university landscape, and grew to be the third largest AU in Singapore in terms of undergraduate intake. We expanded our mission from offering just Pre-Employment Training (PET) to innovative Continuing Education and Training (CET) offerings, as well as engaging in industry-relevant applied research.

The SIT2034 vision was shaped through extensive engagement with stakeholders, rigorous environmental scanning, and thoughtful deliberation by the Board of Trustees (BOT) alongside our senior management team. It provides a clear and purposeful roadmap that guides the University's decisions and investments, ensuring that our growth remains aligned with Singapore's evolving priorities.

SIT2034 is not just a statement of aspiration; it is a call to strengthen our distinctive applied learning model, expand our research capabilities, and extend our reach as a lifelong learning institution that supports Singapore's national and economic transformation.

**“Higher education is undergoing rapid change, shaped by technological advancements, shifting economic landscapes, and evolving learner expectations. SIT is well-positioned to navigate these changes – not by following trends, but by shaping them. Our new campus, our SIT2034 vision, and our growing network of partners give us the tools to be bold in our ambitions and confident in our trajectory.”**

## MR BILL CHANG

Chairman



## LAYING STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

In 2024, we continued to advance our academic offerings, research agenda, and partnerships in ways that reflect both present needs and future opportunities. We expanded our portfolio of industry-relevant degree programmes, introduced more flexible pathways for lifelong learning, and deepened our role in shaping workforce development through CET. Our collaborations with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Applied Materials, Singapore Pools and SingHealth institutions, resulted in new CET offerings and applied learning opportunities. These initiatives ensure that SIT remains a trusted partner for learners at every stage of their journey.

We also saw continued progress in applied research, with new projects and funding secured in areas of national significance, including the Building and Construction Authority's approval for a new Drilled Displacement (DD) pile technique. The technique was successfully deployed at a Tuas site and recognised with the SIT Applied Research Excellence Award 2025. Our researchers also co-developed a gravity-driven membrane-based filtration system to replace chemical-heavy water treatment methods in high-turbidity environments in collaboration with Atera Water. This innovation was mentioned by Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2024 award ceremony, reinforcing SIT's role in advancing solutions with real-world impact.

These efforts are only possible through close collaboration with our industry and community partners.

Our SITizens have also achieved remarkable milestones that reflect the quality and relevance of our programmes. Across disciplines, SIT students excelled in national and international competitions, demonstrating both technical expertise and innovative thinking. Making waves in the world of human-powered submarine engineering, our SIT Nautical Knights became the first Southeast Asian team to dive into the European International SubRace 2024. The 10-member student squad comprising undergraduates from the Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering programme, and Offshore Engineering programme, achieved a fourth-place finish among 11 international teams, while securing the Best Newcomer Award. Successes like this are great examples of how our students are not just studying theory; they are pushing boundaries, solving complex problems, and demonstrating the grit that defines our SITizens.

## STEWARDSHIP FOR SIT'S NEXT CHAPTER

I am privileged to work alongside a Board of Trustees whose expertise spans diverse industries and sectors. Their stewardship ensures that SIT's growth is underpinned by sound governance and strategic foresight. I also wish to recognise the many industry leaders, government agencies, and community partners whose support makes our work possible. Together, we are building a university ecosystem that is agile, relevant, and deeply connected to the Punggol community, industry, and the nation.

## LOOKING AHEAD WITH PURPOSE

Higher education is undergoing rapid change, shaped by technological advancements, shifting economic landscapes, and evolving learner expectations. With the rapid rise of AI adoption globally, we are continuously evolving our curriculum to equip students with the skills to harness its opportunities, enabling them to apply AI to drive meaningful outcomes, while instilling a strong sense of curiosity, adaptability, and a commitment to lifelong learning, qualities which are essential to thrive in a fast-changing, AI-driven world. However, we must also enable them to use AI tools ethically and responsibly and to prepare them to navigate an AI-driven reality with discernment, critical thinking and integrity.

SIT is well-positioned to navigate these changes – not by following trends, but by shaping them. Our new campus, our SIT2034 vision, and our growing network of partners give us the tools to be bold in our ambitions and confident in our trajectory.

To our students, faculty, staff, partners, and the Punggol community – thank you for your trust, collaboration, and belief in our mission. The years ahead will demand adaptability, innovation, and resolve, and I am confident that SIT will continue to rise to the challenge.

Together, we will strengthen SIT's role as Singapore's University for Industry – a place where learning transforms lives, research drives change, and partnerships allow us to shape a better future for all.