

Speech by Prof Mohan Kankanhalli, Vice Dean of Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies, NUS School of Computing, at Opening Ceremony of ACM ICPC Singapore 2007 on 13 December 2007, 9am

ACM ICPC Asia Director Prof Hwang Jinshong,

Coaches, partners and participants of ACM ICPC Regional Contest 2007 Singapore

Representatives of sponsoring companies IBM and Lenovo

Colleagues and friends

Good morning, and a very warm welcome to the National University of Singapore and the School of Computing.

As a faculty of the National University of Singapore, NUS School of Computing steadfastly upholds the University's tri-fold mission of offering quality education, pursuing excellence in research and providing service to the community, particularly, in field of computing or information & communication (infocomm) technologies as it is perhaps more commonly known in the wider community.

To everyone present here today, the importance of infocomm in modern life is obvious. The fact that we have chosen infocomm as our field of vocation or our course of study is evidence that we all appreciate that infocomm knowledge and expertise are driving stunning developments in our increasingly digitized world. And they will continue to do so in the future.

Yet among the uninitiated, infocomm might be in danger of appearing mundane simply because it is everywhere. It is in correcting such misconceptions among the wider community, and in generating greater awareness of infocomm as a worthy field of higher studies and intellectual pursuit, that programming competitions such as ACM ICPC serve an invaluable purpose. Moreover, it is an excellent opportunity for expression for the talented ones among us.

NUS School of Computing is therefore pleased to be a host in this year's ACM ICPC Regional Competition in Asia. We are particularly honoured to host the event, knowing that the right to do so comes round to a Southeast Asian country only once every four years. For that, we would like to put on record our thanks to Prof Hwang Jinshong, ACM ICPC Asia Director. We are also proud to be the ACM ICPC regional competition in Asia that has drawn a record number of foreign teams from the most number of countries.

Many of the contestants and coaches seated here today have travelled from across the region to Singapore. We hope that you are rested from your journey as two days of exciting programmes await you. The excitement of the competition itself is certainly the main attraction, with a place in the World Finals at Canada next April being the top incentive. Nevertheless, we urge you to also take time to enjoy the various talks and social programmes that we have lined up for you today and tomorrow. We hope that you will find your stay with NUS and in Singapore beneficial and interesting.

To the contestants and staff members from Nanyang Technological University and Informatics Education, thank you for coming to NUS for the competition. We invite and appreciate your partnership in making our foreign visitors feel welcome in Singapore.

Finally, I would like acknowledge the support of IBM and Lenovo, the two corporate sponsors of the competition. We deeply appreciate your contributions towards enhancing the experience of all the contestants.

Thank you.