



## **“Believe to Achieve” at IE Singapore 10 March 2017**

Written by Toastmaster Pamela Lau  
Edited by ACB, ALB, Club Mentor Chai Pei Shan

As Napoleon Hill says “Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve.” This is indeed true for the members, friends and supporters of the 15-year-old **Money Mastery (Singapore) Toastmasters Club (MMTMC)** on 10 March 2017.

### Believe to Achieve!

The theme was especially curated with “IE” in mind. For the curious, the letters are creatively embedded or found within the key phrase, “Believe to Achieve” to anchor the message. Also, “i.e.” is also the term referring to something or a subject in mind. For instance, what or how do you define as something that you want to achieve this year? This thought-provoking chapter meeting was designed to be a resounding success at the outset!

Yes, if you believe it, you WILL achieve it ... and because MMTMC believes it, the four successive March meeting at International Enterprise (IE) Singapore marked a new milestone for MMTMC on 10 March 2017. It was like a marathon starting from ‘Marvellous March’ 2014, continued with ‘Singles Night Out’ 2015 and ‘Leap of Faith’ 2016. Into the fourth year running, ‘Believe to Achieve’ 2017 returned to the heart of CBD area, at Bugis Junction and attracted a crowd with over 50 visitors and members! This edition has since attracted the highest record for attendance compared to the past three editions. Hooray!

([IE Singapore](#) is the leading agency driving Singapore external economy to internationalise Singapore companies overseas)

Thank you to all members for serving as advocates of public speaking, bringing awareness, joy and the benefits of Toastmasters to the larger community!



One of the little excitement I have for attending MMTMC's meeting at IE Singapore was the opportunity to sit on the cozy sofa at the reception area and to soak in the corporate ambience, with a scenic sunset view of the city scape of CBD. The seating area was conducive for networking, accommodative to host a sumptuous food reception, and made one feel at home. The food arrived shortly after I relaxed myself on the sofa for about 15 minutes. Guests and members were interacting with one another, sharing their experiences, while enjoying the delectable spread of local delicacies prepared by our MMTMC Executive Committee.



Executive Committee members Aaron, Arva, Candrika, Desmond, Janty and Inge arrived early to ensure that the logistics were smoothly organized from the reception area – ‘richly endowed’ with a line-up of Toastmasters magazines, as well as, an array of Toastmasters manuals (serving as ‘samplers’ to the non-Toastmasters guests), to the overall positive welcoming experiences for guests. Our Toastmasters of the Evening duo, Chai Pei Shan and Joyce Ong were also enthusiastically preparing for the programme at the ‘Little Red Dot’ seminar room to ensure that everyone will enjoy an enriching and entertaining evening.



At 7pm sharp, guests and members were called to be seated at the IE’s cozy meeting room by our friendly Sergeant at Arms (SAA) Toastmasters Inge Wati and Tan Qing Lin. To break the ice, an interesting topic “What do you want to achieve in 5 years” time” were posed by our SAA to all the guests right before the meeting started. Kudos to all our guests and appointment holders because they had bravely attempted their first impromptu speeches (unknowingly)!



The highly anticipated meeting was kick-started by co-hosts/Toastmasters of the Evening (TMEs): Immediate Past President Chai Pei Shan and her mentee, Toastmaster Joyce Ong. The bubbly mentor-mentee TME were a great pair especially when they presented the theme ***Believe to Achieve*** in a short and sharp, yet sweet and uplifting manner. Both of them enjoyed great camaraderie on stage! Photo highlights of the past sessions brought back waves of nostalgia and ripples of fond memories for members and friends alike at IE Singapore!

With strong positive spirit, our Club President Candrika Adri Tjo delivered her opening address before the prepared speeches. In her opening address, our Club President shared with the audience her recent flying fox experience in a Batam getaway with a group of MMTMC members. She said we tend to focus too much on risk and failure that's why we are fearful. She concluded that if you believe to achieve and if your belief is bigger than your fears, you will achieve it. I learned a great deal from her speech.

Our joyful and energetic TME duo, Pei Shan and Joyce enlivened the evening with an extension of the theme and captivated the audience attention! From the applause and enthusiastic responses, we can tell that the audience anticipated four spectacular speeches by our home-grown talents and their corresponding evaluators.



The first speech was “Project 1: Ice Breakers” delivered by **Toastmaster Ezra Karunia Marijanto**. His speech title was “The Great Run”. In his speech, Ezra ran away from his mom’s choices to make his own choices of what to study and transformed to where he is now. Indeed it was a great run because Ezra learned the following and encouraged us to own these positive attitudes:-

- 1) Believe in yourself
- 2) Be yourself
- 3) Be happy
- 4) Be enthusiastic
- 5) Focus on what you have, not what you don’t have



The second speech of the night was "Project 3: Get To The Point" delivered by **Toastmaster Nhu Trinh**. Titled "How Books Open Your Mind", she conveyed to the audience how she gained courage and positivity from reading certain books. It was certainly another memorable speech which the speaker's point was to persuade the audience to adopt the habit of reading more books.

The two speeches resonated with the audience as they cheered and stood in adoration during the 10-second standing ovation for Toastmasters Nhu and Ezra. Connecting with the audience, Toastmasters of the Evening, Pei Shan quipped that "A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it is not open," and emphasizing Nhu's message to keep an open mind and read widely as Toastmasters.



The third speech was "Project 5: Your Body Speaks" delivered by **Toastmaster Shaun Pang**. Titled, "It All Comes Together", Shaun began his speech by saying "It's

not what you said but it's how you say it" and related to us using his personal style, attention-grabbing introduction, packed with humorous stories.



The fourth speech was "Project 8: Get Comfortable with Visual Aids" delivered by **Toastmaster Janty Widjaja**. Titled, "It's Your Life", her speech was well-prepared to present facts and to inspire. It was memorable because she shared noteworthy medical facts, backed with medical research and concluded with medical fact to encourage the audience with a call to action. She encouraged healthy people to apply the same applications to our daily life for better living. The memorable highlights and handy tips of her stories centred on 5 aspects: (i) working your brain, (ii) exercise your brain, (iii) feeding your brain, (iv) sleeping; and (v) positive thinking.

After the refreshment break, the meeting continued with awesome and insightful speech evaluations. As the saying goes, "Iron sharpen Iron". Our evaluators enabled us to hone skills in speech-crafting, critical thinking and listening skills. We were honored to have four seasoned project evaluators at the session. All the evaluations were helpful and encouraging to not only the speakers but also the audience!

After the speech evaluation, the mind-stimulating meeting was 'stewed' further (just like a pot of wholesome soup) with many well preserved 'spices' when our esteemed mentor (affectionately known to some as our beautiful English Teacher) Toastmaster Michelle Sheya Wong shared the 'gems' and the 'germs' of the usage of English Language in our speeches. The spices included different types of rhetorical devices, allusion, parallelism and pronunciation with examples referred back to the speeches. To most of our visitors, our language evaluation offered a glimpse into the better usage of the English Language and enhance our overall learning at Toastmaster!





The Table Topics session was fantastic and well-organised! Our Table Topic Master Adelina Lim persuaded guests to come on stage to give their impromptu speeches for the evening. For the first-time guests who bravely attempted the topic, our Toastmasters of the Evening Pei Shan and Joyce rewarded each of them with a complimentary copy of the Toastmasters magazine! Kudos to our guests, Anita, Prakesh, Hadrian Pradipto who graced the stage to deliver their maiden table topic speeches.

Indeed, Table Topics Session offers us an excellent opportunity to practice giving short speeches without preparation, and equip us with soft skills to excel at interviews/work places where we have little or no time to prepare in advance. Imagine - we can better tackle the 'surprise' questions posed to us by our bosses/clients/stakeholders!

Congratulations to our newest member and **Best Speaker** for the evening, **Toastmaster Ezra Karunia Marijanto** for clinching his FIRST award in his first 'ice breaker' speech titled, "The Great Run"! It is a remarkable milestone and commendable achievement for this newbie!



The **Best Table Topics Speech** award goes to Competent Communicator, Arva Rangwala who believe that she will become Dr Arva in ten years' time.



The **Best Evaluator** award goes to one of our Club Mentors and former Club President, **Chandran Kanapathey** who is humorous and earnest in his evaluation style.



This chapter meeting also saw a visiting Project Evaluator and fellow Toastmaster, **Sebastian Chong** who signed up on the spot, as our member at the session!

Visitors praised us for the excellent theme, high-quality, enriching speeches, high-energy TMEs, as well as, the marketing campaigns on Eventbrite, novel online voting to make "Believe to Achieve" such a GREAT SUCCESS!

Big thank you to IE Singapore for hosting us! Well done to all appointment holders, TMEs, speakers, Executive Committee for the well-orchestrated event.

See more photos of the event at our Facebook album:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.667908046743670.1073741929.136536496547497&type=1&l=5554852683>

Check out our next MMTMC Informal Chapter Meeting on 28 April at The Plaza!

<https://www.facebook.com/MoneyMasteryToastmastersClub>