A unveiling ceremony for the display of the Tree of Education sculpture at the National Institute of Education (Bukit Timah Campus) was held on Saturday, 22 Feb 92. The ceremony was officiated by Dr Michael Fam, Chairman of the Nanyang Technological University Council.

The sculpture is the work of well-known local sculptor, Chem Lian Shan, of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. It was produced with the assistance of a group of final year students in the Certificate in Sculpture course at the Academy.

The sculpture is a "life-size" representation in fibre glass of a "tree of education and knowledge". It is 3 metres high and weighs 160 kg. According to Chem, its theme is the Chinese proverb: Ten years to grow a tree, a hundred years to educate a person.

Mr Chem Lian Shan told NIE News that the explanation of the theme is as follows:

The growth of a tree symbolises the inheritance of knowledge. The tree will grow up to become useful building material. It represents the achievement of a new generation. The saying goes: It takes 10 years to grow a tree but 100 years to educate a person. This proverb is an apt theme for the sculpture.

The object of education is human beings. The four human forms in the sculpture represent the four major races in Singapore. The musculature of sculpture indicate that we stand firm, embedding our roots in the ground. The arms form the branches of the tree, rising upwards. The luxuriance of the foliage indicates the development of knowledge in all directions.

The display of the sculpture is meant to add to the aesthetic as well as the academic atmosphere of the Institute. Professor Gloria Lim, Director of NIE underscored this point in her address at the ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony was Dr Cham Tao Soon, President of NTU, NIE Council members and staff of NTU and NIE.

NIE LOGO COMPETITION

With the formation of the National Institute of Education as an Institute of the Nanyang Technological University, a new logo has to be designed to identify and reflect NIE's new corporate identity. A logo competition was therefore launched by NIE on 11 March 92 this year to search for a winning entry.

Basically, NIE is looking for a distinct visual corporate identity or logo which is aesthetically pleasing. It should reflect the objectives of NIE. These are as follows:

* the provision of courses of study for the training of teachers in the various fields of education at all levels;
* the provision of postgraduate training in the fields of teacher education, educational administration and management, physical education and the Arts and the Sciences;
* the promotion of research in the fields mentioned above.

The competition was open to all residents of Singapore. A grand prize of $4000 will be awarded to the top entry and there will also be four other meritorious awards of $200 each. The closing date for entries will be 12 noon, April 15 1992.

Entries will be judged by a panel of judges appointed by the Institute and results will be published in the Straits Times on 6 May 1992. All prize winners will be informed by post.