

# NIE NEWS



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## NTU OPEN DAY

This year, the NTU Open Day was held on 15 August 1992 at the Bukit Timah campus to enable the newly established NIE to promote its degree courses, teacher education programmes and research programmes and developments. The occasion was a symbolic one as, it brought together, for the first time, the efforts of staff and students of both campuses.



Telematch - One of the many activities of the Open Day.

workshops on Chinese painting techniques, western painting, ceramics and three-dimensional art; a music workshop on "Learning music through computers" and a reading workshop on children's literature. New technologies in education were given emphasis in several demonstrations, for example, the use of a home grown computer software "NIE Singapore Keyboard and Tamil Typing Tutor". Geographic Information Systems for spatial data analysis and the ways in which the keyboard laboratory enhances classroom music teaching. Creative approaches to teaching were demonstrated by the Malay Unit through a puppet show, the History Division in their mime and the Chinese Language Unit performances using poetry and prose.



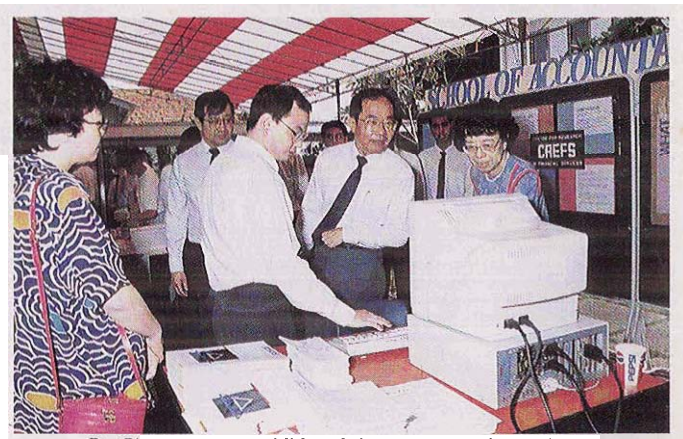
NTU President, Dr. Cham Tao Soon given a rousing welcome by a lion dance performed by students of the Jurong Campus.

The theme was "Nurturing Tomorrow's Professionals: The University with a Difference". This theme brings into focus the objective of the University which aims to develop the "Total Professional": competent in his profession and responsible to society.

Dr Cham Tao Soon, President of NTU, was the Guest-of-Honour. He was welcomed with a lion dance performed by students of the Jurong Campus. The President viewed key exhibits in the various Schools and interacted with staff, students and visitors. He also watched a microteaching session, demonstrations on innovative teaching, a gymnastic display and toured the Exhibition Room at the Centre for Applied Research in Education (CARE).

Visitors received first hand information about courses of study, research programmes and the University from staff and students manning the computers and display panels set up by the Jurong Campus Schools at the Block B concourse.

The School of Arts provided a variety of exhibits, Performances and hands-on workshops such as art



Dr Cham viewing exhibits of the School of Accountancy.

The School of Science provided a sampling of the range of science and science education research and teaching activities that go on within the School. The key exhibits

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were the Aeroponics project which showed visitors a novel way of growing plants and marketing the technology, the faculty's Nuclear Fusion Experimental Facility, applied biotechnology kits for diagnosis of nasopharyngeal cancer and other diseases and exhibits concerning environmental chemistry. Visitors were able to see demonstrations on enzyme activity, physical properties of waves, light, high temperature physics and the detection of trace metals in plant materials. The brewing of wine from local fruits such as durians, bananas and pineapples drew interesting responses from the more courageous visitors who described the fermentation products as "sweet", "strong", "very unique". Innovative approaches to teaching were illustrated through student performances, hands-on exhibits and display-cum-demonstration of teaching materials, for example, the teaching of mathematics through manipulatives. The "Mathematics Trail Around NIE Campus" was indeed a journey of mathematics adventure and more than 100 successful participants were awarded with the badge "I conquered the Mathematics Trail".

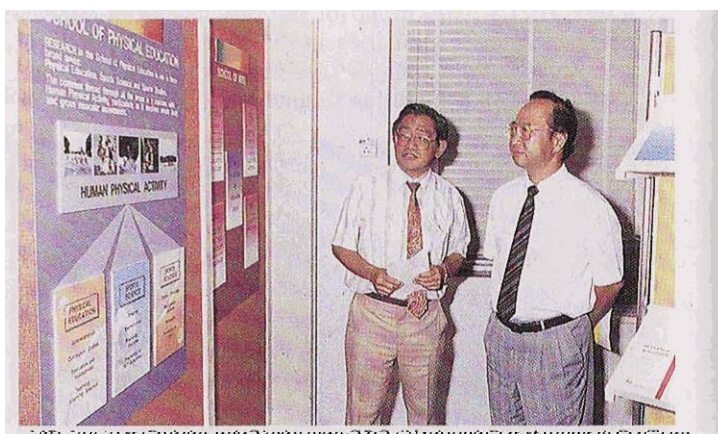
The School of Education mounted six interactive activities and displays on excellence in teacher education. These included a panel discussion on the experiences and possibilities in teaching, a participative microteaching session, a hands-on self-assessment career guidance activity featuring the "Jobs Orientation Backup System" (JOBS), simulation activities with teaching equipment from the world of specialised education and hands-on experience with multimedia packages and other computer-based instructional materials for classroom teaching. In addition, there were static displays on a range of guidance activities to enhance the all-round development of individuals on testing procedures and a workshop on how to help an individual to think better using "cognitive midifiability" tasks. There was also a book exhibit of staff publications. All in all, the feedback from visitors was positive.

The School of Physical Education organised several major and minor games demonstrations. The highlight was the fitness-testing in the exercise physiology laboratory which ran from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm and the Biathlon in the swimming pool and grounds of the campus.

CARE's Exhibition Room gave visitors a glimpse of the main thrusts of research in NIE Schools. On display too were research publications and key projects conducted under the Centre.

One of the many highlights of the day was a talk by Dr Tan Cheng Bock, MP for Ayer Rajah and Chairman, GPC (National Development) on "Politics and You" to pre-university students. Two other public forums "Enjoy Your Teenage Children" and "Myths, Misconceptions and Superstitions About Love, Courtship and Sex" and a panel discussion were also well attended.

Other student organised activities included telematches, charity trade fair and a concert. The NIE Symphonic Band ended the Open Day in the evening with a beautiful rendition of several band pieces.



Cheng Bock gave a talk on "Politics & You". We viewed exhibits later on.

## VISIT TO SINGAPORE OF NINE TEACHING STAFF FROM UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

A group of 9 faculty members from the College of Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, visited Singapore between July 13-31 to study the efforts made by



Teaching staff of the University of Nevada having discussions with NIE Lecturer, Dr Agnes Chang

Singapore: in particular, our teacher education programme, in preparing teachers to integrate the multi-cultural heritage, traditions and values into our system of education. The programme during their stay was coordinated by Dr Seng Seok Hoon of the School of Education and the group visited various schools, colleges and tertiary institutions as well as various ministries.

Various staff from the National Institute of Education and National University of Singapore were invited to conduct seminars on issues pertaining to our attempts in education to achieve multi-cultural harmony in such an ethnically diversified society. The group found the seminars and field trips very informative and enlightening and would apply the knowledge they have gained during the visit in their teacher education programmes at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.