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## Director's Message



Dear Student Teachers,

Welcome to the National Institute of Education, and to a refreshing and exciting journey as you begin your initial teacher education programme!

For those returning for a new semester, I hope you had a restful and enjoyable break

(longer than before because of our campus being the Youth Olympic Village) and are ready to face the challenges of a new term ahead.

Our initial teacher education programmes aim to provide you with the necessary values, skills and knowledge to succeed as a beginning teacher facing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom. We have expanded the values paradigm in our new desired attributes of the 21st Century teaching professional model with the aim of: putting the learner at the centre of teachers' work, defining the teacher's identity as being a professional and emphasizing the duty of a teacher to serve their profession and the community. The V<sup>3</sup>SK model is also in alignment with the Ministry's framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century competencies which include critical and creative thinking, civic literacy, cross-cultural skills and information and communication skills. The end goal is to help our students to become

confident persons, self-directed learners, active contributors and concerned citizens.

Nurture your talents, while broadening your worldview and experiences by participating fully in our student development programmes – such as GESL, The Meranti Project, Director's Charity Relay Race, Explorations in Ethnicity, the NIE Resiliency Challenge, study trips to overseas institutions, education and youth conferences, and upcoming international service-learning projects. Being active outside your academic programme will develop your social emotional competencies and character.

I also encourage you to engage actively in our 15 student-led clubs. These clubs serve to connect you with each other, hone your leadership skills and help you to build lasting friendships and a strong teaching fraternity.

Before I sign off, I want to also take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to all student teachers and staff who have helped to make the hosting of the YOG for NIE and Singapore a success. Thank you for practising our national value of "Nation before self" and demonstrating the NIE spirit of giving! I wish you a meaningful journey ahead!

Warmest regards,  
Professor Lee Sing Kong  
Director, NIE

## Editor's Commentary



*So far, 2010 has proven to be an exciting year all thanks to the inaugural Youth Olympic Games that has caused much hype since it was being held right here in our humble hometown and that NTU and NIE played host as the YOG Village no less! Of course let us not forget World Cup and a certain psychic octopus (which would probably end up as someone's main course if not for Spanish protection). And in this issue, you get to read about some of the interesting events that NIE students had been up to the previous semester such as "Recess-Alter Ego" and "Love Is: A musical"!(read on to find out more about them!)*

*I hope that each and every one of you has had an awesome holiday, be it globetrotting or simply taking the time to reconnect with old friends and spend quality time with loved ones. Rest is very much important to both our physical and mental well being and may everyone be ready for this time of the year!*

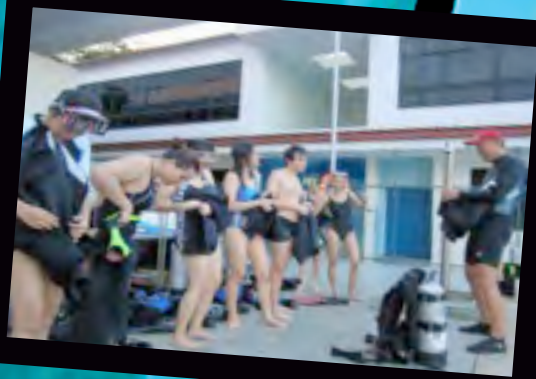
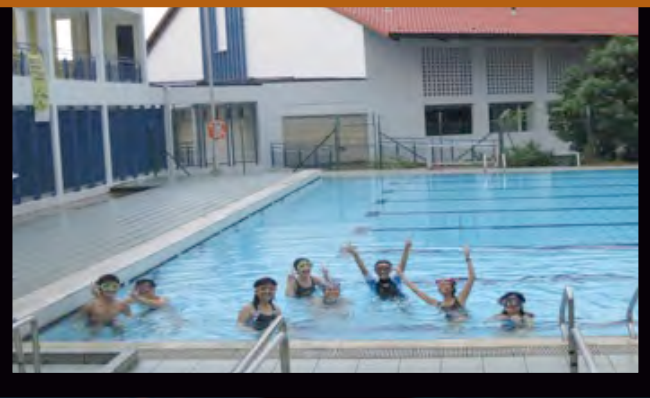
*Yes you know what I mean. The time of the year when we incessantly groan about waking up early. Where we buy lots of new stationery and start to compare timetables.*

*When we once again troop to the lecture theatres and desperately try to recall all that we had learnt the previous semester. Buses 199, 179 and 179A will once more be crammed with students and sounds of chatter and laughter will fill the NIE campus.*

*I for one, am looking forward to it.*

*Welcome to the new semester folks, and enjoy the rest of 2010.*

Yours Truly,  
Ng Pei Yun Melissa  
TTC Publications Officer  
Editor in Chief of NIE Voices 2010



## Dive and Discover

On 20th May 2010, Alex Lim and his band of merry members officially embarked on a noble quest to explore the treacherous waters of *Tioman Island*, a small island located in the state of Pahang. The entire island is dotted with evergreen flora surrounded by azure ocean waters. When seen from afar, the distinctive ridges of Tioman Island seem to form the petals of a delicate bud that is about to blossom from beneath the ocean's waters.

Knowing the perils that they may face on Tioman Island, all members of *Dive and Discover* underwent a rigorous underwater training conducted by "Fishermen Scuba Studio Pte Ltd". Although the amount of diving equipment was small, trying to figure out how to wear them was certainly no easy task! It was essential to pay close attention to the given instructions lest accidents occur while diving.

When the last bout of instructions was given, our friends gradually dived into the ocean. Along their descent to the bottom, shimmering rays of silver sparkled in their vision as light was reflected against the aegis scales of a large school of fish. This fleeting image was very much like the stars in the night sky, a priceless beauty woven unintentionally by the underwater inhabitants.

As they cruised along the ocean floor, myriads of other life forms began to fill their visions as they neared the reef crests. Corals of various colours decorated the seabed. Among them were schools of brightly-coloured fish that were actively weaving themselves among the crevices formed by the corals. The most commonly spotted organism was a curious navy blue Lyretail Wrasse (*Thalassoma lunare*). Another was the Clown fish (*Amphiprion frenatus*). And as they got to the edge of the reef crest, sea urchins of the round, black and pokey variety – *Diadema setosum*, could be seen in large numbers.

At the end of the day, our weary adventurers had overcome obstacles with much determination and camaraderie. Looking back on their underwater discovery, memories that were formed and bonds that were forged would never be forgotten. Hopefully, these wonderful memories will continue to echo in the future participants of *Dive and Discover*.



**Reina (Soon Apollonia) and Jeff (Khairy Farhan) meet for the first time**



**The Pub Scene**



**The Kitchen scene with Reina, Din (Muhammad Ismail) and Mak (Nurashikin Kamal)**

# Love Is: A Musical



**Din and Sufi (Rhyss Puguon-Teo) hang out at the park**



**Jeff and Aaron (Aaron Aloysius) take the stage singing 100 Percent Perfect**



**The entire cast and crew of Love Is: A Musical**

On 20th February 2010, NIE had a first of its kind musical, "Love Is: A Musical", a debut effort made by NIE ELL Club, held at the Raffles Institution Performing Arts Centre.

Over a span of six months in production, the musical was supported by a talented production team as well as crew from various programmes across NIE. It featured an original screenplay by Diana Johar and Roby Jamal, as well as original songs co-written by Diana Johar and Khairy Farhan.

The sweet and sassy "Love Is: A Musical" contained some witty dialogue that brought laughter to the audience. It also explored different manifestations of love as seen through the eyes of the cast of nine. The musical drew rousing applause from the audience in the last scene, in which a resolution was reached by each character with regard to the all-elusive question of what 'Love' truly means.

It was a commendable effort for a club, which was revitalized in August 2009.

**Siti Nurdiana Binte Johar.**  
BA (Education)

# Recess - Alter Ego



In March 2010, DanceFuzion had a major breakthrough! They performed their debut dance showcase named “Recess – Alter Ego” live in public. After months of practice and rehearsals, the efforts of both newcomers and experienced dancers finally paid off in the hour-long showcase of dance items.

Held at The Heeren, with energetic dance styles from Hip Hop to Break Dancing, the dance showcase was indeed vibrant and adrenaline pumping. The debut hopes to gain public awareness with regard to stereotypical concept of teachers: strict and boring people. Indeed, they can be fun, cool and highly relevant to students. “Recess: Alter Ego” is successful in portraying the lively aspect of teachers today. Hundreds came to support the performance. Thanks to additional support from friends and family, the show was a smashing success.

**Christina Chiang Shou Wen**  
Year 3, BSc (Ed)

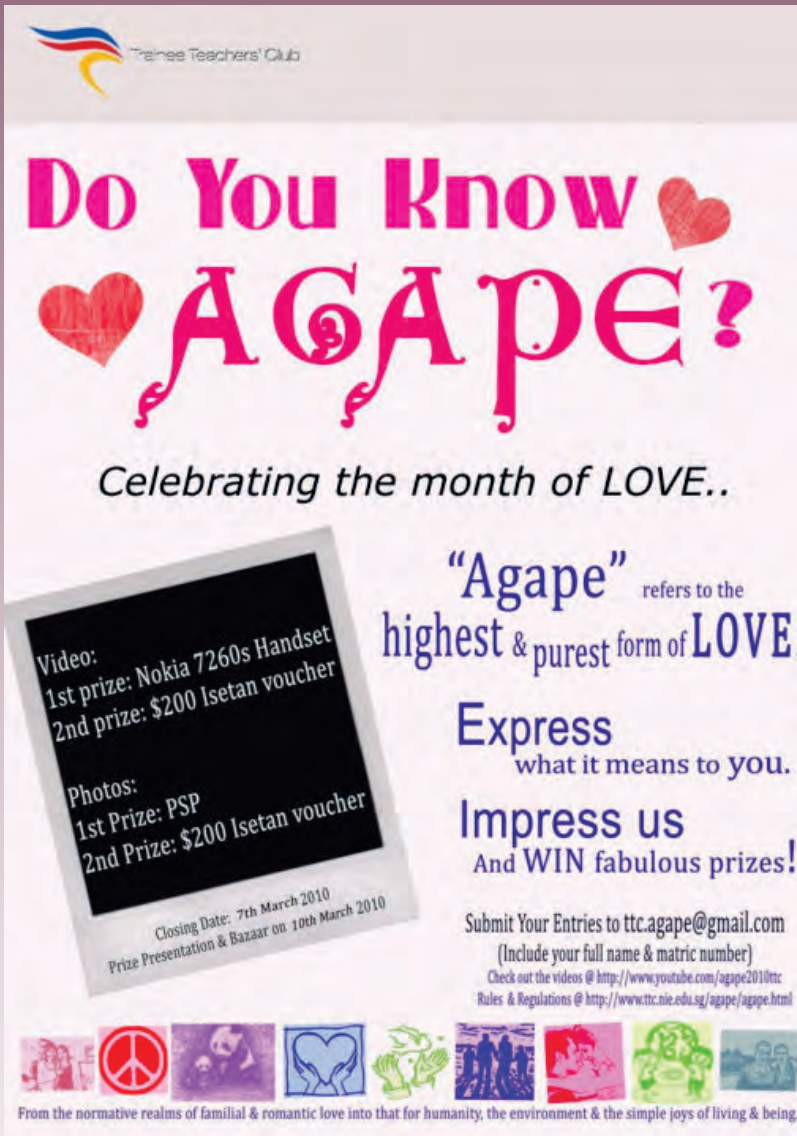
# AGAPE

Preceding the month of 'love' in February, TTC held an event that was titled 'AGAPE' in March. AGAPE is a Greek word that means 'love'. In his book titled 'The Pilgrimage', author Paulo Coelho defines it as 'the love that consumes', that is, the highest and purest form of love, which surpasses all other types of affection.

A competition was organized by TTC to encourage our students to send in photos and videos based on the theme of 'love'. A good number of students enthusiastically took part in this event and defined love in their own respective ways through their various entries. After more than a week of judging the various interesting entries, the committee came to a consensus on some award winning entries comprising both photo and video categories.

On the day of award presentation, Associate Professor Vilma D' Rozario graced the event along with students who turned up to lend their support to their friends who had participated in this competition. There were performances by Dance Fuzion, StarLite winners and by our very own TTC member, Aqmal. After a nerve-racking round of suspense, the results were finally announced! Three winners each from both the photo and video categories walked away with attractive prizes such as mobile phones and Isetan vouchers, just to name a few. This festival of love concluded with an awesome buffet and cookie giveaway to staff and students, all of which were done in the spirit of 'AGAPE'!

**Mohammad Herwanto**  
President of TTC



Trainee Teachers' Club

## Do You Know AGAPE?

*Celebrating the month of LOVE..*

**"Agape"** refers to the highest & purest form of **LOVE**.

**Express** what it means to you.  
**Impress us** And **WIN** fabulous prizes!

**Video:**  
1st prize: Nokia 7260s Handset  
2nd prize: \$200 Isetan voucher

**Photos:**  
1st Prize: PSP  
2nd Prize: \$200 Isetan voucher

Closing Date: 7th March 2010  
Prize Presentation & Bazaar on 10th March 2010

Submit Your Entries to [ttc.agape@gmail.com](mailto:ttc.agape@gmail.com)  
(Include your full name & matric number)  
Check out the videos @ <http://www.youtube.com/agape2010ttc>  
Rules & Regulations @ <http://www.ttc.nie.edu.sg/agape/agape.html>

From the normative realms of familial & romantic love into that for humanity, the environment & the simple joys of living & being.



Part of TTC organising committee



Dance Fuzion performing

# Who will have the final say?



Awarding the best speaker



Winners of the debate



Moments during the debate



The finalists representing NIE NTU in the competition

The year 2010 saw collaboration between the NTU Malay Language and Cultural Society (NTUMLCS) and the Singapore Malay Teachers' Union in the form of a Malay inter-varsity debate competition known as Debat Temasik. Hoping to attract the interest and participation of our four local universities- National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University/National Institute of Education (NTU/NIE), Singapore Management University (SMU) and Singapore Institute of Management (SIM), this debate competition aimed to reinstate the once blossoming world of inter-varsity debates in Malay. It was also believed that such competitions would best facilitate critical thinking in Malay, and as a result increase the level of awareness of Malay Language as a language of knowledge.

Throughout the period from February to March, the debaters attended an introductory lecture conducted by Mr Noh Mohd

Daipi, AD/CPDD Malay Language and Literature Ministry of Education. The finals of the debate competition were held on 6th March at Marine Parade Community Centre. The competition was graced by Mr Thahirrudin S. Kadarisman, President of Singapore Teachers' Union, as the Guest-of-Honour.

Helmed with the topic "Does Malay Language still remain relevant in today's intensified science and technological era?", the debate was marked by an exhilarating exchange of opinions between our debaters, of which, Team B, comprising three NIE student teachers, emerged as the overall champions.

MLCS hopes that this new initiative implemented would be continued by the upcoming Executive Committees in the years to come and be further improved henceforth.

**Nazerah Binte Mohamed Latif**  
Year 3/ Bachelor of Arts ( Education)

# How are teaching methods improving in our educational system?



A MEDIACORP Station

In conjunction with Temasek Junior College, Campus on 938LIVE held its radio show in front of a live audience on April 16 2010. With the topic "How are teaching methods improving in our educational system?", I was very privileged to be part of the distinguished panel which included Dr Ho Boon Tiong, a Consultant Educationist with ClassPoint Consulting, Dr Rhadika Jaidev, who is the Vice President for Singapore Tertiary English Teachers' Society, Mrs Koh Chern Ee, Dean of the Temasek Academy (Integrated Programme) and Miss Chan Sau Yee, a current student of TJC who was the Overall Best TA2 Student in 2009.

Before we embarked on the exciting discussion, the show was enthusiastically introduced by the host, Joel Chua, with TJC students cheering in anticipation.

The show had an atmosphere of astuteness, with everyone having a vested interest in the progression of the educational teaching methods. As the discussion advanced, the increasing use of Information Technology (IT) became one of the most apparent changes in pedagogy. Many students presented their comments and questions associated with the use of IT in their classrooms and how beneficial it had been.

Each panelist also ardently exchanged their views on IT; the pros and cons, how IT can be successfully incorporated into lessons, the key issues to consider which may deter the effective use of IT and the challenges our teachers may face with the sudden surge of IT-based teaching methods.

With the range of perspectives from the unique mix of panelists and audience, the show has no doubt been an enriching and eye-opening experience for me.

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**Yushiella Ahmad**  
Chairperson, BSc Club

## The Surprise Chinese New Year Reception

"Hello, Aisha Farhana? You have received an envelope from the Prime Minister's Office, please collect it by this afternoon. Thank you." I was puzzled. I walked over to the SAO and picked up my envelope. An ivory invitation card bearing the Republic's logo revealed itself to me. This was news of the day: I was invited to The Chinese New Year Reception at the Istana Lawn on the evening of 28th February 2010.

The CNY reception is prestigious as it is hosted by the Prime Minister himself and his Cabinet colleagues. At the Istana Lawn, Members of Parliament and Advisers to Grassroots Organisations sat with their Grassroots Leaders. Of course, I met with some of our School Principals

and Grassroots members and learnt the ways of Lo Hei. Before PM Lee delivered his speech at 9pm, I had the opportunity to meet and speak with Mr. Zainul Abidin Rasheed, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the buffet queue up line. It was nice to meet him again as we had met during the ASEAN Day Reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2009.

The Reception was enjoyable and was really relaxing because this is one of the rare times when the Prime Minister's speech will not be put on record. As such, PM Lee will share insightful information (peppered with good humour) with us. PM Lee spoke in Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin and finally in English.

His speech was centred on current issues such as immigration, economic development, international relations and harmony. The night ended at 10.30pm for us and what could be more grand than walking out to the gate with the grand structure in regal light behind me. It is a shame though that I forgot to snap some pictures that would have captured these precious moments because of all the excitement. Well, if I do get invited to the Chinese New Year Reception at the Istana Lawn again, I'd make sure I bring along my camera this time.

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**Aisha Farhana**  
2010 NIE Award Winner





Participants of gunned down

# Gunned Down

**B**ang Bang! You are dead! Mission accomplished. There was finally a chance to fulfill our longings to shoot our irritating classmate/ lazy project mate/ prissy lecturer. Gunned down was an event organized by the Trainee Teachers' Club for students to vent their pent up frustration amidst assignment deadlines and the start of examinations.

NIE Trainees got a real taste of combat and boy, did the girls have fun too! Unlike the men with National Service experience, the girls got to handle a gun (okay it wasn't a real one but it was close enough) and act tough like Charlie's Angels.

Participants donned harnesses and carried various weapons that gave out gunshot sounds. We ran around, dodged opponents' fire and shot them down, as well as achieved objectives and missions. Gunned Down provided another dimension to how teams can work better together, by allowing for strategy planning and in-depth thinking but in a fun way. However, towards the end, everyone just started shooting at one another wildly- so much for strategizing.

Though at the risk of bragging, my team managed to nab wins on a few missions and Gunned Down was definitely a great bonding experience none of us would forget, learning to work together in a simulated battlefield experience sharing fun and laughter.



Jason Wong  
Trainee Teachers' Club

# Chinese New Year Celebration

## 虎虎生威慶新春



The lion dance display by the NTU Lion Dance Troupe



A modern dance performance by our very own NIE Dancefuzion



PGDELT Students carried out the Bamboo Dance with participation from audience to raise the festive atmosphere.



An appreciative audience putting their hands together to cheer for the awesome performers

On the 5th February, 2010, students from the PGDELT programme and members of CLEAR Club collaborated in organizing the Chinese New Year Celebration, one of the most important festivals in the Chinese culture. The event, which was held at the Student Hub, was graced by distinguished guests such as Mr. Zhang Guosen, Second Secretary (Education) from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and Associate Professor Lubna Alsagoff, Head of ELL AG.

In accordance with our vision of promoting racial harmony and the Chinese culture, this event was also open to all staff and students of NIE regardless of race, with an emphasis placed on creating a festive & boisterous atmosphere typical of Chinese New Year celebrations. About 200 NIE staff and students were treated to a smorgasbord of cultural performances including a lion dance display by the NTU Lion Dance Troupe and modern dance by our very own NIE Dancefuzion before rounding off with a performance by NTU Chinese

Drum Club. The external performing arts clubs were here on special invitation and hence also enhanced the long-standing relationship between CLEAR Club and other clubs in NTU and NIE.

Not to be outdone, the PGDELT students further wowed the audience with a Mongolian ethnic dance by a PGDELT student, Ms Zou Xing, as well as an entertaining Cantonese opera by a PGDELT student, Ms Li Fen. PGDELT students also carried out the Bamboo Dance with participation from the audience to further raise the festive atmosphere.

Towards the end of the event, our guests of honour, together with Associate Professor Goh Yan Seng and other invited guests, led everyone in the tossing of the traditional 'Yu Sheng' to usher in a prosperous new year before everybody was treated to a sumptuous Halal buffet.

**Goh Yi Fan**  
BA(Chinese), Year 2

## TEACHER BUZZ



# Uncovering Singapore Culture- The first National Education photo competition

The first ever National Education photo competition invited students at NIE to share their images of Singapore's culture and cultural diversity. One of the objectives of the competition was to stimulate conversations about Singapore culture. The competition also aimed to foster greater appreciation of Singapore's cultural heritage and greater awareness of the customs and practices of the various ethnic groups which make up Singapore's multicultural society.

Shortlisted entries were posted on the student portal so that the NIE community could share their feelings about these images. An online poll was conducted in January 2010 and students had an opportunity to vote for their favourite photograph. The total cash prize of \$2000 was sponsored by Siemens and the competition was judged by Mr William Oh, Professor Goh Kim Chuan and Mr Paul Lincoln. The NE committee was able to hold the competition with the assistance of CSC, HSSE and CITE.



### Results of the competition

Placing	Title of photograph	Name of participant
First prize	S-A-S-H (Street Art and Shop Houses)	Debbie Ho Shuying
Second prize	Back Alley Barber	Adzmeiy Asmom
Third prize	Difference Blind	Maslina Jalani
Fourth prize	Then, Now and Forever	Damaria Sri Tumbuck
Fifth prize	Carving the future	Liew Wai Leong
Student's Choice	Emergence	Kenny Han

**Ms Chee Min Fui**  
Humanities and Social Studies Education Academic Group(HSSE)





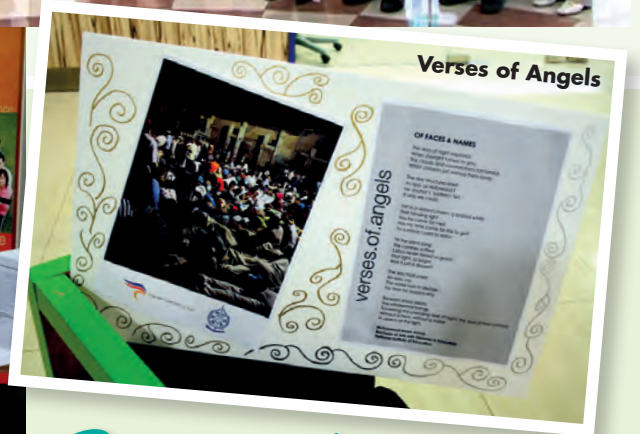
Students from the Special Training Programme putting up a dramatic recital of selected poems from the anthology



TTC President Herwanto with Guest of Honour Ms Penny Low, NIE Director Prof Lee, and other members of NIE's management



President of Asas50, Mr Pitchay Gani giving a speech



## Verses of Angels

On the 13th of January 2010, the world woke up to the devastation caused by a massive earthquake in the land of Haiti. The earthquake which measured a staggering 7.0 on the Richter scale swept the people of Haiti into her darkest of days in a blink of an eye. The initial impact triggered at least another 52 aftershocks which threatened to wipe out the lives of the people in Haiti. As of February 2010, the catastrophe had affected at least 3 million people, (almost equivalent to the population of Singapore), leaving close to a quarter of a million people dead, 300 000 injured and another 1 million homeless. On the 22nd of January, the Haiti government had called off the search for survivors. On the 31st of March 2010 at the National Institute of Education (NIE), we stood united to reignite hope for these very same survivors.

It was a poignant and beautiful occasion that was graced by the illuminative presence of Director of NIE, Professor Lee Sing Kong, President of Asas 50, Mr. Pitchay Gani, Member of Parliament of Pasir Ris - Punggol GRC and

Founder and President of Social Innovation Park, Ms. Penny Low and departmental heads, amongst other honoured guests and friends. It then dawned upon those present at the ceremony that it was not merely monumental as an inaugural joint-effort by NIE's Trainee Teachers' Club and Asas 50, nor was it only memorable as a success of an anthology of poems, detailing the hopes, prayers and dedications for the victims and survivors of the tragedy.

With this first ever publication by the student body of NIE in aid of an international relief effort, we were able

to witness the power of words, spilling forth unerringly and intriguingly, like the remnants of an echo inviting the scarred memories of yesterday in a cryptic dance. We stood bedazzled, as the inherent magic of poetry cleansed the word-clogged realities by interspersing it with invaluable silences that balanced and accentuated the natural order of life as we knew it.

We bowed in misted askance as we nourished the idea of what may be. With all the furor over the status of the indigenous, the foreign and the furious, perhaps it was time to reaffirm and remind ourselves of our status as members of the oft celebrated yet mostly incarcerated human race. Incarcerated by our needs, wants and lauded deeds, it is indeed time for us to re-examine the wounds that continuously bleed.

We knew then, that poetry only truly flows, when we realise that we possess nothing.



Official Book Launch of Verses Of Angels

**Muhammad Herwanto Johari**  
President, Trainee Teachers' Club, NIE-NTU  
Head of Programmes & Youth Mentor, Asas 50



**Group shot of CTP and ITP(FPP) students with VIPs**



**Group shot of PGDELT students with VIPs**

# *NIE - An Awesome Learning Experience*

**Director Prof Lee Sing Kong at the podium speaking**



On 6th May 2010, a group of excited graduating teachers congregated in Lecture Theatre 2. They were there to attend a Farewell Ceremony that marked the completion of their respective programmes.

35 of them were Chinese scholars from the Postgraduate Diploma in English Language Teaching (PGDELT) programme, 15 were participants from the Philippines who had completed the Leaders and Educators in Asia Customised Training Programme and 15 were full fee paying students enrolled in NIE's Initial Teacher Preparation programmes.

The Guest-of-Honour, Prof Tan Oon Seng (Dean, Office of Teacher Education) kicked off the ceremony with a congratulatory speech and presented the graduating teachers with certificates.

Two graduating teacher representatives were invited to share their experiences and memories at NIE. Ms Yang Jing (from the PGDELT programme) urged her peers to see their graduation as "a new beginning" and hoped that they would apply what they learned in NIE to inspire their students. Ms Shiarell Cruz (from the PGDE programme) summed up the mixed feeling of the graduating teachers: "Now that we have come to the end of this programme. We can't help but reminisce and cherish every little experience we had from our first day at NIE ... It has been an awesome experience to study at NIE."

Professor Lee Sing Kong, Director of NIE, made a late entrance to the ceremony, having rushed back from another engagement in order to show the importance and significance of this event. In a rousing speech to the graduating teachers, he emphasized that they were now forever a part of the NIE family.



**Photo of graduating teachers in the audience clapping**

**Eric Yeo** (Office of Teacher Education) and **Ramona Tang** (English Language and Literature AG)  
Photos by **William Oh** (Cel)

## Teachers' Investiture Ceremony 2010



**Minister for Education and Second Minister of Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, with the OYEA winners**



**The Academic Procession on Stage**



**Ms Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of National Development and NIE Director Professor Lee Sing Kong with the prize winners**

This year's Teachers' Investiture Ceremonies were held at the Nanyang Auditorium, Nanyang Technological University from the 13-15 July 2010. This year saw a total of 1986 teachers graduating from the Postgraduate Diploma in Education, Degree and Diploma programmes.

Marking a major milestone for all the beginning teachers ready to embark on their teaching journey, the joyous event also held a special significance as it saw the inaugural batch of 189 student teachers from the new PGDE (JC track) programme graduating as well.

The Guests-of-Honour for the ceremonies were Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister For Education and Second Minister For Defence, Ms Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of National Development, Mrs Tan Ching Yee, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Chairperson, NIE Council, and Ms Ho Peng, Director-General of Education, Ministry of Education.

The speeches by our Guests-of-Honour, Professor Lee Sing Kong and the valedictorians were nothing short of inspiring and all aimed at encouraging teachers to attain the highest standards in education and to not lose the passion and drive for the profession.

Dr Ng declared that he was confident the young teachers would live up to the expectations to "Lead, Care and Inspire" future generations of young Singaporeans. He spoke of two young teachers, Miss Yick Jue Ru who received first class honors in the Bachelor of Arts(Education) programme specializing in Music, as well as Miss Amanda Choo Sze Min, graduating from the Bachelor Of Science(Education) programme majoring in Physical Education, as teachers starting out right, with talent, passion and academic excellence.

However he mentioned that in order to be a special teacher, it takes heart, in the form of an encouraging word or deed to touch students' lives and make a difference.

Indeed, Professor Lee emphasized this too, in his speech by offering this quote by Carl Jung, a Swiss psychiatrist and an influential thinker, "One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child."

Valedictorian Clare Yip also stated in her speech that during her practicum at Holy Innocents' Primary school, she was struck by the knowledge that while a student may forget all that you have taught them, they will never, ever, forget how you made them feel. That, "We are all empowered to make a difference but the conviction has to come from within."

She talked about the importance of teaching "the art of living" and believes that as teachers, our beliefs, values and attitudes can directly affect our students and that impact must not be underestimated. Clare also shared in her speech, a poem by Mother Teresa, which had helped her many a time to realign her focus and re-establish her goals and beliefs not only as a person but as a teacher as well. That poem is included below. Hopefully it may touch and enlighten all who read it.

*People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered;  
Forgive them anyway.  
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;  
Be kind anyway.  
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;  
Succeed anyway.  
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;  
Be honest and frank anyway.  
What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;  
Build anyway.  
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;  
Be happy anyway.  
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;  
Do good anyway.  
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;  
Give the world the best you've got anyway.  
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;  
It was never between you and them anyway.  
- Mother Teresa  
As quoted from Valedictorian Clare Yip's speech*

Once again, congratulations to the Class of 2010 on your successful graduation.

# StarLite



The Organisers



VIPs and the audience



Solo Category Winner, Grace Ong and her fans



Audience



Hydir Idris together with Sam and Yushiella



Emcees - Juliana and Owen



Winners of Group Category - TnT



Charles 'Stitch' Wong during his beatbox performance

The NIE BSc StarLite was back! Marking the third major singing competition in NIE, StarLite 2010 was held on the 29th January 2010. It was definitely a fun-filled evening for everyone as we witnessed the exciting battle of the talented finalists.

The event commenced by the arrival of our guest judges, Charles 'Stitch' Wong, a Singapore Idol 2009 contestant, as well as Hydir Idris, a Mediacorp Suria artiste. Shortly after, the event officially began with a speech by our Guest-of-Honour, Dr Lim Kam Ming.

BSc Club saw its greatest number of audition sign-ups this year. Eight soloists and three groups were eventually selected for the finals. Our gleaming finalists blew the crowd away on the night of the finals not only by singing their hearts out, but also charming the audience with their inimitable personalities.

The audience was also entertained by our guest performer, Faizal Mat Isa. The crowd was also impressed by Charles Wong's unforgettable beatbox performance.

The night of awe concluded with the announcement of the StarLite '10 champions. The scores from our judges and votes from the audience were tallied. The champion for solo category was Grace Ong and the champions for the group category went to TnT for their phenomenal voices. Congratulations to the rest as well for making it thus far! NIE definitely has no lack of brilliant talents!



Yushiella Ahmad  
Chairperson, BSc Club

## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT



Mats and rugs made by the elderly as part of a social movement empowering them to be more independent



Some eco-tips for the household on display at the Student Hub

*Having fun and living green!*

NIE Green Club organized its first ever event of the year, Living Green @ NIE, from the 1st to the 5th of February. The event comprised a bazaar to help raise money, a talk in the Student Hub Amphitheatre, and an eco-exhibition from local NGO Cicada Tree Eco-Place.

Held at the Student Hub's Amphitheatre, we had invited Joel from the Singapore Environmental Council to give us the talk and were in turn treated to a fun and entertaining time! Joel showed us some amazing footage on how our earth has changed over the years due to Man's destructive activities. He also showed us a video called 'The Story of Stuff'. It was a simple yet eye-opening clip by award-winning environmental advocate Annie Leonard, which explained the problem of excessive consumerism and its toll on the environment. Critically acclaimed, this short video can be easily found on YouTube. Given its level of



Adorable handmade soft toys

accessibility, Joel pointed out that the video could be easily incorporated into our lessons in a bid to generate more awareness on the environmental problems that are plaguing our earth. More information on this project can be found at [www.thestoryofstuff.com](http://www.thestoryofstuff.com).

The 'Greenie Bazaar' that was aimed at raising funds, saw vendors from the Social Innovation Park selling products made by the traditionally marginalized. The items on sale ranged from various handmade accessories to attractive reusable canvas handbags. The bazaar also offered gelato and frozen yogurt which kept us cool in the warm weather.

All in all, it was a highly enjoyable experience for all and we are looking forward to organizing more of such 'greenie' events in the future. Let's have fun by living green! Go green!

**Siti Mariam Abdul Hakeem**  
BA/Year 1.



## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT



The full page advertisement on Today newspaper about the telecast of the show



At one of the provincial schools, ready for our first challenge



The children whom we were tasked to teach!



The Singaporean delegates striking up a pose after the first photoshoot

# Xpedisi Siswa 2010

For about 10 years now, Forum Universiti (University Forum), a joint programme between MediaCorp and Radio Television Brunei, has witnessed a gathering of sterling undergraduates from both countries, utilising this platform to garner and furnish fresh insights on myriad issues. This year, the introduction of an “experiential learning” approach injected fresh impetus into a slew of sharing and learning opportunities culminating in a reality television show.

Robert Frost once said that to write a poem you must first have an experience from which to draw upon. As a fresh format entailed no prior experimentation to draw upon, we were going up against the unknown. Up until that point, I had not the slightest inkling what it was all about (neither did the rest of the participants, I was soon to discover!). Filming was set for the period of 5-15th of June 2010.

The Singapore team (or the Singafour, as we called ourselves during our imagined international press conference) comprised undergraduates from NUS and NTU, namely Syaza, Hanan, Syahirah and

yours truly. Together with our delightful Bruneian counterparts, Billah, Ratna, Syahidah and Yazid, we were soon to rediscover the binding magic within the basic tenets of universal human truth in a land not that far, far away.

It was perhaps fitting that the filming was scheduled during my preparation for my upcoming practicum. With the benefit of hindsight (which is always 20/20) here are snapshots of the memories that I can share with you; if you think normal practicum is hard, try 1) doing



At Turf City, for our paintball competition

your lesson plan overnight in a cold, dark, school, 2) after a night trying to pass off hiphop n ‘zapin’ as dance for the ‘live’ visual consumption of a WHOLE island 3) with wall murals to sketch and paint, half the length of your class, 4) on a subject you’ve never taught, 5) from a curriculum introduced 6 hours before, 6) in the same unwashed clothes worn the day before 7) using a provincial dialect which you don’t normally speak 8) for students whom you’ve never met 9) and with TV cameras ready to roll on you 10) just in case you fluff your lines for the whole world to see on ChannelNewsAsia, Suria and TV Brunei. But we succeeded and we loved every minute of it! ;)

Was it a challenge trying to pull it off given the lack of prior experience, local knowledge and a chronic lack of psychomotor skills? Most definitely. To be suddenly ensconced albeit temporarily in a manner of seeing the world without the veneer of meaning you’ve been accustomed to, is mortally disturbing indeed. Sometimes I wonder if we’re too caught up in our worldly pursuits that we unwittingly lose touch with ourselves and Life as it is. That there is merely discovery, a discovery leading only to the revision of the question, a question of living and ultimately, learning.

**Muhammad Herwanto Johari**  
TTC NIE President

# Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative Alumni Forum



NIE representatives with Dr Suvarn Valaisathien, former Deputy of Commerce (Thailand)

On 5 July 2010, Hitachi Asia Ltd. announced the official opening of the Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) Alumni Forum. It is a corporate social responsibility programme aimed at identifying and grooming the future leaders of Asia to be more enterprising, innovative and global minded. Established since 1996, this year's forum is the 10th edition of this initiative and it also commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Hitachi Group.

The two day forum was attended by about 300 HYLI alumni members and guests some who, are Asia's top personalities from the public, private as well as academic sectors. Indeed, it was quite the eye opener for me as well as

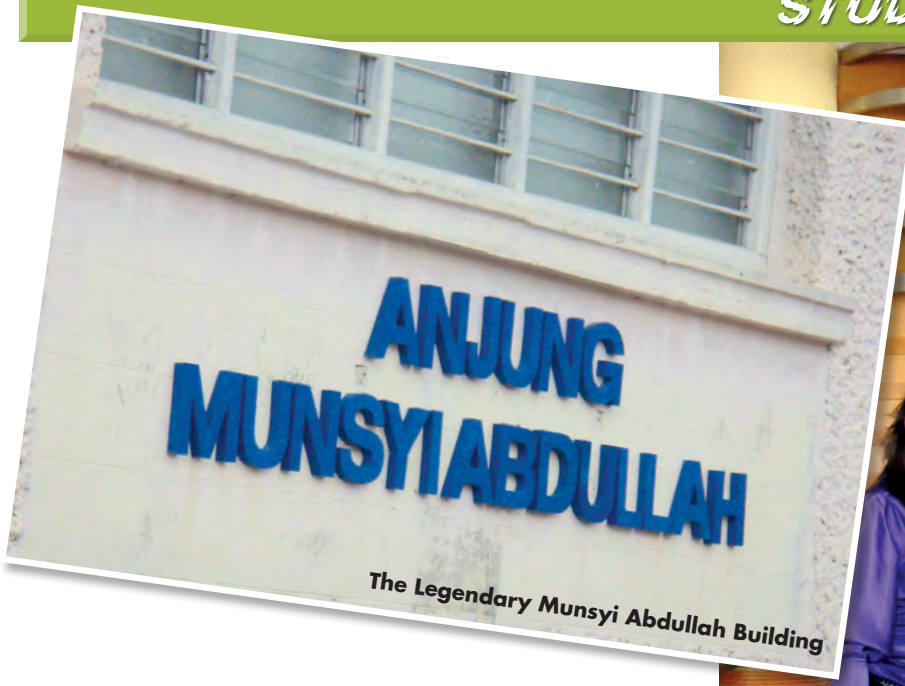
fellow NIE school mates who attended the forum. Themed 'Driving Asia to a New Paradigm-What is Asia's role in the global arena', it was stimulating to hear what some of the brightest minds had to say about some of Asia's key challenges as well as hear them brainstorm for possible solutions to keep Asia on the growth path.

Gracing the event was Guest-of-Honour Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Singapore. In his opening address, he highlighted three key areas that Asia needs to be mindful of, namely global attention on sustainability and green issues, our fast ageing population and how advancements in technologies will continue to shrink the world we live in. He stressed that the

world we live in is unpredictable, attesting to some of the disruptive events that impacted not only the region but the world, such as the Bali bombings in 2002.

Indeed there is a need for everyone to be resilient and adaptable, ready to face these surprises. To do that, the partners in Asia need to develop the ability to work together internationally to address the crisis. The Hitachi Forum is hence, one such platform for promoting cross cultural understanding.

It was an enlightening experience, and I am sure as the forum concluded to an end on 6 July, we walked away more knowledgeable about the issues Asia faces as well as about the possible solutions suggested regionally.



Yati, Emelda, Azian, Irwan & Hoirull at the Suluh Budiman Building in UPSI

## The Singaporean Malay Legacy in UPSI

The geographical distance between the two cities may be a whopping 465km but the history they share is much closer than many think. Tanjong Malim, in the state of Perak, is where the Sultan Idris Education University (UPSI) is situated and it is this very place that has groomed some of Singapore's iconic Malay intellectuals and intelligentsias, such as Pendeta Dr. Muhammad Ariff Ahmad and Dr. Masran Sabran.

Starting out as the Sultan Idris Training College (SITC) in 1922, the institution has been training the leaders of the future. Intrigued by that, I signed up for the UPSI trip organized by the Angkatan Sasterawan 50 (Asas 50) as they planned to continue to align themselves with a university that has the vision and passion to promote youth leadership and excellence. My NIE friends, Norazian Mohd Yahya, Nur Emelda Jumari and Nurhayati Abdul Ghafoor, joined in as well.

On the 1st of April 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Asas 50's president, Mohamed Pitchay Gani Mohamed Abdul Aziz and UPSI's Professor Dato' Dr. Aminah Ayob. The event was witnessed by a line-up of VIPs which included UPSI's Deputy Vice Chancellor.

True to the spirit of sharing, UPSI graciously planned an interactive session between the Singapore youths and the UPSI student leaders shortly after the MoU was finalised. Held at the Suluh Budiman room, the exchanges between the youths were warm and friendly. Led by Associate Professor Datuk Paduka Dr. Mohd. Rosli Saludin, the session generated ideas and suggestions ranging from the setting up of a shared Facebook link online to the possible participation of the Singapore youths in UPSI student leaders' attempt at a 100 hour classical poetry recital in July 2010. →



Azian receiving a gift from the UPSI Chief Librarian

(continued from page 19)



**Yati & Emelda at the Tuanku Bainun Library**



**Yati, Emelda & Azian with Professor Emeritus Abdullah Hassan**

Aside from that, we paid a visit to the modern Tuanku Bainun Library where the collection and archive of Malay books from Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Singapore was indeed jaw-dropping. The undergraduates seized the opportunity to scour the rare finds in the library and were presented with a gift by the head librarian, Zahariah Mohamed Shaharom. If only we were given more time to soak in the atmosphere in the library, we would probably even have had the opportunity to spend some time reading in the legendary Za'ba or Dussek Rooms!

Wrapping up the day was our attendance at the UPSI Faculty of Art and Music's musical and theatre production at the Panggung Budaya. The grandeur of the auditorium was already mind-boggling. This was further reinforced by the brilliantly artistic and entertaining show put up by the final year undergraduates from the Faculty of Art and Music that showcased its homebred talents in improvised caricature sketching, abstract percussion sequences,

dance and choral singing. These were areas in which the student teachers in NIE could definitely benefit from for their future artistic and theatric endeavours.

The two-day visit was rounded up by the Singapore delegates' stopover in Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur, where the established Malay publications giant, PTS Publications and Distributors Sdn Bhd is situated. Home to some highly sought-after and best-selling books such as *Linguistik Am* written by Professor Abdullah Hassan and *Kecerdasan Pelbagai* by Salhah Abdullah, the stopover at the PTS Publications HQ proved to be a sheer book-shopping heaven, especially for the undergraduates from NIE. Nearly 150 books were bought in that 1 hour book-shopping blitz, demonstrating the immense joy and excitement we can derive from just the simple act of reading. Who knows? From our observation, maybe among us lies the next generation of Singapore Malay literati who will carry the baton forward - just as the Singaporean legends have left their legacy in a place called UPSI.

**Muhammad Irwan Jamal & Norazian Mohamed Yahya**  
Bachelor of Arts in Education – Malay Language & Literature (Year 4)



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A medical referral is not required.

Appointments can be arranged by phoning the clinic at this number 6790 3318.

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