

Take note of the latest
*Higher Degree
Programmes!*
See page 10

PASSION FOR SERVING

Contents

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

Lyrical Malay: 4 Malay Culture Books Launch	3
Sporting Spirit: PESTA Opening and PE Conference	4
SASSE Seminar: Facilitating Discussion in Social Studies Classrooms	5
Journeys of the Heart: NIE Service Learning Day	6
NIE Family Week: We are family!	7
An APEC Meeting	8
Art Paradiso: NIE Art Collection Opening	8
NIE Staff Awards 2011	9
Building Character	10
Melbourne Roundtable Meeting on Top Performing Education Systems in East Asia	11
NIE e-Fiesta 2012: Join us on 15th February!	11
National Library Board Activity: iremembermySchoolDays	11
Prominent Visits	12 & 17
Global Preludes: Foreign filming at NIE	18
Hearts of Aidilfitri	18

SPECIAL FEATURE

NIE 2011 Milestones	13-16
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RESEARCH

Higher Degree Award Ceremony 2011 and NIE's latest Higher Degree Programmes	19
Signature Pedagogies	20
Literary Explorers	20
LSL Research Team Won Two Best Paper Awards on Mobile Assisted Language Learning	21
NIE Making New Inroads in the Field of International Mobile Learning Research	21

ALUMNI

Leaders in Education Programme International	22
Caring Teacher Awards 2012	23
Farewell to a School Hero	23
Leaders in Education Programme Graduation	24
Enhancing Pedagogy Skills for Teacher Trainers course	25
Teacher of English Awards	25
Alumni Event: Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve Walk	26
Championing Sports: Mr C. Kunalan's story	27
Calendar of Events	27

CORRIGENDUM

NIE News, September 2011 – The editorial team regrets that the contributors of the article titled "Teaching Mathematics" on page 6 should be "Assistant Professor Amanda Soon Wan Mei and Professor Berinderjeet Kaur from the Mathematics and Mathematics Education Academic Group and Co-chairs of MTC 2011"

EDITORIAL TEAM

Assistant Professor Chow Jia Yi, Patricia Campbell, Monica Khoo, Wendy Goh

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Editor's Say

Much reminiscing and celebrating happens at the end and beginning of a year. Similarly, there is much to rejoice in the December to February issue of the NIE News annually. And as Guest Editor, it is my pleasure to share with you all the wonderful achievements and contributions that have come about at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore.

This issue has an additional 4 pages and we have managed to include a good variety of news on NIE from different aspects. For example, our Special Feature centrefold highlights the important milestones for NIE in 2011 (from pages 13 to 16) and the colourful promotional sticker that showcases NIE's new MA in Leadership and Educational Change as well as the new Doctor in Education programme on the cover.

We can also expect much more in the Corporate Development features. The first report focuses on the 4 Malay language and culture books launch (next page) and this is followed by the coverage on the launch of PESTA and the PE conference. The issue also highlights multi-faceted activities held at NIE over the past months such as, the student teachers' community efforts for their Group Endeavours in Service Learning projects (page 6), opening of NIE's art collection (page 9), the NIE Family Week (page 7), and several international meetings at NIE as well as prominent visitors to our campus on pages 8, 11, 12, and 17.

There are also no shortages of significant alumni stories here as well. We warmly welcome NIE's latest cohort of graduates into its alumni fold from the Leaders in Education (LEP) on page 24 and its international counterpart, LEP International on page 22. At the same time, we want to pay tribute to a brave school principal, the late Mr Ali Nazim who risked his life to save his students on page 23.

To round up this iconic issue, we share a feature that takes us on a trip down memory lane with NIE alumnus, Mr C. Kunalan. This is a man who has touched so many lives throughout his 50 years as a teacher and mentor to his students and peers (page 27). The late Mr Nazim and Mr Kunalan are a few of the many individuals whom we have grown to respect and know through the institute.

Most aptly, they exemplify the theme of this issue – that is, the Passion for Serving. I hope the many interesting and meaningful stories that we have shared will provide the inspiration for you to serve with passion and enjoy many more positive experiences with NIE. Here's to another very happy new year NIE!

Guest Editor

Assistant Professor Chow Jia Yi
Physical Education & Sports Science Academic Group

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

Lyrical Malay

By Associate Professor Hadijah Bte Rahmat, Asian Languages and Cultures Division; and Ms Monica Khoo, Public, International and Alumni Relations

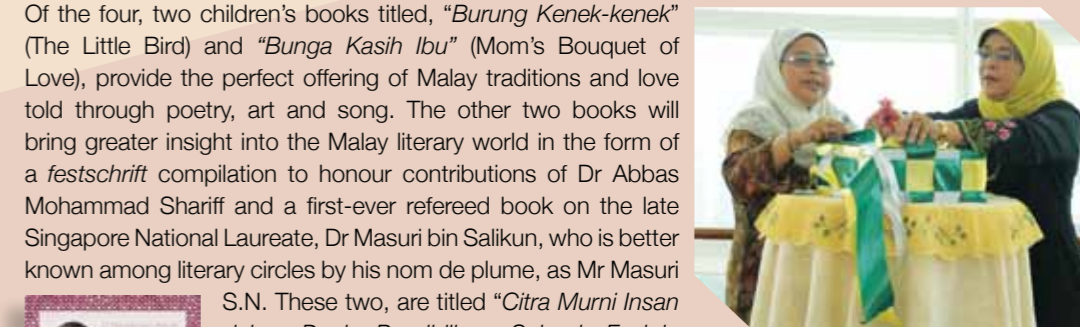
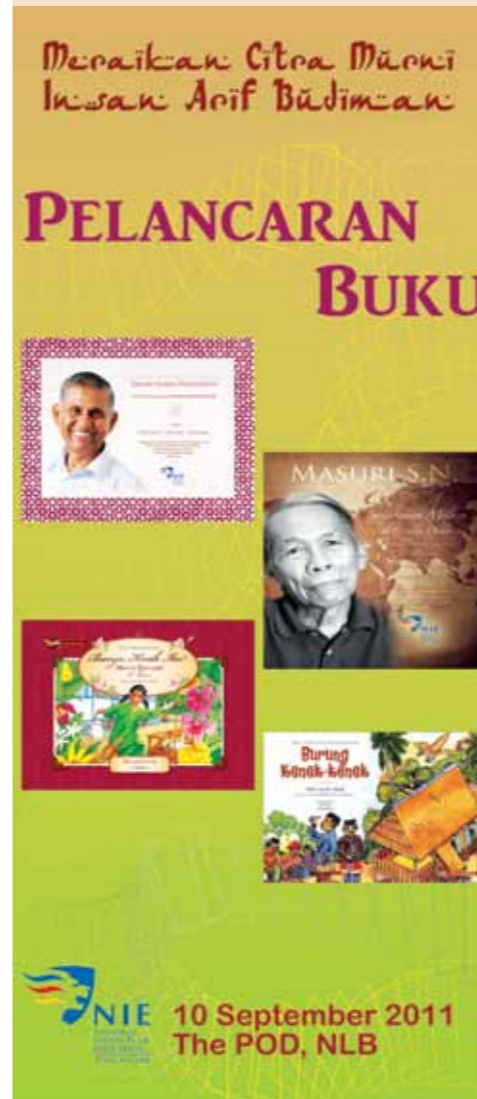
The beauty and grace of Malay culture, language and literature are now encapsulated in four new tomes released by the National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore's Malay language experts from NIE's Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) Academic Group on September 10, 2011 at the National Library Board. The event was launched by Mdm Halimah Jacob, Minister of State, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

Of the four, two children's books titled, "Burung Kenek-kenek" (The Little Bird) and "Bunga Kasih Ibu" (Mom's Bouquet of Love), provide the perfect offering of Malay traditions and love told through poetry, art and song. The other two books will bring greater insight into the Malay literary world in the form of a *festschrift* compilation to honour contributions of Dr Abbas Mohammad Shariff and a first-ever refereed book on the late Singapore National Laureate, Dr Masuri bin Salikun, who is better known among literary circles by his nom de plume, as Mr Masuri

S.N. These two, are titled "Citra Murni Insan dalam Dunia Pendidikan: Sebuah Feskrip untuk Abbas Mohammad Shariff" (Image of the Ideal Man in Education: A Festschrift for Abbas Mohammad Shariff), and "Masuri S.N.: Sasterawan Melayu di Persada Dunia" (Masuri S.N.: A Malay Laureate in the International Arena), respectively. The new books were written and edited by a team of NIE academics,

together with a famed song composer Mr Zubir Abdullah and the late eminent art educator and artist, Mr S. Mohdir.

Together, the books are aimed at promoting values and vision of Malay language curriculum. Co-author and co-editor of all books, Associate Professor Hadijah Bte Rahmat, NIE Singapore's Deputy Head of the ALC Academic Group, said: "These books are important in projecting good role models, fostering an appreciation of the contributors and their talents in our society; we celebrate multiculturalism for the purpose of national education. In particular, we also saw this as an essential sharing of cultures and thus, all the four books are bilingual as well."



Sporting Spirit

By Assistant Professor Koh Koon Teck, Physical Education and Sports Science Academic Group

The launch of the Physical Education and Sports Teacher Academy (PESTA), a 'Home Base' for Physical Education (PE) and Sports Teachers, was officially held in conjunction with the inaugural PE Conference on 16 August 2011 at the Republic Polytechnic by the Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat.

The vision of PESTA is to foster a teacher-led culture of professional development to support the PE and Sports teachers in Singapore. Professional development will be carried out through milestone courses and a system-wide mentoring programme that will cater to PE and Sports teachers at various stages of their career and development.



Right and left PE and Sports in 21st century schools



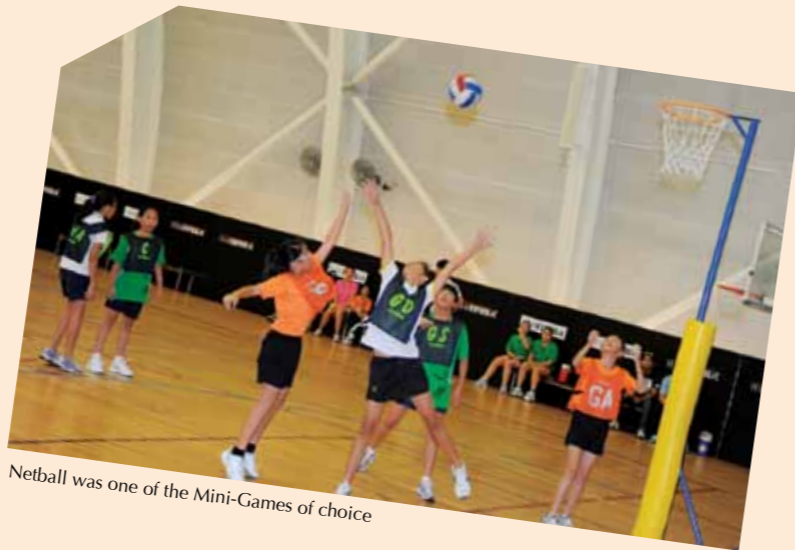
The PE Conference themed 'PE & Sports in 21st Century Schools' was organised in conjunction with the PESTA's launch. The

Conference showcased the best practices and ideas adopted by teachers, schools and institutions. It also tapped on the collective experience and wisdom of experts in the field of PE and Sports.



The conference drew large crowds

Keynote speakers for the Conference featured Dr Judith Rink, Emeritus Professor from the Department of Physical Education (University of South Carolina), Dr Jacalyn Lund, Chair of the Kinesiology and Health Department (Georgia State University) and Mr Richard Seow, Chairman of the Singapore Sports Council. Sports workshops and learning journeys to schools were also conducted to ensure there is a good balance of theory-practice in the programme to benefit the participants.



Netball was one of the Mini-Games of choice

In the spirit of promoting sports for all, a Mini-Games competition was also organised as a pre-conference programme to provide students with opportunities to play a sport of their choice while donning their school colours. The Conference was brought to a grand close at a Gala Dinner where the 2011 Outstanding PE Teachers were honoured.

SASSE Seminar: Facilitating Discussion in Social Studies Classrooms

By President, Assistant Professor Ho Li-Ching, and Vice-President, Ms Marilyn Lim So-San, Singapore Association of Social Studies Education; Humanities and Social Studies Education Academic Group



Above Seminar participants find out what are the issues for discussion

The newly established Singapore Association of Social Studies Education (SASSE) held its inaugural seminar on 2 August 2011. NIE academics, with the support of the Ministry of Education (MOE) curriculum officers as well as a core group of social studies teachers from primary and secondary schools, established SASSE to promote the teaching and learning of Social Studies in Singapore schools. As Social Studies is a relatively new subject in Singapore schools, one of the goals of the organisation is to encourage dialogue and discussion about the subject's aims and purposes among academics, educators, curriculum developers, and policy-makers.



Smaller groups were formed for the purpose of discussion

For its first seminar, SASSE identified the development of active citizenship as a key focus area for its professional development activities. Professor Keith Barton, a prominent social studies educator from Indiana University, was invited to conduct a half-day seminar on facilitating discussions in social studies classrooms. The seminar was organised in collaboration with the Academy of Singapore Teachers (AST) and with the support of HSSE. The seminar was very well received and attracted about sixty participants from more than fifteen secondary schools. Professor Barton shared strategies and techniques to help teachers facilitate discussions of relevant and authentic issues in Social Studies classrooms. During the seminar, participants engaged in hands on learning by crafting questions that help facilitate different types of discussions.



Prof Keith Barton observed and offered suggestions to the discussion

Journeys of the Heart

By Ms Stephane Cheung, Office of Teacher Education

Service Learning Day 2011 was held at NIE on 21 September. The event showcased 14 service learning projects carried out by Group Endeavours in Service Learning (GESL) groups from the PGDE (Sec) Jan 2011 intake.

During the welcome speech, Professor Lee Sing Kong, Director of NIE, remarked that GESL exemplified a values-centred teacher education paradigm. Professor Lee said that Service Learning Day was an important event and that he was proud of the meaningful learning journeys carried out by GESL groups. Guest-of-Honour Miss Ek Soo Ben, Deputy Director, Standards and Research, Academy of Singapore Teachers was invited to grace the event. Miss Ek emphasized the importance of value-centeredness of teachers and a mindset of serving and learning from the community. She also shared her hope that GESL experiences will lead the student teachers forward to lead, care and inspire students in schools.



Three PGDE Secondary GESL groups represented their team mates and shared their experiences on the learning journeys at LT1. The project, "Love Across Languages" consisted of a family day event based on the theme "The Five Love Languages". The objectives of the activities were to forge closer parent-child bonding and to provide a fun and valuable experience for participants. Another group, "The Welders" carried out the project, "Joy Overdue", which was an initiative to enhance the emotional well-being of migrant workers, and at the same time promote societal acknowledgement of these workers in Singapore. Finally, in line with the NorthLight school's plan to setup a photography club, the group who initiated a project called, "NorthLight School Photo Trail" taught students basic photography skills and had the kids take photos in the Katong area along a heritage trail. The excellent photos taken by the kids were exhibited in a National Education exhibition held at their school.

After the conclusion of the event, Prof Lee, Miss Ek, Associate Deans and Sub Deans from the Office of Teacher Education toured the colourful and informative GESL project exhibition area and interacted with student teachers at all booths to understand more about their service learning journeys.



Student teachers shared their personal experiences with Miss Ek Soo Ben (extreme right) and Assoc Prof Vilma D' Rozario (2nd from right)



We are family!

By Staff Welfare and Recreation Fund Committee 2011/2012

Photography by Mr William Oh

In the spirit of fostering togetherness in the NIE family, the Staff Welfare and Recreation Fund Committee (SWRFC) organised three inaugural activities that were initiated under the umbrella event of the **NIE Family Week**. Held from October 3 to 7 2011, the activities, "Get To Know Your New NIE Family", "Bring Your Child to Work Day", and "Swap/Garage Sale" were aimed to promote the NIE community spirit and to nurture stronger ties within the institute.

Through the first event, "Get To Know Your New NIE Family", each staff had an opportunity to get better acquainted with their colleagues from other departments in small groups of four that comprised administrative and academic staff. Each grouping was termed as a 'NIE family' where interaction was encouraged amongst each other to foster greater ties. The lucky families that submitted information about their members, and were selected, won prizes for their bonding efforts.

With free ice cream and popcorn in the vicinity which added to the festivities, the "Swap/Garage Sale" gave staff an excuse to congregate and soak in the atmosphere. Different departments enthusiastically and successfully sold their wares at their booths which saw an eclectic range of items from vases to books and clothes. Some of the items' proceeds were also dedicated to a good cause. All-in-all, the NIE Family Week was certainly a successful one.



Everyone was thrilled with the free popcorn and ice cream



BYC Day attendees enjoying the NIE sports facilities during a break



NIE Director welcoming the kids on BYC Day

To round up the NIE Family Week event, the last day's activities were specially planned for staff who wanted to bring their children, nieces, nephews or grandchildren on the "Bring Your Child to Work Day". Around 50 children were on-campus to experience a day at NIE in a fun and kid-friendly way. The children took a campus tour of the various rooms and facilities available here. Along the tour, they learnt to play musical instruments, were read to, watched movies, and even played several group games such as Treasure Hunt.



Head, Visual and Performing Arts Academic Group, Assoc Prof Chia Wei Khuan, conducting a musical session for the BYC Day attendees



Goodies galore at the NIE Family Week Swap/Garage Sale

An APEC Meeting

By Associate Professor Wong Khoon Yoong, Mathematics and Mathematics Education Academic Group



The National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore successfully hosted the 6th research meeting of the International Comparative Study to Identify Unique and Promising Practices in Mathematics and Science Teacher Preparation for APEC Economies. It is one of the APEC EDNET projects under the APEC Human Resources Development Working Group (for more details, visit: <http://hrd.pec.org/index.php/Projects>).

The Singapore meeting was held over 3 days from October 19 to 21, 2011. A total of 20 teacher educators from six foreign countries (Australia, China, New Zealand, Russia, Thailand, and United States) and the US Department of Education; 6 academics from NIE (including Director of NIE); and 2 subject specialists from MOE took part in the meeting.

The foreign delegates also visited River Valley High School and toured the NIE collaborative classroom, physics laboratories, and NIE Library and Information Services Centre, which is the largest education library in Singapore. Director of NIE is now a member of the Project Executive, and four sub-studies are to be completed in the coming months under the leadership of specific countries: national profiles and standards comparison (US), teacher education curriculum (China), case studies (Singapore), and assessment instruments to test the content and pedagogical knowledge of high school mathematics and science trainee teachers (US). Some of the findings are to be presented at the 5th APEC Education Ministerial meeting at Gyeongju City, Korea, May 21 to 23, 2012.



Art Paradiso

By Ms Monica Khoo, Public, International and Alumni Relations

It is a little known fact that the National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore campus has a treasure trove of exquisite art pieces that were collected over some five decades. From as early as the 1950s, NIE started acquiring art right up till 2006 and has never unveiled these in a showcase till now.

Deciding it was about time, the institute held an opening to premiere some 40 fine masterpieces as a learning art adventure. Officially launched by NIE Director, Professor Lee Sing Kong, the collection of artworks were displayed from 26 August to 16 September 2011, at NIE's The Art Gallery. With some of the displayed pieces dating back to the 1940s, the exclusive presentation drew many to the space to learn more about the famed creators and their creations.

Overseen by Associate Professor Chia Wei Khuan, Head, Visual and Performing Arts Academic Group and his team, the carefully-picked artworks is a covetable manifesto of various styles by renowned local and international artists. Some of these, included watercolour, Chinese ink, oil, chalk and even brass sculptures.

Catching any art enthusiast's eye was a signature piece by renowned Chinese painter, the late Mr Qi Baishi's ink on paper titled "Prawns" (pictured, left). From the elegant and refined brushwork, it showcases his masterful variations of ink tones on the body that allude to the aquatic environment beautifully. The sensual organic forms of sculptures by 1995 Cultural Medallion recipient, Ms Han Sai Por, also punctuated the gallery space well. For connoisseurs and amateurs alike, the exhibition eloquently articulated NIE's deep art appreciation.

Photography by Mr Steve Tan

NIE Staff Awards 2011

At a ceremony hosted by NIE Director, Professor Lee Sing Kong on 10 November 2011, a total of 25 faculty members received the Excellence in Teaching Award; 2 staff members received the Excellence in Service Award; and 6 staff members and 4 teams received the Excellence in Service Commendation. This is in recognition of and to celebrate their achievements. A warm thank you to all staff and student teachers for their nominations and support and congratulations to this year's recipients!

Excellence in Teaching Award

Name	Academic Group
Dr Norhaida Bte Aman	English Language & Literature
Mdm P. Ananthi	Humanities & Social Studies Education
Asst Prof Mohd Mukhlis Bin Abu Bakar	Asian Languages & Cultures
Assoc Prof Govindasamy Balasekaran	Physical Education & Sports Science
Asst Prof Cheng Lu Pien	Maths & Maths Education
Mr Rajkumar Singh Brij	Early Childhood & Special Needs Education
Dr Cheng Yuanshan	Psychological Studies
Dr Chew Liang Ru, Chelsea	Psychological Studies
Mdm Chin Pooi Pooi	Natural Sciences & Science Education
Assoc Prof Heng Huan Gek, Mary Anne	Curriculum, Teaching & Learning
Asst Prof Lee Chwee Beng	Learning Sciences & Technologies
Asst Prof Lee Peng Foo, Peter	Natural Sciences & Science Education

Name	Academic Group
Asst Prof Lim Mui Ling, Ivy Maria	Humanities & Social Studies Education
Mdm Lim Wei Ying, Rebekah	Learning Sciences & Technologies
Asst Prof Lum Chee Hoo	Visual & Performing Arts
Mr Luo Qingming	Asian Languages & Cultures
Assoc Prof Michael Charles McNeill	Physical Education & Sports Science
Dr Ng Kit Ee, Dawn	Maths & Maths Education
Asst Prof Soon Wan Mei	Maths & Maths Education
Asst Prof Tan Aik Ling	Natural Sciences & Science Education
Asst Prof Tang Siu Mei, Ramona	English Language & Literature
Assoc Prof Tan Hwee Phio, Charlene	Policy & Leadership Studies
Mdm Thana Luxshme Thaver	Early Childhood & Special Needs Education
Assoc Prof Wong Koon Siak, Benjamin	Policy & Leadership Studies
Assoc Prof Wong Yeang Lam, Ruth	English Language & Literature

Excellence in Service Award

Name	Designation	Department/Academic Group
Mr Ng Aik Lim, Daniel	Associate ICT Engineer	Centre for User Support
Mr Reutens Rhys Arthur	Sports Facilities Officer	Physical Education & Sports Science

Excellence in Service Commendation (Individual)

Name	Designation	Department/Academic Group
Ms Kamsina Alfia Bte Jumari	Officer	Public, International & Alumni Relations
Ms Lee Wai Fong	HR Executive	Human Resource
Ms Joey Lim Li Ling	Officer & Secretary to Head/PS	Psychological Studies
Mr Tan Zhi Qian, Edwin	Officer	Student Services Centre
Ms Teo Lek Hong	Senior Officer	Office of Education Research
Mr Yeo Eng Hock, Eric	Assistant Head, Strategy and Pedagogy	Office of Teacher Education

Excellence in Service Commendation (Group)

Department/Academic Group	Name
(a) Centre for User Support	Mr Chang Kok Wah, Rick Mr Fu Qiuhan Mr Han Meng Siew, Joel Mdm Khor Lay Choo Mr Lee Boon Yeong, Simon Mr Ng Aik Lim, Daniel Mr Ng Teck Chye, Jeffrey
(b) Library & Information Services Centre	Mr Khong Chee Wai, Warren Mr Lau Chin Tiong, Douglas Mr Lee Wee Leong, Sean Mrs Wan-Yeoh Seok Kwan
(c) FY10/11 NIE Staff Welfare & Recreation Fund Committee	
Human Resource	Ms Rosita Bte Ahmat
English Language & Literature	Dr Mary Ellis
Office of Teacher Education	Miss Cheung Ling Wai, Stephane
Natural Sciences & Science Education	Mr Mohamad Yazid Bin Hassan
Centre for Research in Pedagogy & Practice	Mdm Kumutha Malar d/o Krisnan
Physical Education & Sports Science	Mr Reutens Rhys Arthur
Asian Languages & Cultures	Mdm Seow Yan, Janice
English Language & Literature	Asst Prof Tan Siew Imm
Library & Information Services Centre	Mr Wong Yong Yeow
(d) Natural Sciences & Science Education	Mr Goh Kok Liang Mr Mohamad Yazid Bin Hassan Mr Thang Oon Bee, Anthony Mr Wong Voon Ping, Thomas Johnson

Building Character

By Mr Eric Yeo, Office of Teacher Education; and Ms Monica Khoo, Public, International and Alumni Relations Office

For two days, the inaugural Character and Citizenship Education Conference jointly organised by the National Institute of Education (NIE) and the Ministry of Education (MOE), aimed to provide directions for Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) for Singapore schools, and offer a plethora of ideas and perspectives of CCE in both the local and overseas contexts.

Held from November 8 to 9 2011, the conference theme titled "Active and Concerned Citizens: Building Character for Community", concentrated on the importance for stakeholders in education to synergise efforts in nurturing our children to be active contributors and concerned citizens for the community. In his Guest of Honour speech, Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat expounded on the importance of inculcating sound values and good character in youths.

The conference co-chairpersons were Associate Professor Low Ee Ling, Associate Dean, Programme and Student Development,



From left Mr Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam; Prof Tan Oon Seng; Assoc Prof Angeline Khoo; Ms Ho Peng; Guest of Honour, Minister of Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat; Dr Michael Goh; and Prof Lee Sing Kong, Director, NIE



From left Prof Lee Sing Kong and Minister of Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat

NIE; and Ms Kok Lee Kwang, Deputy Director, Aesthetics, Health and Moral Education Branch, MOE. Its first Keynote Address was presented by Professor Lee Wing On, Dean Education Research who presented his research findings on "Education for Future-oriented Citizenship: The Implications of Education for the 21st Century Competencies". This conference also had a panel of eloquent speakers in the fields of character development, service and experiential learning, such as Ms Cathryn Berger Kaye, Professor James Arthur, Associate Professor Angeline Khoo, Dr Michael Goh, Associate Professor Fatimah Lateef, Dr Tan Lai Yong and Ms Hannah Taylor.

NIE hosted more than 1,200 local and international participants for this conference. Over the two days, there were 3 keynote presentations, 4 plenary sessions and more than 140 concurrent breakout sessions, poster presentations and workshops held. Presenters of these activities came from schools in Singapore, around the region and beyond.



Prof Lee Wing On gives the first Keynote Address

Photography by Mr William Oh



Clockwise Snapshots of the Conference scenes



Melbourne Roundtable Meeting on Top Performing Education Systems in East Asia



Professor Tan Oon Seng with Prime Minister of Australia, Ms Julia Gillard, international experts and delegates

The Grattan Institute in conjunction with Asia Education Foundation, Asialink and the Victorian Department of Education organised the roundtable meeting on 27 to 28 September 2011, to learn about best practices of education in East Asia. The roundtable international panel included Professor Cheng Kai Ming (Chair Professor of Education at University of Hong Kong), Dr Zhang Minxuan (President of Shanghai Normal University), Dr Yu Hyun-Sook (Director-General of Higher Education Research, Korean Education Development Institute), Professor Yong Zhao (Presidential Chair of College of Education, University of Oregon) and Professor Tan Oon Seng. Andreas Scheicher, OECD Head of Indicators and Analysis, also participated in the discussion through video conferencing. The meeting was attended by director-generals, deputy secretaries of the various state departments, chief executives and leaders of key educational establishments in Australia.

Prof Tan Oon Seng shared on how initial teacher education at the National Institute of Education (NIE) Singapore prepares teachers to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Prime Minister Julia Gillard who joined the session on 28 September, emphasised to educational leaders the need to recognise the "Asian Century" and called for new ways of engagement between Australia and East Asia. Prior to the roundtable, Prof Tan also delivered several presentations to senior policy makers and curriculum leaders at the Victorian Education department on the importance of pedagogical innovations in the curriculum, including the use of problem-based learning.

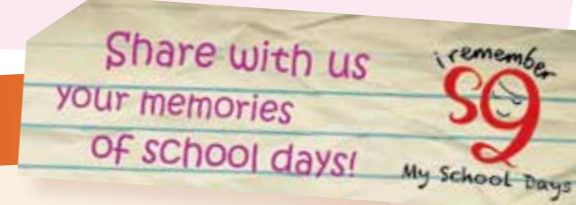
NIE e-Fiesta 2012: Join us on 15th February!

The NIE e-Fiesta is an annual event that promotes awareness of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools that can be used in teaching and learning.



Themed 'Mobile Learning', the event to be graced by Guest of Honour, Professor Lee Sing Kong, Director, NIE, provides an opportunity for lecturers, researchers and others to share their mobile learning experiences. Other than insights from practitioners and researchers on mobile learning, there will be an array of activities like talks, workshops, with competitions and lucky draws prizes to be won!

Visit <http://bit.ly/e-fiesta2012> for more information.



iremembermySchoolDays

Have you experienced memorable moments where seemingly insignificant incidents turned out to be gems of lessons that propelled your passion in teaching? Here is an insightful excerpt from "A Humbling Lesson":

'I received my first posting to a neighbourhood school in 1993. Pampered for seven years in a premier school, I dreaded my first day at this new school. "Lai-liao! Lai-liao!" came shouts from my class as I approached. I wasted no time laying down the class rules....

Once, I attempted to discipline some students I had caught smoking in the toilet, but was unable to prove it. Junyi taught me what to do. "Smell their breath, or smell their fingers, 'Cher. Sure can catch one! Smell clothes no use." I have since learnt that teachers in neighbourhood school don't just teach, they also learn, for God will inevitably use illogical creatures, called teenagers, to confound complacent or presumptuous teachers.'

iremembermySchoolDays, part of the irememberSG initiative, is a collaboration between MOE Heritage Centre and the National Library Board. The aim is to add to the collection of stories from the teaching fraternity. These can then be shared through platforms like Facebook (facebook.com/iremembersg) or the iremember.sg blog. Teachers can also contribute stories via iremembersg@nlb.gov.sg. This is part of the larger national project - the Singapore Memory Project, to collect, preserve and provide access to memories and stories related to Singapore. "A Humbling Lesson" contributed by the MOE Heritage Centre is one example of such stories. There are activities to reach out to schools in the coming months. So keep a lookout for it!

Text and image by National Library Board Singapore

Prominent Visits



26 August

A delegation from the Dutch Ministry of Education, the Council for Primary Education and the Council for Secondary Education visited to understand more about NIE's Initial Teacher Preparation Programme and School Leadership programmes.

15 September

NIE hosted Mr Ciarán Cannon, T.D., Minister for Training and Skills, Department of Education and Skills from Ireland who toured the facilities such as the Collaborative Classroom to learn more about the use of IT skills in pedagogy.



22 September

NIE hosted HE Ms Lucy Molinar, Minister of Education from Panama and HE Dr Tim Gopeesingh, Minister of Education from Trinidad & Tobago as part of the delegation from the 2nd Marshall Cavendish Singapore Mathematics Global Forum. They were given an introduction to NIE's Collaborative Classroom and teacher education programmes. There was also a presentation on Mathematics Teacher Education by Associate Professor Lim-Teo Suat Khoh to the delegates.



3 - 6 October

The educators and representatives of the Secretaries of Education from the States of Pernambuco and Goias, Brazil attended presentations by NIE academics about Initial Teacher Preparation Programme, and programmes for professional development for in-service teachers and school leaders. The delegation also visited NTU and Hwa Chong Institution during their time here.



SPECIAL FEATURE

NIE 2011 SPECIAL FEATURE Milestones

By Ms Wendy Goh, Public, International and Alumni Relations

January

Associate Professor Seetha Lakshmi, Asian Languages & Cultures Academic Group garners the prestigious 'Karigalan Award' (set up by the Singapore Mustafa Tamil Trust), for authoring the Tamil Language Research Book entitled 'Standard Spoken Tamil and Pedagogy', selected as the best Tamil language book from Singapore.



February

One of the best golfers in the world, renowned Australian sportsman, Mr Adam Scott, visited NIE to promote the Adam Scott Foundation (ASF)'s work in promoting education for young adults, marking another milestone in the close working relationship between NIE and ASF to support aspiring youths in pursuing a meaningful educational experience.

A prominent visit by His Excellency Mr Porfirio Lobo Sosa, President of the Republic of Honduras and his delegation to learn about Singapore's education system with emphasis on NIE's role in teacher training to equip teachers with values, skills and knowledge to meet the 21st century global education landscape.



March

Thumbs up! Singapore's teaching profession received praise from the US Secretary of Education, Mr Arne Duncan that 'Singapore has just done a tremendous job on teacher induction, teacher development, good mentoring, good support and thinking through better evaluation systems' during the 'First International Summit' in New York City - a two-day international summit attended by education ministers, teachers and union leaders from around the world.

The Physical Education and Sports Science (PESS) Academic Group, NIE hosted Professor Paul Schempp from the University of Georgia, USA, from 7 February to 4 March 2011 as PESS's Fifth EW Barker Professor. Prof Schempp delivered a series of public lectures focused on instructional expertise in developing the youth, sports instructors and elite athletes.

May and June

The successful fourth international teaching conference 2011, 'Redesigning Pedagogy' was well-attended by some 1,500 scholars and practitioners from 24 countries, resulted in an initiative to start a new research centre 'Centre for Scaling, Translation and Commercialisation' to explore new teaching methods in NIE.



June

NIE celebrated her first and largest get-together of Alumni from the 'Master in Educational Administration (MEA) programme' in Hebel, China - in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the MEA programme - a specially designed programme aimed at China educators, which had produced 344 graduates since its inception in 2005.



July

Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand had a fruitful visit to NIE to better understand teacher education and the professional development for pre-service teachers, and special education in Singapore.



NIE's Deputy Head, Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group and Head, Malay Language and Culture Division, Associate Professor Hadijah Bte Rahmat received the Tun Seri Lanang Award - the most prestigious in the Malay literary scene.



August

The launch of 'Physical Education and Sports Teacher Academy (PESTA)' and Inaugural PE Conference 2011, as a resource centre for professional development of Physical Education (PE) and Sports Education teachers - NIE's Head, Physical Education and Sport Science Academic Group, Dr John Wang is part of PESTA's Advisory Council.



The official opening of the NIE's Art Collection Exhibition at the NIE Art Gallery marks the first time NIE is showcasing its collection. NIE had begun acquiring art from the 1950s till 2006; with some displayed pieces dating back to the 1940s. Of the 40 exhibited artworks, 8 were highlighted in an article in *The Straits Times* as must-see items for visitors to the Art Gallery.



September

NIE's Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group launched four new Malay Culture and Education books to provide more reading materials and nurture deeper appreciation of the Asian culture for Singapore's students and teachers. NIE's Deputy Head of the ALC Academic Group and Head of the MLC Division, Associate Professor Hadijah Bte Rahmat was Co-author and co-editor of all 4 tomes.



October

NIE successfully hosted the 6th research meeting of the International Comparative Study to Identify Unique and Promising Practices in Mathematics and Science Teacher Preparation for APEC Economies, from October 19 to 21 2011. The participants included over 20 teacher educators from six foreign countries, the US Department of Education and NIE, as well as two subject specialists from MOE.



November

NIE hosted the Inaugural 'Character and Citizenship Education Conference 2011', together with the Ministry of Education. Themed 'Active & Concerned Citizens: Building Character for Community', it provided directions for Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) for Singapore schools, and offered a plethora of ideas and perspectives of CCE in both the local and overseas contexts.



December

NIE completed the successful refurbishment of its tutorial rooms into 'Collaborative Classrooms' that used green-friendly methods such as recycling of chair and table frames, and are aimed at stimulating creativity and promoting closer engagement in learning. The transformation was completed six months ahead of its target schedule.





Dear Sing Kong,

Back in Munich I would like to thank you for the hospitality, for your precious time and first of all for all the very interesting information you and your nice colleagues gave me on NIE and education in Singapore.

I was impressed by the coherent high-quality work you are doing at NIE. You created an environment for teacher education in Singapore that can serve world-wide as a model.

The "philosophy" of your approach - especially the orientation towards problem-solving and the relevance of values - meets the recent challenges of our societies. It was a pleasure for me having the opportunity to discuss these issues with you.

So I'm looking forward to next occasions for discussing such issues, latest in Munich in 2012. Our preparations for the leadership conference in Munich started, and in short time you will get the first details. I'm very happy that you agreed to present a keynote at this conference.

Warm regards,
Manfred

11 October

Professor Manfred Prenzel, Dean/TU München School of Education, Germany met with various NIE faculty members to understand Math and Science teacher education in Singapore, and have discussions on Singapore's performance in PISA and TIMSS.



19 - 21 October

NIE successfully hosted the 6th research meeting of the International Comparative Study to Identify Unique and Promising Practices in Mathematics and Science Teacher Preparation for APEC Economies. This project is Singapore's participation in a proposed international comparative study to identify unique and promising practices in the training of secondary school mathematics and science (most likely to be Chemistry, depending on the final decision by the international panel) teachers from these economies.

25 October

NIE received a delegation of education leaders from the US that comprised US Federal and State Policy officials and leaders of education organisations and education philanthropies. They were briefed on NIE's role in Singapore's education landscape and had discussions on Math and Science teacher education, teacher education in the 21st century, and education leadership development programmes in NIE.



Global Preludes

By Public, International and Alumni Relations



Cameras were spotted around the campus in August for three days to capture NIE's training and research endeavours for two online episodes that made their world premieres in October and November this year.

Both targeted to feature Singapore's successful education system, the camera crews were overseen by the Ministry of Education (MOE) Singapore and facilitated by PIAR. Commissioned by the world-renowned Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (or OECD) and for the popular US online HDTV programme "Dan Rather Reports"

respectively, they came well-equipped to film footage of NIE's facilities, classroom sessions and more. Through a series of interviews, NIE Director Professor Lee Sing Kong, Deans and Professors in turnkey roles also discussed NIE's mission in teacher curriculum, professional development programmes and future plans whilst student teachers and principal trainees shared their experiences and individual aspirations about the profession.

After several days of gruelling full-day schedules that took them not only around NIE's campus but island-wide, the crews collected enough interviews and film footage from the Ministry of Education of the various local education institutions to profile the important policies and practices that demonstrate Singapore's high standards for education. Upon return to their respective countries, editing work began in full force to meet their world premiere deadlines. For more details, look out for the episodes on the monitors around campus or visit the OECD and "Dan Rather Reports" websites.



Hearts of Aidilfitri

By Ms Roszalina Bte Rawi, Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group

The NTU Malay Language and Cultural Society (MLCS), with the support of the NIE Asian Languages and Culture (ALC) held its annual Hari Raya Celebration at NIE Lecture Theatre 2 this year. Following the huge success of *Odyssey Aidilfitri 2010*, a first-ever semi-musical concept incorporated into a Hari Raya Celebration by MLCS, a sequel was in the works. Named *Hearts of Aidilfitri: A Raya Love Story*, forward to the play brings us a year after the events of the previous one. The main character Sarah is back in Singapore and in the midst of Hari Raya, was confronted with the choice between her old lover Johan and her English boyfriend John from London.



Guest of Honour, Prof Goh Kim Chuan warmly welcomed

Hearts of Aidilfitri main comedic element came in the form of a friendly competition between Malay neighbours in preparation for Hari Raya. Current and to-date issues were also explored. True to its name, the play tugged at the heartstrings of the audience by revealing a prequel scene which depicts Sarah breaking



The cast of *Hearts of Aidilfitri: A Raya Love Story*

up with her then-lover Johan before leaving for London. While *Odyssey Aidilfitri 2010* centres around Sarah's repentance on her impudence and thus seeking forgiveness from her parents, *Hearts of Aidilfitri 2011* revolves around the same message of forgiveness, but amongst friends.

Being a semi-musical, dance and singing items were included in the play, from MLCS's own *Beztari* Malay Dance Group and *Dewi Samudera*, our female dikir barat group. Finalists from MLCS-organised Malay Idol were also invited to perform. This Hari Raya show aims to create awareness among non-Muslim audience as well, on the colourful festivities of Hari Raya, and its powerful message of forgiveness and love. Our affable Guest-Of-Honour, Professor Goh Kim Chuan, Head, Office of Academic Quality Management, NIE, thoroughly enjoyed the celebration. It was also heart warming to see the whole crowd sing, laugh and cry with us as we brought them through the journey of *Hearts of Aidilfitri*.

RESEARCH

Higher Degree Award Ceremony 2011

By Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning

The NIE Higher Degree Award Ceremony 2011 was held on 2 August 2011 for the presentation of awards of gold medals and book prizes to the Master's degree by coursework candidates; and certificates to the recipients of the Dean's Commendation for Research. The awards and certificates were respectively presented by Professor Lee Sing Kong, Director, NIE and Professor Paul Teng, Dean, Graduate Studies and Professional Learning. Donors, Heads of Academic Groups, NIE faculty members, as well as family members of the award recipients witnessed the simple but significant event.

Gold Medals and Book Prizes

Altogether six gold medals and two book prizes were awarded to graduates with outstanding performance in their respective programme or specialisation.

The list of winners is as follows:

- Ms Ho Stephanie Louise from Master of Education (English Literature) **Winner of Educational Research Association of Singapore (ERAS) Gold Medal, sponsored by ERAS**
- Miss Goh Ying Hsuan from Master of Education (Educational & Psychological Measurement & Evaluation) **Winner of Singapore Teachers' Union (STU) Gold Medal, sponsored by STU**
- Mr Tan Nguan Peng from Master of Arts (Educational Management) **Winner of Educational Management Gold Medal, sponsored by STU**
- Mr Lawrence Tang Kok Onn from Master of Education (Learning Sciences & Technologies) **Winner of Instructional Design & Technology Gold Medal, sponsored by STU**
- Ms Lim Zran Ai Lois from Master of Arts (Applied Psychology) **Winner of The Applied Psychology Award, sponsored by NIE's Psychological Studies Academic Group**



- Mr Tan Yi Seng from Master of Education (Curriculum & Teaching) **Winner of Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Gold Medal, sponsored by ASCD**
- Ms Lim Siok Hiang, Susan from Master of Education (Curriculum & Teaching) **Winner of ASCD Book Prize for Best Dissertation, sponsored by ASCD**
- Ms Chiang Lee Ngang from Master of Education (Curriculum & Teaching) **Winner of ASCD Book Prize for Best Critical Inquiry Project, sponsored by ASCD**

Dean's Commendation for Research

The Dean's Commendation for Research was instituted in the January 2008 semester to highlight the importance of publicising on-going or newly completed student research to a wider audience beyond NIE and Singapore. More importantly, it serves to encourage NIE's graduate students to develop the mindset of professional researchers in sharing their findings with the research community at large. Students are recognised for having excelled in their research by publishing papers with their supervisors in peer-reviewed international journals or international refereed book chapters during their period of candidature. At the same time, it is a way of helping graduate students build up a strong CV and portfolio of works by the time they graduate. A total of nineteen commendation certificates were presented, with three of the sixteen graduate students receiving two certificates each.

For more information on the winners and criteria of these awards, please visit www.nie.edu.sg/studynie/higher-degree-programmes/awards

LATEST HIGHER DEGREE PROGRAMMES

MA in Leadership and Educational Change

Jointly taught by NIE and Teachers College, Columbia University, the programme prepares educational leaders to go beyond organisational leadership towards embracing leadership capacities in curriculum, teaching and learning. Application for the first intake opens in June 2012!

NIE Doctor in Education

The NIE Doctor in Education (EdD) programme received an overwhelming response for its first intake. 30 selected students from various education sectors and background will be welcomed at a special orientation programme on 13 January 2012.

Signature Pedagogies

By Ms June Teng Poh Hoon, Office of Education Research

With more than 40 years of experience and 17 honorary doctoral degrees under his belt, Professor Lee Shulman is well-known in teacher education circles, especially for his concept of pedagogical content knowledge.

We were honoured to have this Emeritus Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education from Stanford University address us at an NIE seminar on the "Signature Pedagogies in the Professions" on 13 September 2011.

This is a topic that has fascinated Prof Shulman in recent years. How are people prepared to be professionals? Are there "signature pedagogies" of each profession? And what can teacher education learn from their pedagogies?



From left Prof Lee Shulman and Prof Lee Wing On, Dean of Education Research, during the question-and-answer segment

While at the Carnegie Foundation, he led research into how various professions, such as medicine and law, prepare their practitioners. His real motivation, however, has been to better understand the preparation of educators.

Describing himself as a teacher educator at heart, Prof Shulman said: "I was trying to understand if we can figure out how to educate teachers better... How might that apply to educating educators?"

While the disciplines are different, he noted that good teaching across disciplines shares something in common. Every profession seeks to impart its own habits of mind, hand and heart – of knowledge, skills, and values. "A great deal of preparing to teach is the learning of habits and routine that become so regular, so internalised and so practised that you can do them without having to think about them all the time."

That said, it would seem that teacher education has yet to develop its own signature pedagogy. But because "we do something very special", he believes it is a subject that is worthy of study and further improvement. Reminding his audience of educators and teacher educators of the work we do, Prof Shulman concluded: "I'd like us to think about educating teachers not as something we have to do, but something we get to do. What a privilege!"



NIE Director Prof Lee Sing Kong presenting a gift of appreciation to Prof Lee Shulman

Literary Explorers

By Assistant Professor Mukhlis Abu Bakar, Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group

The Singapore-leg of the South East Asian Literary Council (MASTERA) Comparative Literature Series 2011 was jointly hosted by the Malay Division of NIE's Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group and the Malay Language Council of Singapore on Thursday, 27 October 2011. Held at one of NIE's lecture theatres, this provided a platform for researchers, students, writers and Malay literary enthusiasts from Southeast Asia to gain an appreciation of the region's rich literary writings through comparative studies of selected works



From left Speaker, Prof Ayu Suharto with Chair, Assoc Prof Hadijah Bte Rahmat

This year's lecture was presented by Professor Ayu Sutarto from the University of Jember, Indonesia on the topic titled "Sastera Bandingan dan Sejarah Sastera" (Comparative Literature and Literary History). Prof Ayu gave an account of how the field of comparative studies of Malay and Indonesian literature has developed over the years. He observed that information technology has brought about new realities of life and has influenced the proliferation of new expressions never heard before.

Local wisdom found in classic literary work such as "yang salah kalah" (the one who does wrong loses), and "semangat kebangsaan" (nationalism) have gradually given way to market-driven terms such as "kesenangan" (fun), "neoliberalisme" (neoliberalism) and "kapitalisme global" (global capitalism).

Societies may either accept the changes that market civilisation brings or reject some of these changes particularly those that threaten their cultural or national identity. These attitudes influence the creative process of writers. Through comparative literature, he said, people living in the postmodern age can have an understanding of the positive and negative impact of global trends that exist in the midst of their everyday life.

Kuala Lumpur was Prof Ayu's first stop before arriving in Singapore for the second leg of the lecture series which concluded in Flores, Indonesia.

LSL Research Team Won Two Best Paper Awards on Mobile Assisted Language Learning

By Dr Wong Lung Hsiang, Learning Sciences Laboratory

NIE's mobile learning (m-learning) research team from the Learning Sciences Lab (LSL) has won accolades in the recently concluded 10th World Conference on Mobile and Contextual Learning (mLearn'11) held in Beijing this October. The team bagged two Best Paper Awards based on its two research projects on Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) led by Dr. Wong Lung Hsiang, a research scientist from LSL.

The first project, entitled "Chinese-PP" is a joint research effort between Taiwanese and Croatian scholars. It aims to develop a classroom-based mobile game for learning of Chinese characters. The award-winning paper, "Designing Content-Independent Mobile Learning Technology: Learning Fractions and Chinese Language" is a constellation of reflections on the design of the Chinese-PP platform which strove to marry both technological affordances and pedagogical principles.

The second project is a multi-party collaboration between NIE, Nan Chiau Primary School, Singapore Centre for Chinese Language and Microsoft Singapore. Entitled MyCLOUD (My Chinese Language ubiquitous learning Days), the research focuses on constructing a mobile-assisted learning environment to nurture self-directed and collaborative language learners, as well as revamping classroom pedagogies. The paper, "Leveraging Ubiquitous Technology for Seamless Language Learning: From 'Move, Idioms!' to MyCLOUD" articulated the conceptual leveling-up of a recently completed project, "Move, Idioms!", that facilitates the blending of language learning into daily life with the support of mobile technologies. Another paper on "Move, Idioms!" had also won a Best Paper Award at the IEEE International Conference on Wireless, Mobile, and Ubiquitous Technology in Education in April, 2010.



NIE Making New Inroads in the Field of International Mobile Learning Research

By Dr Wong Lung Hsiang, Learning Sciences Laboratory

The recently concluded project of "Seamless Learning" conducted by the Learning Sciences Laboratory (LSL) has made further inroads in the worldwide mobile learning (m-learning) research. Professor Looi Chee Kit, the Principal Investigator of the project, has recently delivered a keynote speech at the prestigious 10th World Conference on Mobile and Contextual Learning (mLearn'11) in Beijing, China. He shared with the international m-learning experts the key findings of the project. The speech has garnered positive feedback and generated enthused interests, culminating in invitations for further sharing of research results.

First inception in 2006 by seventeen internationally distinguished scholars including Professor Looi, the notion of "seamless learning" explores the integration of learning in formal and informal contexts, individual and social spaces, and physical and digital worlds, with the mediation of mobile devices carried by every student 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The LSL m-learning research team breaks new ground in this area by being the pioneer research team in the world that conducts a three-year school-based study based on the seamless learning framework. Over the years, several spin-off projects spearheaded

by different team members have ensued. These studies aim to investigate various niche aspects of seamless learning, such as Chinese Language m-learning (see the article above), outdoor m-learning, and the scaling up of the learning model.

With four Best (Conference) Paper Awards bagged in the last four years and more than 20 papers being published in top-tier international journals, NIE is on her way to establish its name as one of the leading institutions in global mobile learning research. Recently, the Global Chinese Society on Computers in Education has identified the research niches of different institutions and invited them to host various Special Interest Groups (SIG). NIE has been "appointed" the "hosting institution" of the inaugural "Digital Classroom, Mobile and Ubiquitous Learning" SIG, an indication that NIE has made foray into the field and gained recognition from other research institutions on the global front.



Prof Looi Chee Kit giving his keynote speech at mLearn 2011



Leadership in Training

By Mr Jacques See, NIE International

The leadership training programme, Leaders in Education Programme International (LEPI), ran its seventh successful year from 18 to 29 July 2011 and had a participation of 45 education leaders from 20 countries, including Singapore.

The participants consisted of overseas school principals, teacher supervisors, and senior ministry officials while local participants were commanders of military schools and uniformed groups.

The two-week executive leadership programme focused on "Leading Change & Innovation". A rich learning experience that took the participants through various activities including engaging

lectures, highly participative 'syndicate' group discussions, reflective project work, and enriching school visits.

As part of the learning journey, visits to Singapore schools provided real-time examples of education management and learned from principals as to how they strategise their approaches in leadership. The participants visited Bedok Green Primary School, Greenridge Secondary School and Northlight School. Participants showed a keen interest in learning and sharing whilst embracing their common vision of improving the schools' facilities and systems and recognising the need for organisational change.

"The programme was very useful for my work and developing my organisation. We have very similar challenges in our educational system and it was very useful to hear how in your country you are working with this kind of challenges like 21st century values, teacher training, leading and managing processes."

– Mrs Irene Kaosaar, Ministry of Education and Research (Estonia)



"This dynamic programme is obviously different from the kind that I have attended before. The two-week study in NIE Singapore is a memorable period as part of my life-wide professional development. The learning experience is explicit and it is really an honourable and fascinating programme for leaders from the world."

– Mrs Pamela Chiu-Tse, School Principal (Hong Kong)

LEPI was successfully conducted in 2011 and we look forward to a new cohort in July 2012. NIE wishes to thank the support of and partnership with the Ministry of Education Singapore who sponsored four participants from ASEAN countries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) who awarded 23 scholarships under the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

Caring Teacher Awards 2012

By Ms Vivien Lee, Public, International and Alumni Relations

The Caring Teacher Awards (CTA) is here once again! Held once every two years, the CTA aims to pay tribute to teachers who show care and concern for the holistic development of their students, and go the extra mile to ensure their charges grow up to be confident and independent learners.

In partnership with ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, and with support of the Ministry of Education, NIE will present the awards in April 2012. One teacher each from a primary school, a secondary school and a junior college/centralised institute will be honoured at the CTA 2012 award ceremony. These awards will be used for the teachers' personal and professional development.

There are two categories for the CTA award – School Level and National Level. The public was invited to nominate their favourite teachers between 12 October 2011 and 30 November 2011. Following that, each school will then select the School Level winners and National Level nominees to submit to NIE. A judging panel will then select the National Level winners.

For more details on CTA 2012, please visit www.cta.nie.edu.sg

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Farewell to a School Hero



Mr Aii Nazim, School Principal of Hiriya School in The Maldives, passed away on 9 September 2011. He completed the LEPI course at NIE on 29 July 2011 before returning to his home country.

Mr Nazim drowned while trying to rescue eight of his students who were pulled into the sea by a strong current during a school trip. Four students perished with him in the tragic incident.

President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives, declared the national flag to be flown at half mast for three days as a mark of respect to the departed in this tragedy.

Born 19 Dec 1973, Mr Nazim was an educator for 15 years starting as a teacher since 1996.

40 Senior Educators Graduate from the Leaders in Education Programme

By Ms Vivien Lee, Public, International and Alumni Relations

NIE Director Professor Lee Sing Kong said, "Keep that love for nurturing alive and never allow your fire to be doused." This was the advice given by Prof Lee to the 40 graduands at the Leaders in Education Programme (LEP) Graduation Dinner. The graduands are mostly Vice Principals and senior educators who nurture and mentor teachers.

Every year, an average of 40 senior educators, usually Vice Principals, are selected to attend the six-month LEP. Through this full-time executive programme, participants are exposed to experiences that seek to hone their leadership skills. Following their graduation, the participants are usually assigned by the Ministry of Education to assume leadership positions.

This year, a total of 40 educators, including four from Brunei, attended the LEP. Education Minister Mr Heng Swee Keat was the Guest of Honour for the graduation dinner held on 13 October 2011. LEP Vaedictorian, Mrs Amy Ser-Yee received the Lee Kuan Yew Award as the participant who demonstrated the best overall performance in the Programme.

Left Education Minister Mr Heng Swee Keat presenting to Mrs Amy Ser-Yee, winner of the Lee Kuan Yew Award

Below Participants of the Leaders in Education Programme at their graduation dinner held on 13 October 2011

Enhancing Teaching Pedagogy

By Mr Jacques See, NIE International



From 15 to 26 August 2011, two groups of school leaders and senior teachers, from a diverse range of educational organisations, visited NIE for its "Enhancing Pedagogy Skills for Teacher Trainers" (EPSTT) course.

The first group, comprising of senior educators from 23 schools across the nation, came from Sri Lanka. The second was an international group which comprised senior educators from 20 different countries. These participants, who in their roles train and supervise teachers from the early childhood level to tertiary subjects, also hold various areas of specialisations – such as English Language, Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Humanities. Although diverse in background and culture, it was apparent that they shared a common passion to learn and extrapolate their experiences here into valuable input for their colleagues to derive new applications in their classrooms at home.

The two-week programme also allowed participants to gain necessary skills to enhance their teaching practice and essential concepts and techniques for promoting and assessing creative thinking in a learning environment to be ready for the 21st century. They participated in interactive lectures and peer discussion, as well as embarked on learning journeys to Singapore schools visits. Witnessing the on-the-ground applications at these, they experienced what one participant succinctly termed as "theories in practice". The schools that hosted the participants were Rivervale Primary School, Teck Whye Primary School, CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel, Swiss Cottage Secondary School and Presbyterian High School.

During their stay in Singapore, the participants experienced an interesting transect of the island republic. With the advantage of a hotel accommodation in the central district and with daily commutes from the city to the west (where NIE is situated), there were plenty of opportunities to immerse themselves in the Singapore's sights, sounds and culture. Their stay also included a weekend social outing that took them from the Singapore Science Centre to the popular beachside Sentosa where they have more opportunities to network and bond.

EPSTT was a success and NIE would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore for funding the teaching programme and the participants through the Singapore Cooperation Program.

NIE Congratulates Winners of Inspiring Teacher of English Award

Eight NIE alumni were recently awarded the Inspiring Teacher of English Award for their innovative methods in teaching English.

Congratulations to our alumni on winning this award!

Ms Anna Mathew	Si Ling Secondary School
Mr Edwin Tan Boon Hock	First Toa Payoh Primary School
Ms Gladys Ng Wai Heng	River Valley Primary School
Mr Julian Victor	Rivervale Primary School
Ms Suzaina Koh Nasir	Assumption Pathway School
Ms Pamela Kiew Hui Li	Bukit View Primary School
Mrs Lee Poh Lin	Montfort Secondary School
Mrs Shirley Teo	Teck Whye Secondary School

The Inspiring Teacher of English Award is given by the Straits Times and the Speak Good English Movement, and supported by the Ministry of Education.

Going Native

By Ms Vivien Lee, Public, International and Alumni Relations

NIE alumni put on their walking shoes and took a scenic route to one of Singapore's best kept nature secrets on 26 November 2011. Their destination was none other than the favourite resting and feeding spot for migratory birds, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Despite the wet weather, enthusiastic alumni and their family and friends turned up on a Saturday afternoon hoping to catch a view of the diverse range of fauna and flora at this nature park. For the shutterbugs, there were ample opportunities to snap away as they traipsed through boardwalks that bring visitors into the heart of the reserve.

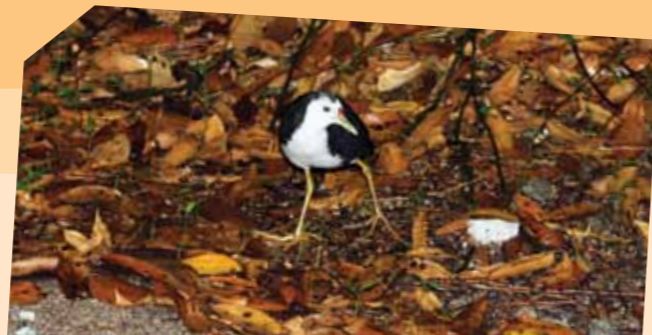
Photography by Ms Vivien Lee



Shutterbugs snapping away at the fauna and flora they encountered



The various facets of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve



Championing Sports

By Public, International and Alumni Relations Office



Mr and Mrs Kunalan at their residence

NIE alumnus and former NIE academic, Assistant Professor C. Kunalan, was chosen to be the subject of an inspiring teacher story in the Singapore News section of the Yahoo! Southeast Asia online edition on September 12 2011.

Tracing the former Olympian's inspiring teaching journey spanning over 5 decades, the article noted how Mr Kunalan started out in the profession in 1961 at Tiong Bahru Primary School as a form teacher to a primary three class of 40 children. It noted that throughout his teaching career in the 70s, he was heavily involved in school sports whilst he carried out his teacher duties – in fact, he even led a school team to national meets victory.

The article noted his great perseverance and passion. As a form teacher in 1967, he used to work on every math problem in each chapter the night before so he could teach these the next day. It also noted how he won a scholarship and later, obtained a Masters degree and graduated top three in his cohort despite not even having a basic degree.

Titled as "If I can do it, you can do better" the feature discussed Mr Kunalan's dedication to his students and how till this day, he still keeps in touch with about 100 of his secondary school pupils every year. His wife, Madam Elizabeth Chong Yoong Yin, also shared on her husband's popularity with his past students and how they would turn to him when they were in trouble as well.

Mr Kunalan, who retired last year, stumbled into teaching in 1961 after his poor O-Level results heavily limited his career options. But he has never regretted his career choice. Currently a senior manager at the Singapore Sports Council, the article recounted how well-known he is as a local sporting legacy who won 15 medals in the Southeast Asian Games and five in the Asian Games.

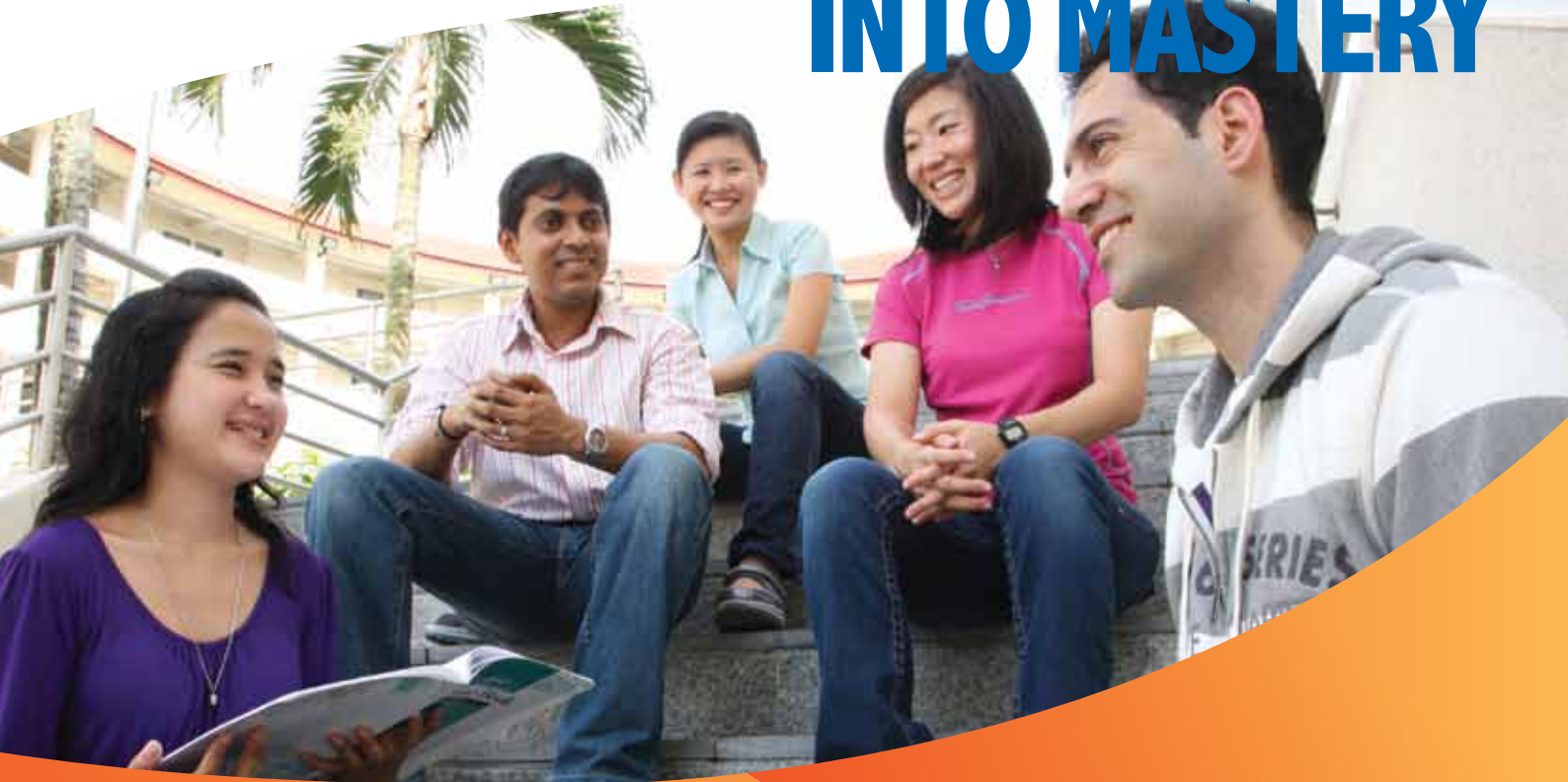
For the full article, visit: <http://www.nie.edu.sg/newsroom/media-coverage/2011/%E2%80%98if-i-can-do-it-you-can-do-even-better%E2%80%99>

Calendar of Events

Events	Date	Venue	Contact Person
11th Cultural Diversity in Music Education Conference (CDIME)	4 - 6 January	NIE, Singapore and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts	Ms Kristian Millan, CARE Email millan.khristian@nie.edu.sg
EW Barker Professorship 2012: Public Lectures by Professor Stuart Biddle	13 - 27 January	NIE, ITE College East, Singapore Sports School	Public Lecture 1: Ms Yow Chea Nuan Email cheanuan.yow@nie.edu.sg Public Lecture 2 and Presentation: Email ssc_coaching@ssc.gov.sg
Teachers' Investiture Ceremony January 2012	20 January	Nanyang Auditorium, NTU	Mrs Mak Lek Cher, OTE Email lekcher.mak@nie.edu.sg
Service Learning Day 2012	8 February	NIE, Singapore	Ms Jann Tan, OTE Email huiling.tan@nie.edu.sg
NIE e-Fiesta 2012	15 February	NIE, Singapore	Ms Pratima Majah, CeL Email pratima.majah@nie.edu.sg
The Second International Workshop on Plasma Applications in Nanomaterials and Photovoltaic Solar Cells (PANPSC-2012)	25 - 26 February	NIE, Singapore and Nanyang Executive Centre, NTU	Prof Shuyan Xu, NSSE Email shuyan.xu@nie.edu.sg
Third International Symposium on Plasma Nanoscience (iPlasmaNano-III)	27 February - 1 March	Nanyang Technological University and The Pulau Desaru Beach Resort, Johor, Malaysia	Prof Shuyan Xu, NSSE Email shuyan.xu@nie.edu.sg

For more information, visit www.nie.edu.sg

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- Master of Education with the following specialisations:
 - o Curriculum & Teaching
 - o Early Childhood
 - o Special Education
- Master of Science (Exercise & Sport Studies)

BY RESEARCH

(Closing date: 31 January 2012)

- Master of Arts
- Master of Science
- Doctor of Philosophy

For more information, please visit www.nie.edu.sg/aug2012
or e-mail us at nieadmpp@nie.edu.sg