



**Passion makes Excellence**

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## Corrigendum

Pg 5, NIE News March 2012, the first runner of the winning team of the EW Barker's Challenge, should be 'Ms Eliza Ng' instead of 'Mr Ng Yu Jun'.

Growth in education and life requires passion, commitment, great continuous care to nurture optimum, excellent results. There are genuine efforts and sacrifices that happened behind the scenes, but most of the time, are unknown and unrecognised. We should not only enjoy the sweet fruits of growth but must also recognise and appreciate the labours in the process of growing and the efforts of growers of excellence.

So with this theme in mind, we found much to celebrate for in this issue. Such as the Special Feature on NIE's recipients of the NTU Nanyang Awards 2012 (pages 12 and 13) and the winners of the biennial Caring Teacher Awards (CTA) on pages 20 and 21. In particular, the stories that we uncovered about each CTA nominee brought not only a sense of pride and inspiration for me as one of the Judges of CTA, but surely a lasting impression for all on what it means to be great at teaching.

Of course, to touch the hearts of many is a herculean task. Such as the inspiring works of two national artistic talents we featured this issue, Mr Tong Chin Sye and Mr P Krishnan. The former a famed multi-media artist and the latter a literary renaissance man, NIE was privileged to have the chance at separate events held to showcase and share their brilliant contributions to Singapore's art scene.

Closer to home, we are pleased to announce some of the latest milestones in opening NIE's Wellness Centre (next page), Symposium on Comparative Education (page 16) and many more highlights of these (read Corporate Development and Research). Even in the dedication of our academic individuals, we are proud to have a story from Mr Mohd Aidil Subhan Bin Mohamed Sulor and his twin sons (page 10), who were recently featured in Singapore Police Force as NS men role models. Not forgetting, the happy times that the passing SWRFC 2011/12 members have brought us, we heartily congratulate and thank them for an excellent job done in creating the vibrant family atmosphere and at the same time, welcome the new set to come (page 14). Speaking of new events, let's look forward to a number of latest happenings at NIE on pages 11, the International Biology Olympiad 2012 on 17, a call for papers for the World Association of Lesson Studies International Conference 2012 on page 23 and our Calendar of Events list on page 22 as well.

We also pay tribute to two of our distinguished Professors who have bid farewell to NIE, Prof Goh Kim Chuan and Prof Lee Ong Kim (page 15), who have left us with a legacy of knowledge on giving quality service. At the same time, we also welcome Ms Chan Lai Fung, our new NIE Council Chairperson and Permanent Secretary (Education Policy); and several prominent visitors who were at NIE. With so much abuzz, we can't help but be excited and truly hope you are too. Happy reading!



**Guest Editor**

Associate Professor Hadjijah Bte Rahmat  
Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group

## Editorial Team

Associate Professor Hadjijah Bte Rahmat, Patricia Campbell, Monica Khoo, Wendy Goh

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# Good to go

By Ms Premadevi Perumal, Public International and Alumni Relations Office

The launch of the NIE Wellness Centre this year was received enthusiastically by one and all. NIE Director Professor Lee Sing Kong and Guest-of-Honour NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson together graced the Centre's opening ceremony on 22 February 2012.

Presenting a warm interior of walls washed in cheerful tones and cozy couches to recline on, the Centre reaches out to children, adults, families, and students from NTU and NIE with its vast array of services. To name a few, one can look forward to discussing issues related to management of relationship difficulties, children's behavioural problems and assessment of personality or career choices. The Centre also provides psychological testing and intervention for individuals with learning problems.

While the Centre is staffed by NIE's trainee psychologists and counsellors from its Masters programs, who are in turn supervised by experienced clinicians from the field, more complex cases may be handled by faculty who are registered and practicing psychologists and counsellors.

Counselling services provided by NIE trainee counsellors and psychologists are kept low, with employed adults paying \$30 an hour, unemployed adults and students paying \$15 an hour and NIE and NTU students accessing them for free. Psychological testing services provided by trainee psychologists range from \$80 to \$180 depending on the complexity of assessments. Counselling and assessment services provided by professional psychologists and counsellors will be charged at prevailing market rates.

**Below:** NIE Director Prof Lee Sing Kong and Guest-of-Honour NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson together graced the Centre's opening ceremony

Mrs Irena Tay-Kit Phey Ling, Lecturer from NIE's Psychological Studies Academic Group explained,

**“ We decided to revamp the NIE Wellness Centre in 2011 so that we could provide a comfortable, conducive and confidential atmosphere for serving the NIE / NTU community, and provide members of the public with affordable services. Our trainees are therefore able to provide those who step into our Centre with a listening ear, and help them work through any of their concerns before they reach a crisis point. ”**



**Above:** NIE Director, Prof Lee Sing Kong sharing NIE publications with NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson together while Associate Professorial Fellow Lui Hah Wah Elena looks on.

NIE Wellness Centre is located at NIE, Block 2, Basement 1, Room 01/02.

**Opening hours (by appointment):**  
Mon – Fri (9 am to 5 pm)  
Mon – Thu (5 pm to 9 pm) (Upon request)  
Tel: (65) 6790 3318

For more information,  
visit <http://www.ps.nie.edu.sg/WELLNESS.htm>



# NIE Mobile Application

By Ms Chia Charmaine Jacqueline, Academic Computing and Information Services (ACIS)

The NIE Mobile team was formed as part of “ACIS Computing Environment<sub>2.1</sub>” initiative to bring about innovation in services and technologies that will improve individual productivity and enhance user experience.

As Mr Tan Hoon Chiang, Divisional Director, ACIS said, “The new emerging technology that will impact our learning, teaching and corporate services environment is mobility. We have to proactively react to the changes in order to support NIE’s present and future business.”

The Apple iOS application, uniquely catered for NIE was first launched on 5 August 2011 and has seen a total of 1,075 number of downloads as of April 2012. The latest Version 1.3 adds a new car park routing function and “LibGo!” – LIBRIS very own application was released on 1 May 2012.

During the NIE Mobile showcase at the “iCarnival” on 8 February 2012, NIE staff and students were able to experience the interactive features that NIE Mobile can offer; including the enhanced display of NIE news, media and events, a more user-friendly campus map and easy login to “ID3AS@NIE” (an online feedback and suggestion platform for NIE staff). Visitors to NIE can also get real-time parking information even before arriving at NIE.

A recent mobile survey conducted in February 2012, on more than 160 NIE staff and students shows that close to 60 per cent of them use an Apple iPhone, 28 per cent use Android-based mobile phones while 12 per cent use other mobile platforms.

The team recognises a fast rising trend towards users adopting Android as well as other non-iOS mobile platforms and has plans to jumpstart “HTML5”. As Mr Jeffrey Hong, Team Leader and Head, Centre for User Support (CUS) aptly puts it, “The leap to “HTML5” will further elevate NIE Mobile as a cross-

platform mobile application to provide for more NIE mobile users in the near future.”

While it was a challenge for developers in the NIE Mobile team to keep the application up-to-date, it was fulfilling to “ensure that what are being developed meets the needs of the users and were aligned to the vision of the mobile team”, said Mr Lum Hon Peng from the Computer Services Centre (CSC) and one of the developers from the NIE Mobile team.

Last but not least, the NIE Mobile team welcomes anyone who has a keen interest in design or application development, and who would like to join the NIE Mobile team, to contact Service Desk at servicedesk@nie.edu.sg for more information.



**Above, from left:** Members of the NIE Mobile team, comprising: Mr Jeffrey Hong, Team Leader, CUS; Mr Daniel Ng, CUS; Ms Charmaine Chia, ACIS; Mr Quek Kia Yong, CUS; Mr Dave Tay, Project Manager, CUS, Mr Alvan Tan, CUS and Mr Marvin Tan, CUS

(The other members, not present during the photoshoot include: Mr Lum Hon Peng, CSC; Ms Khor Lay Choo, CUS; Ms Nenny Noorman, LIBRIS and Mr Jacky Wong, LIBRIS)

## NIE Mobile User Reviews

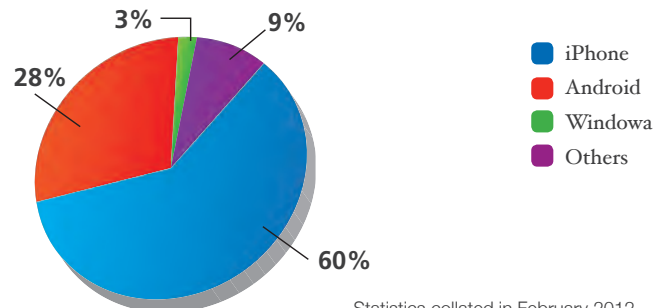
“ A more easily accessible way of getting required information in a faster way. Good application. ”

Version 1  
08-Aug-2011

“ Like the app! It’s easy to use and informative. Especially for the public who wants to know how to get around the campus. Available slots for carparks is updated live and that’s really helpful! ”

Version 1  
05-Aug-2011

## Type of mobile phone currently used



## About NIE Mobile

NIE Mobile is created for visitors, staff and students of NIE to keep abreast about the activities relating to the institute. The intuitive and user-friendly interface makes it easy for users to navigate and obtain the information that they need.

Available in iTunes App Store at <http://bit.ly/NIEmobileapp>



# e-Fiesta 2012

By Centre for e-Learning Department



Above, from left: NIE Director, Prof Lee Sing Kong presenting iPad2 to e-Fiesta's lucky draw winner, Assoc Prof Koh Chong Lek

The e-Fiesta (<http://bit.ly/e-fiesta2012>) is an annual event organised by the Centre for e-Learning (CeL). This year, it was held on 15 February with the theme *"Mobilise: Learning on the go"*.

In his opening address, Director of NIE, Professor Lee Sing Kong, mentioned that NIE must keep abreast by adopting mobile technologies and strategies that address the changing needs of today's learner.

The first keynote speaker, Dr Seah-Tay Hui Yong, Vice Principal of Nanyang Girls' High School, reiterated this point by mentioning that we were trying to educate 21<sup>st</sup> century learners with 20<sup>th</sup> century teachers in 19<sup>th</sup> century classrooms. She shared how the adoption of iPads and redesigned classrooms in her school were key to pushing pedagogy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The second keynote speaker, Mr Yee Jenn En, Solutions Engineer of Blackboard Inc., highlighted how learners of today demanded mobile learning solutions. He demonstrated how the use of Blackboard's Mobile Learn app could address this demand.

This year's e-Fiesta was different from the previous years' events in three ways. First, educators from other institutes of higher learning and Singapore schools attended the event.

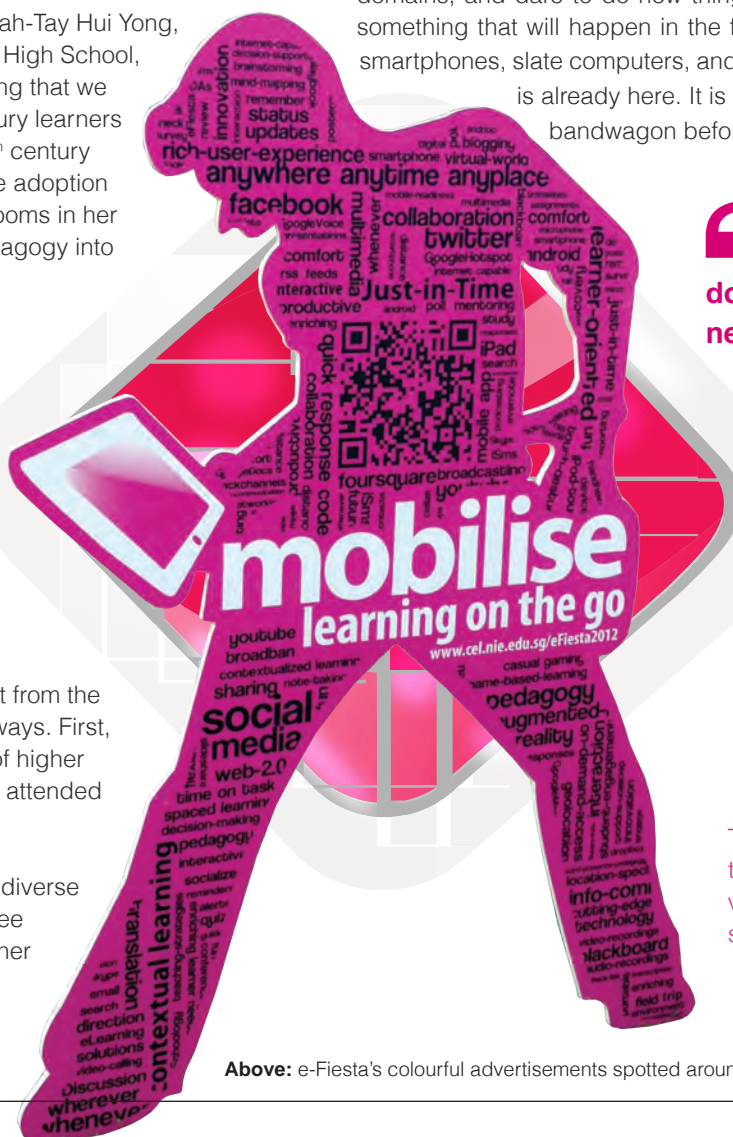
Second, to meet the needs of a diverse audience, the afternoon saw three concurrent sessions: A practitioner track, a research track, and a mobile e-portfolio workshop.

Third, the CeL officially launched four free educational iOS and web apps as part of its initiative to promote mobile learning. The CeL collaborated with academic staff from NIE and polytechnic interns to create these apps. Download information and trailer videos of the apps are available at <http://bit.ly/cel-apps> or via this QR code.

We urge you to heed the call of our Director who said in his closing remarks: "Dare to dream, dare to move into new domains, and dare to do new things." Mobile learning is not something that will happen in the future. With the ubiquity of smartphones, slate computers, and mobile devices, the future is already here. It is time to jump on the mobile bandwagon before you get left behind!

**“ Dare to dream ...  
move into new  
domains and do  
new things ”**

Prof Lee Sing Kong



To find out more details and trailer videos for the apps, visit <http://bit.ly/cel-apps> or scan the QR code.

Above: e-Fiesta's colourful advertisements spotted around campus

# Malay Grace and Values Camp 2012

By Mdm Roszalina Rawi, Malay Language and Culture Division,  
Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group



**Above:** The winners for best group performance of the camp!

"*Melayu Kita, Melayukah Kita?*" We are Malays, but are we truly Malay? This was the mantra chanted with much gusto by 65 Primary 5 (P5) pupils from 40 schools all over Singapore at the Perkhemahan Adab dan Kesantunan 2012, Malay Grace and Values Camp 2012.

The two-day camp held from 16 to 17 March 2012 at Kampong Ubi Community Club was organised by The Malay Language Council of Singapore, and supported by NIE's Malay Language and Culture Division (MLCD, ALC), together with 45 trainees (who also became camp facilitators) from the Diploma and Bachelor of Arts in Education (Malay Language) Programme. The camp, aimed at imbibing positive values into young pupils via fun and interactive activities, was overseen by Associate Professor Hadijah Rahmat, head of the organising committee.

The focus was on getting them to realise that being a true Malay involves having positive values which are inherent in the Malay culture and tradition. Authentic materials specially created for the inaugural camp was prepared by NIE lecturers from the MLCD, together with contributions from respected

educators in the Malay Language field. One such innovation by Mdm Roszalina Rawi, a teaching fellow from MLCD, was the creation of the "*KLIK!*" concept, an acronym taught to the pupils on the proper ways of using social media, especially Facebook and Twitter. Celebrities, such as Mr Khairudin Saharom, Dr Jazlan Joosop and Dr Elly Sabrina who are lauded as exemplary Malay icons were also invited to sit in forums, chaired by NIE trainees. During the forums, the P5 pupils engaged the celebrities in meaningful discussions on what it means to be a successful person who is morally upright and contributes to Singapore society.

It was an excitable moment for everyone to see news of the camp being broadcasted on *Suria*, a Malay News Channel! In all, the 45 trainee-facilitators thoroughly cherished the experience of being teachers to the adorable P5 pupils. Bonds were built and values were transmitted with much love, care and concern for building the next generation of exemplary '*Arif Budiman*', the learned person who contributes to society as desired by the community who are facing new national and global challenges.



**Above:** The wonderful facilitators from NIE's DipEd and BA Malay Language Programme!



**Below:** Assoc Prof Hadijah Rahmat interacting with the participants during her presentation on Malay Grace and Values

# A Lesson in Watercolour Painting

By Ms Premadevi Perumal,  
Public International and Alumni Relations



**Above:** Participants capture precious moments with Mr Tong at the workshop

It was a dream come true for 22 students from NIE's Advanced Diploma in Visual and Performing Arts course who attended a workshop by renowned Singapore multi-media artist Mr Tong Chin Sye. The students experienced a memorable day, learning about Mr Tong's perspectives on art, receiving tips on watercolour painting techniques and more.

Two 2-hour workshops were held on 5 and 12 March in conjunction with the 'Reminiscences' exhibition at the NIE art gallery presenting Mr Tong Chin Sye's never-before-seen works. During the workshop, participants enjoyed a leisurely tour of the exhibition and keenly observed a painting demonstration by Mr Tong.

One of the workshop participants, Mr Eugene Wong who has been teaching art for the past six years, described how Mr Tong

encouraged the group to spend more time outdoors and sharpen their observation skills. "He told us to go outdoors and observe nature instead of relying on photographs. I also learnt more about the layering effect achieved in watercolour paintings."

Sharing on what he noticed about Mr Tong, Eugene said, "I found him to be a versatile painter, skillful in his use of brushstrokes and colours with a keen eye for details in drawing the scenery."

The workshop was organised by NIE's Department of Visual and Performing Arts to provide students with an opportunity to acquire more in-depth knowledge of watercolour painting. Mr Tong who represents the second generation of Singapore artists, has recorded on both canvas and paper, the rapidly changing cityscapes and street scenes of Singapore through his watercolour and oil paintings.



**Above:** Mr Tong teaches workshop participants about watercolour painting



**Above, from left:** A workshop participant requests for Mr Tong's signature during the tour of the 'Reminiscences' exhibition at the NIE art gallery

# Prominent Visitors

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

17 Apr 2012

## Officials from the Republic of Turkey

A delegation of officials from the Turkish Ministries of Education, Development, Economy and Transport visited NIE on 17 April 2012. Led by Professor Yuçel Altunbasak, President of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), the delegation learnt about the Initial Teacher Preparation programmes, professional development for teachers and school leaders. They also visited the Classroom of the Future.



20 Apr 2012

## Her Excellency Dr Madiha A. Al-Shaibani, Minister of Education, Sultanate of Oman and delegation from the Omani Ministry of Education

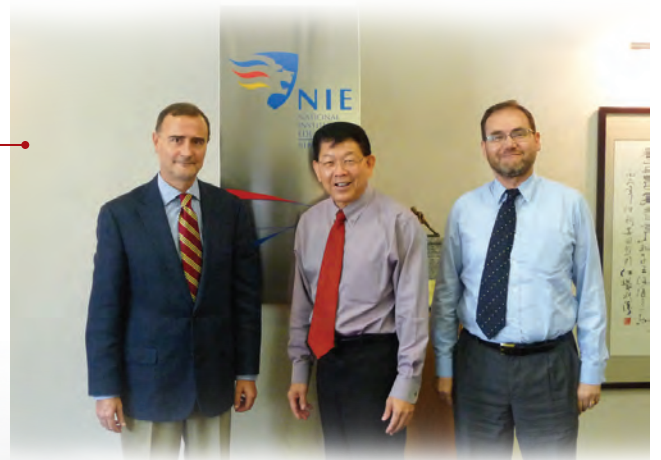
NIE hosted Her Excellency Dr Madiha A. Al-Shaibani, Minister of Education, Sultanate of Oman and representatives from the Omani Ministry of Education on their recent trip to Singapore on 20 April 2012. They were briefed on pre-service teacher education and professional development for in-service teachers and school leaders. The delegation also toured the Classroom of the Future.



24 Apr 2012

## Courtesy Call by His Excellency Luis Fernando Danús Charpentier, Ambassador, Republic of Chile

Courtesy Call by His Excellency Luis Fernando Danús Charpentier, Ambassador, Republic of Chile, made a courtesy call to Prof Lee Sing Kong for discussions on strengthening cooperation ties between NIE and Chile. His Excellency also paid a visit to the Classroom of the Future.



14 - 16 May 2012

## Delegation from Battelle for Kids, USA

A 7-member delegation led by Mr Tony Bagshaw, Managing Director (Human Capital), from Battelle for Kids, a non-profit educational organisation based in the United States visited NIE from 14 - 16 May 2012. As part of their study on global high-performing education systems, they met with various faculty members to hear about Singapore's Math education and performance in PISA, NIE's Initial Teacher Preparation and professional development programmes.



In our pursuit of **EXCELLENCE**,  
we must continue to **BREAK NEW GROUND**  
and develop alternative models of **TEACHER EDUCATION**  
to meet the different needs of our **STAKEHOLDERS**.

EMBRACING  
CHANGE

APPRECIATING  
DIVERSITY OF  
BACKGROUNDS  
& STRENGTHS

GIVING  
OUR  
PROFESSIONALS



# Literary Pioneer P Krishnan Seminar:

## A collaboration between NIE and NLB – a significant contribution to the Tamil community in Singapore and worldwide

By Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group



**Above:** Mr P Krishnan (2nd from left) touring the exhibition

Singapore Literary Pioneer P Krishnan Seminar, jointly organised by the National Library Board (NLB) and Tamil Language and Culture Division, NIE's Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) Academic Group, was held on 10 to 11 March 2012, at NLB, comprising an exhibition, a book launch and a seminar.

The successful event was graced by Guest of Honour, Mr VP Jothi, President of the Tamil Language Council. It began with an opening speech by Ms Elaine Ng, CEO, NLB, followed by Professor Goh Yeng Seng, Head, ALC Academic Group, NIE.

The exhibition was set up to display the efforts taken to digitalise the handwritten novels, stories and plays which were written

by Mr Krishnan in the early 50s and 60s. Famous plays that were broadcast on Singapore's *Vasantham* TV Channel were showcased as well. The latest technology was being used in compiling the works of Mr Krishnan's work. Incorporating the element of the 'touch screen' technology to these converted works, the 4 CDs which were showcased during the exhibition undoubtedly attracted a large crowd.

Another highlight of this seminar was the Literary Pioneer P Krishnan – Seminar Proceedings. It was indeed a much awaited launch. The editors, Mr P Krishnan and Dr A Ra Sivakumaran, were there to share their collaborative journey in compiling the book.

The seminar had attracted the public, local and overseas writers (from India and Malaysia), as well as current and trainee teachers. Dr Kumaran, Head of the Tamil Studies Department, Malaya University; Leading writer, Dr Re Karthikesu; and well-known Malaysian Poet, Mr Seeni Naina Mohammad, were some of the renowned scholars who presented their papers and shared their knowledge and experience. Singapore writers including South East Asia Writers Award winner, Mr Kannabiran; Poet, Mr KTM Iqbal; Senior Teacher, Mr Rajeshwaran Poobalan; and former Tamil Master Teacher, Mr Pon Sundararasu were also present. It was indeed an engaging and informative experience for all who came.

The overwhelming response was definitely a success and an enlightening journey for NIE and NLB, who look forward to more of such collaborative events in the future.



**Above, from left:** Prof Goh Yeng Seng, Head, ALC, NIE; Mr V P Jothi, Chairman of the Tamil Language Council; Mr P. Krishnan; Mrs Elaine Ng; Dr A Ra Sivakumaran

## NIE welcomes new NIE Council Chairperson

NIE welcomes Ms Chan Lai Fung as Permanent Secretary (Education Policy) of the Ministry of Education. In her new appointment, which took effect from 1 April 2012, Ms Chan will work with NIE as Chairperson of the NIE Council, the governing body of the Institute.



On 10 April 2012, during Ms Chan's visit to the Institute, Professor Lee Sing Kong, Director, NIE together with NIE Deans and Heads of Department presented an overview on NIE's continuous efforts in the pursuit of excellence in teacher education as well as education research.

Ms Chan has served in various portfolios in the former Ministry of Communications and Information, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Public Service Division, Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Trade and Industry. She was appointed Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Law in 2006 and Permanent Secretary (Finance) (Performance) in 2009. Ms Chan is also the Chairman of the Energy Market Authority and the Energy Studies Institute. She also sits on the Boards of the Singapore Civil Service College and PSA International Pte Ltd. Ms Chan joined the Administrative Service in 1986 after graduating from Monash University in Australia with a Bachelor of Economics (First Class Honours) on a Colombo Plan Scholarship.

## Thank you, Mrs Tan Ching Yee, Immediate Past Permanent Secretary (Education)

NIE would like to express her heartfelt appreciation to Mrs Tan Ching Yee, immediate past Permanent Secretary (Education) of the Ministry of Education for her dedication and significant contributions since 1 December 2006 till 31 March 2012 as

Chairperson of the NIE Council. We, at NIE convey our best wishes to Mrs Tan in her new posting as Permanent Secretary (Health).



## Family In Service

By Mr Mohd Aidil Subhan Bin Mohamed Sulor, Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group



**Above, from left:** Son, Mr Sadiqin Subhan; Grandfather, Mr Mohamed Sulor; Mr Aidil Subhan; Son, Salihin Subhan; and Mother, Mdm Hamimah Sulaiman

The saying *"like father, like son"* is one that probably never grows old especially if it aptly describes the bond fathers and sons have when it comes to sharing the same enlistment in national service (NS).

This was especially so for Mr Mohd Aidil Subhan Bin Mohamed Sulor of NIE's Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group and his twin sons, Mr Salihin Subhan and Mr Sadiqin Subhan, who had all served in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) for their NS. At the SPF 45 year celebration in national service (known as NS45) alongside other NS agencies, Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) and the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), the three were reunited with fellow Servicemen and their friends and families to commemorate this special bond.

As a special feature chosen for the Father-and-Son pairings, Mr Aidil and his two sons represented SPF's combination on 26 May 2012. The momentous occasion included the launch of a series of events held island-wide and positioned to pronounce three key messages outlined. Focused on the fact that the NS enlistment is a national institution which forms the bedrock for the prosperity and progress of Singapore, it would also recognise the contributions and sacrifices made by our National Servicemen and highlight the many policies and initiatives implemented to help our NSmen. Thirdly, though NS enlistment has evolved after several decades, the sacred duty of protecting the country has never changed and will continue to be passed down from generation to generation.

These messages will definitely be a great memory for Mr Aidil and his sons who felt deeply honoured to be able to share with fellow Singaporeans, either personally, or as a family, their NS experiences. Mr Aidil related, "There are some unforgettable moments that a father and son cherish. With these celebrations and exchange of meaningful events, we hope that past, present and future National Servicemen and their families will come to know that every effort is a positive one that is duly recognised. We know that just like us, each experience shared will not be forgotten but rather celebrated with our fellow countrymen – present and future!"



**Above, from back to front:** Mr Aidil and his twin sons, Salihin and Sadiqin when they were young

## Pursue NIE's Newly-Revamped "Master of Arts in Humanities Education" that Offers Greater Flexibility

By Humanities and Social Studies Education Academic Group

The HSSE Academic Group is pleased to announce the launch of its newly-revamped "Master of Arts in Humanities Education" or the "MA(HE)". Formerly known as the "Master of Arts in Social Studies (MASS)", the revamped master's degree contains an extensive range of pedagogy and content courses specifically tailored for Humanities educators and curriculum specialists. It is the only Humanities MA thus far to offer a combination of pedagogy and disciplinary (History, Geography and Social Studies) courses in a single program.

It offers flexibility for participants to tailor their own pathway of study where they could pursue a cross-disciplinary pathway by opting for a range of courses across the three disciplinary strands. Alternatively, participants could opt for a specialised disciplinary pathway by signing up for courses in the specific disciplines of History and History Education; Geography and Geography Education or Social Studies. As such, participants could experience a broad range of new ideas and skills relevant to the Humanities or deepen their individual understanding of their respective disciplines.

In line with the revamped program, a slate of new pedagogy and content courses would be rolled out successively starting January 2013.

For more information, visit <http://www.hsse.nie.edu.sg/mass/index.htm>.

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia

By Mathematics and Mathematics Education Academic Group

The MME Academic Group, NIE is proud to host the "35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA)" from 2 to 6 July 2012. Singapore is privileged to be the first Asian city to host this important international conference that will benefit both researchers and teachers engaged in mathematics education.

"MERGA 2012" has its origins in Australia when Monash University hosted the first conference in 1977. Since then, it had been held in various cities in Australia and New Zealand. As a non-profit organisation, it has since grown to be known and attended by many mathematics educators worldwide to

- Encourage and promote quality research in all areas related to the teaching and learning of mathematics at all levels particularly in Australasia;
- Provide permanent means for sharing of research results and concerns among all members through regular publications and conferences;
- Seek means of implementing research findings at all decision levels to the teaching of mathematics and to the preparation of teachers of mathematics; and
- Maintain liaison with other organisations with similar interests in mathematics education or educational research.

The programme includes keynotes by international speakers, paper presentations, lectures, workshops and school visits. One unique feature of the conference is the Special Teachers Day, running in parallel to the scientific programme of the conference, to provide local and international teachers with opportunities to learn about new approaches to the teaching and learning of mathematics at the primary and secondary school levels. The Special Teachers Day for primary school teachers is on 3 July 2012 and that for secondary school teachers on 5 July 2012.

For more information, visit <http://math.nie.edu.sg/merga2012/>

## 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computers in Education 2012

By Learning Sciences Laboratory

Themed "Diverse Perspectives for Global Impact", the 2012 conference will focus on expanding the cultural and interdisciplinary understanding of theories and practices in the field of computers in education with a view towards creating global impacts. Seven theme-based sub-conferences in the five-day conference will foster the building of research communities in the field of Computers in Education.

Researchers and graduate students are welcomed to participate in the Conference to exchange research findings.

This conference is organised by Asia-Pacific Society for Computers in Education and hosted by Learning Sciences and Technology Academic Group & LSL, NIE Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, NTU.

For more information, visit <http://www.lsl.nie.edu.sg/icce2012/>

# NIE Recipients of NTU Nanyang Awards 2011

By Ms Wendy Goh, Public, International and Alumni Relations



**Above, from left:** Deputy President and Provost, Prof Freddy Boey; NTU President, Prof Bertil Andersson; Assoc Prof Ringo Ho, NTU School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Mr Hedwig Alfred, NTU Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information; Asst Prof Soon Wan Mei, Mathematics and Mathematics Education Academic Group; Mr Luo Qingming, Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group; and Dr Norhaida Bte Aman, English Language and Literature Academic Group

NIE winners of 'Excellence in Teaching Awards 2011' believe that passion and lifelong learning are the keys to teaching excellence.

The award, given out during the Nanyang Technological University's Nanyang Awards 2011 Presentation Ceremony on 2 March 2012, recognises teaching staff for their dedication and outstanding teaching practices to enrich students' learning experiences.

Amongst the 18 winners for this award category, there are three winners from NIE: Assistant Professor Soon Wan Mei, Mathematics and Mathematics Education Academic Group; Mr Luo Qingming, Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group and Dr Norhaida Bte Aman, English Language and Literature Academic Group.

Here, the three recipients took time out from their hectic schedules to share their insight and experiences on what it takes to motivate students and the important lessons they learned through the course of their profession...

What are attributes to teaching excellence?

**Mr Luo Qingming:**

**Have an enquiring mind...**

“ As a teacher you should constantly upgrade your professional knowledge and skills; research into the variety of pedagogy methods to bring about effective teaching; and employ the most appropriate and practical pedagogy. ”

**Show your passion...**

“ If a teacher is passionate, he will teach to the best of his abilities and always careful to lead by example through his behaviour and character, in the way he conducts lessons and handles student affairs. It is important to place yourself in your students' shoes, and reflect on the effectiveness of your pedagogy. This way, I can fully appreciate the needs of students and discover shortcomings in my pedagogy, so that I can further improve. ”

**Be engaging...**

“ For instance, I like to post questions during classes to encourage students to critically engage the problem at hand. I believe that practice makes perfect! Often, I come up with scenarios to challenge students' thinking and make it a point to encourage them along the way!” ”

## How do you motivate yourself towards excellence?

**Assistant Professor Soon Wan Mei:**

### *Have a nurturing spirit...*

“ I often give words of encouragement to students and think of ways to help them learn, for example, through links to real-life examples, or visualisation using relevant websites. A friendly disposition makes students feel comfortable and open with me about their learning difficulties, so that it becomes easier for me to assist them. ”

### *Stay positive...*

“ I try to inject humour into my classes and make my lessons as interactive as possible to engage and keep students awake! While there are times that my best efforts to help students improve seem futile, I stay positive and persevere to find other effective ways of teaching them. ”

### *Be inspiring...*

“ I feel touched when students motivate themselves to work hard in order not to disappoint me and waste my efforts. It is my interaction and experience with them that motivates me to work hard all the time! ”



## How do you 'inspire excellence' in students' daily work?

**Dr Norhaida Aman:**

### *Learning is fun...*

“ I believe that learning should be enjoyable and engaging. A teacher's enthusiasm is contagious and when a lesson is peppered with authentic examples and a dash of humour, even the dull subject can be made interesting! ”

### *Always resourceful...*

“ I try to provide the necessary supportive environment and resources for my students to grow, academically and holistically. I endeavour to provide opportunities for students to develop reflective skills and critical thinking dispositions so that they can better manage ambiguity and solve problems in their future roles as teachers. I am committed to helping my students become confident, lifelong learners, who are always eager to learn, and passionate about teaching and learning. ”



# Family Matters

By Ms Monica Khoo, Public, International and Alumni Relations

If trying to tell a joke, do a dance and answer official emails well at the same time is something you dare to attempt and succeed at, chances are, you have the hidden talents requisite for a position in the Staff Welfare and Recreation Fund Committee (SWRFC).

That's because, at any given time, the volunteers of the past SWRFC 2011/2012 have had to juggle hectic work schedules alongside planning and executing the slew of staff activities anticipated in a financial year. Much of which, includes an inexhaustible list of everything – like the high demand for a huge turnout, delicious food offerings, exhilarating games, attractive sponsorships, good entertainment, to name a few.

Of course, talents needed are aplenty and versatile when it comes to a voluntary role such as this but it is also not something at the behest of superiors. Rather, it's most often a welcomed posting that staff at NIE relish to take on. The simple reason being that one gets the unique chance to give back to colleagues and friends by organising a great time for all.

But as SWRFC Chair, Dr Chelsea Chew from the Psychological Studies Academic Group and her intrepid fellow members would attest, this was not all smiles and jokes from the start. It meant getting hands dirty, facing tight deadlines, sweating it out to set up booths and stands and many more minor trials that only made the team a close-knit bunch as is evident at their finale showcase, the "NIE Goes to the Movies" themed Staff Lunch (picture below left).

Admittedly, this group of academic and administrative staff agreed upon reflection that it was with the understanding, support and enthusiasm from their colleagues and bosses, crunch-times were more bearable. In hindsight as well, they said it definitely takes a passion for the institute and community as well as an optimistic disposition to keep going when the going gets tough.

Such as the NIE Family Week, which saw not one or two, but a sum of three campus-wide events running smoothly from 3 to 7 October last year. While staff benefited from the perks and extra time given to special bonding moments with their children at the workplace, SWRFC members quietly scurried in the background to ensure every last activity planned for the little ones went like clockwork. While for a few others, they even assumed the role of a baby-sitter that day to meet the needs of their peers' kids. As was the Staff Lunch which had an expected turnout of thousands of NIE community members, the objective of getting everyone to party hard as a family is something only the makings of deft hands and iron-clad cooperation can achieve.

So as the financial year ushers in a new force of keen volunteers to be reckoned with in the form of the SWRFC 2012/2013, we salute these joyful individuals who have branded the NIE community with hilarity and cheer while promoting a sense of belonging.

As famous novelist, Mr C S Lewis once declared that "the homemaker has the ultimate career..." we must thank the great team that brought us the memorable occasions and congratulate them for making this a home outside of home.

We heartily welcome the new group who will be racing to bring us more exciting happenings on-campus. SWRFC 2012/13 is helmed by Mr Novindarjit Singh, Administrative Manager from the Early Childhood and Special Needs Education Academic Group.



**Above:**  
SWRFC 2011/12  
(Member Ms Tan Liang  
See was not in photo)



**Above:**  
SWRFC 2012/13  
(Members: Dr Teo Chua  
Tee; Mr David Toh; and  
Ms Parimal Pingle were  
not in photo)

# The Educated Person

By Office of Education Research



What does it mean to be educated? This was a question participants of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Asia Pacific Annual Conference 2012 returned to again and again over the course of the three-day event. Held from 15 to 18 March 2012 in Singapore, this annual conference is the largest gathering of IB educators in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants

were challenged to rethink existing school systems and ways of teaching.

Professor Lee Wing On, Dean of Education Research at NIE, was one of five high-profile individuals invited to give a keynote address at the conference. Drawing together values in education from the East and West, Prof Lee showed how one can educate students to become individuals who seek the greatest good for society.

An “educated person” is an autonomous person, he posited, with self-awareness and capable of self-management. In Chinese societies, however, the cultivation of the self is not equated with individualism, as is the case in the West. Instead, self-realisation is seen as best achieved through collective realisation; the pursuit of individuality is the pursuit of being a “good person”.

Defining education in this light, Prof Lee cited educationist Christopher Hodgkinson, “It is the art of helping people to know themselves, to develop the resources of judgment and skills of learning and the sense of values needed on facing a future of unpredictable change, to understand the rights and responsibilities of adults in a democratic society and to exercise the greatest possible degree of control over their own fate.”

The keynote speech received positive feedback and led to further discussions with members of the audience. The conversations on what education means will no doubt continue to resound across the IB community.

## Measuring Up: What the Numbers Tell Us about Student Teachers

By Office of Education Research

Associate Professor Lee Ong Kim and Professor Goh Kim Chuan (pictured below, from left) share many things in common. Both hail from the Malaysian state of Malacca, and are even related by marriage. And during the time they were at the National Institute of Singapore (NIE), both were keen to see—and to assess—growth in their student teachers.

Until the end of 2011, Assoc Prof Lee was Head of the Policy and Leadership Studies Academic Group while Prof Goh was Head of the Office of Academic Quality Management. Over the last 7 years, they had worked together with other NIE colleagues on a longitudinal study to evaluate the impact of NIE’s teacher preparation programme.

“We wanted to see how our student teachers perceive themselves with regard to three areas: their attitude towards teaching, skills in teaching, and knowledge about teaching,” explained Prof Goh.

Adopting a mix of quantitative and qualitative approaches, they followed student teachers from the initial preparation years through to the beginning years of teaching. Student teachers from the 2005 cohort were surveyed at different points—the point of entry, during their 3 years in NIE, and when they graduated.

“Our interest, in teacher education, is in things like growth in teaching skills and in their attitude towards teaching. These are, to me, very interesting things to measure and to track over time,” said Assoc Prof Lee. Their study provided a rich baseline data from which they could draw conclusions about Singapore teachers’ attitudes and motivations.

For example, they found that many student teachers begin with high hopes and expectations, but there is a significant decline in their attitudes towards teaching when they encounter the realities of the classroom. However, they were encouraged to find that students remained the main focus even after the first few years of teaching.

They hope this understanding can inform how student teachers are prepared, to smooth their transition to school and help sustain their motivation to teach. Prof Goh suggested giving them earlier acquaintance with the real school situation: “We can do two things: one is to bring the classroom situation into the lecture hall and tutorials; the other is to do something about it during their practicum. Perhaps this may help reduce a little bit of the reality shock.”

The research project has now drawn to a close. Its conclusion also marked the close of this chapter in the lives of these two men. Assoc Prof Lee left to join his family in the US, and Prof Goh retired after almost 40 years in education—with 20 years spent in NIE. The loss in expertise and experience cannot be quantified and they will certainly be missed. *This is an abridged version of an original article that first appeared in ReEd (Research in Education), Volume 4, 2011, published by the Office of Education Research, NIE.*



# Symposium on Comparative Education

By Dr Shaljan Areepattamannil, Centre for International Comparative Studies.

A one-day symposium on comparative education, organised by the Centre for International Comparative Studies, took place on 17 February 2012 at NIE. The event has placed Singapore in the comparative education map of the world, with top scholars in the field visiting Singapore and presenting in the symposium.

Professor Lee Wing On, Dean of Education Research and President of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES), welcomed the delegates and expressed the need for promoting theoretically innovative, critically relevant and methodologically diverse yet rigorous research pertaining to comparative and international education in the era of globalisation and internationalisation.

Scholars of eminence in comparative education from across the world participated and presented papers on various aspects of comparative and international education, all with a special focus on policy and developmental issues.

Invited speakers included Past WCCES President and current UNESCO Chair of Comparative Education Professor Mark Bray (Comparative Education Research Centre, University of Hong Kong) and Past CIES President Professor Gita Steiner-Khamsi (Teachers College, Columbia University). Other speakers were: Professor David Turner (University of Glamorgan), Professor Lynn Davies (University of Birmingham), Professor Diane Napier (University of Georgia), Professor Suzanne Majhanovich (University of Western Ontario), Professor Cristian Perez Centeno (Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero), Professor Heidi Biseth (Buskerud University College), Professor Fatma Gök (Boğaziçi University), Professor Karin Amos (University of Tuebingen) and Dr Christine Fox (University of Wollongong).

The symposium concluded with exciting and intellectually stimulating discussions on comparative and international education, initiated by Assistant Professor Jasmine Sim, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Academic Group, NIE.



**Left:** Prof Lee Wing On, Dean, OER giving his opening address



**Right:** Prof Mark Bray, Comparative Education Research Centre, University of Hong Kong and past WCCES President and current UNESCO Chair of Comparative Education



**Left:** Prof Gita Steiner-Khamsi, Teachers College, Columbia University and past CIES President



**Above:** Top scholars in comparative education add rigour to the symposium

**Above:** Prof David Turner, University of Glamorgan



# Reading and Mathematical Literacy

By Office of Education Research

The Centre for International Comparative Studies (CICS) is conducting a study on reading literacy and the acquisition of mathematical knowledge among students. Dr Shaljan Areepattamanni, a Research Scientist from the Office of Education Research, shared his findings at a research seminar organised by the Centre for Research in Pedagogy and Practice.

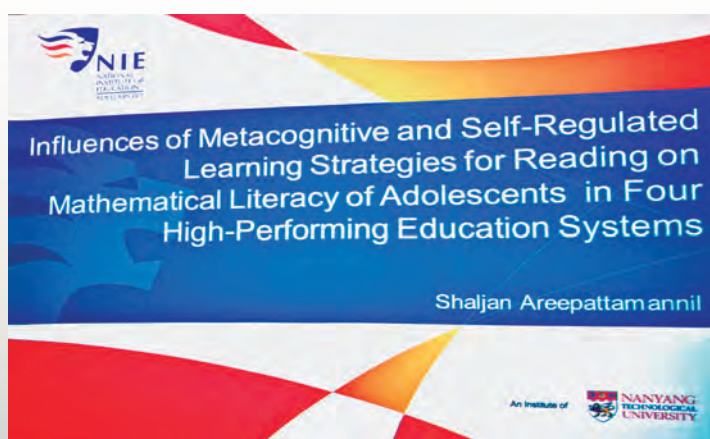
The study drew on data from the fourth cycle of Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Dr Shaljan and Professor Berinderjeet Kaur, Head, CICS, examined the influences of metacognitive and self-regulated learning strategies for reading on mathematical literacy among 15-year-old students from four of the world's five best education systems: namely Hong Kong, Korea, Shanghai and Singapore.

The results suggested that metacognitive learning strategies and the use of control strategies in reading were positively associated with mathematical literacy in these countries. On the other hand, the use of memorisation strategies in reading is negatively associated with mathematical literacy.

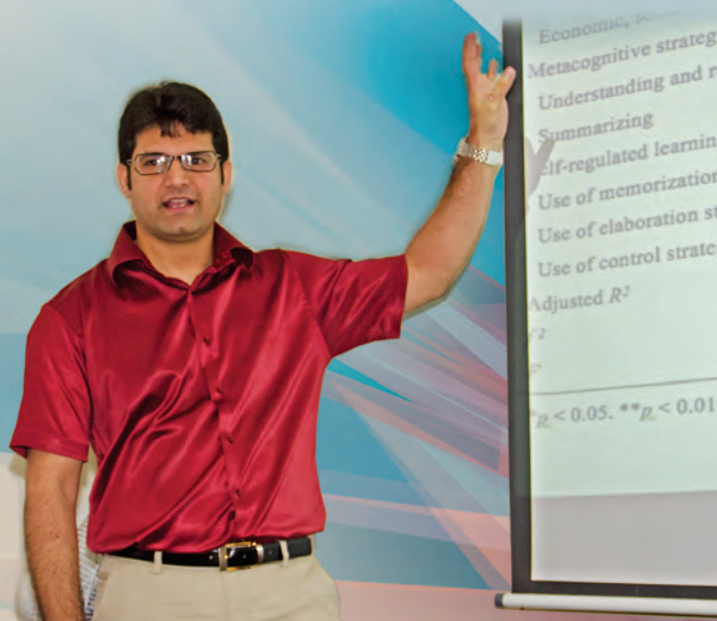
Elaboration strategies in reading were negatively associated with mathematical literacy only in Hong Kong and Singapore. Such learning strategies in reading were not related to mathematical literacy in Shanghai and Korea.

The research findings indicated that the ability to read mathematically is crucial in the current era of high-stakes testing. To put it another way, facility with the language used to characterise, express and apply mathematical concepts were indispensable for the development of mathematical skills and mastery of mathematical concepts.

**Right:** Dr Shaljan Areepattamanni, OER Research Scientist presenting at the CRPP seminar



Above: The title of Dr Shaljan Areepattamanni's presentation



## 23<sup>rd</sup> International Biology Olympiad

The 23rd International Biology Olympiad (IBO) will be held in Singapore for the first time from 8 to 15 July 2012. The event looks to encourage and challenge exceptionally gifted students in biology.

IBO 2012 is organised by a team of professors and support staff from NIE Singapore at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), and the Department of Biological Sciences at the National University of Singapore (NUS) as well as other academics and administrative staff members from various departments in NTU and NUS. Efforts are supported by the Ministry of Education in the form of professional administrative alliance as well as financial grant.

During the IBO week, student competitors will be housed in the NUS campus, while jury members will be staying in the NTU campus. The IBO Practical Tasks and Theoretical Tests will be conducted at NIE. Co-chairpersons of the IBO 2012 Organising Committee are Associate Professor Shirley Lim,

Head of NIE's Natural Sciences and Science Education Academic Group, and Associate Professor Lim Tit Meng, NUS' Department of Biological Science and CE, Science Centre Singapore.

We welcome all competing teams and wish them all the best!

### About the International Biology Olympiad

The IBO is a competition for senior high school students (equivalent to junior college in Singapore). Their skills in tackling biological problems, and dealing with biological experiments are tested. Interest in biology, inventiveness, creativity and perseverance are necessary. In bringing together gifted students, the IBO challenges and stimulates these students to expand their talents and to promote their career as scientists. A very important point is bringing together young people from all over the world in an open, friendly and peaceful mind. Every participating country sends a maximum of four students (the winners of the respective national competitions), accompanied by two team leaders.

For more details, please visit: <http://www.ibo2012.org/>

# S\$10,000 Grant for NIE Study on Elderly Friendly Pedestrian Crossing System

By Ms Premadevi Perumal, Public International and Alumni Relations



The friendly green man flashing on Singapore's streets is being studied to find out just how much time is sufficient for the elderly to cross the streets safely while pulling a shopping cart or pushing a pram. NIE's Assistant Professor Kong Pui Wah from Physical Education and Sports Science

Academic Group's on-going study on developing an elderly-friendly pedestrian crossing system, was given an award grant of S\$10,000 by the Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Welfare Foundation (MSIWF).

A timely study in the context of Singapore's ageing population, the research team led by Assistant Professor Kong aims to provide accurate and specific data to calculate the appropriate extra green man time needed by the elderly. This would be calculated in relation to the length of crossing, task demands and characteristics of pedestrians such as age and sex, including daily activities that the elderly do.

Assistant Professor Kong says, "The motivation for this study comes from my personal experience and observation that many pedestrians in Singapore cannot complete crossing the road within the given time. The situation seems worse when they are handling extra loads such as pulling a shopping cart or pushing a pram."

The findings of this study may also lend more ideas to the Land Transport Authority's pilot scheme - "Green Man Plus". The new Green Man Plus now allows up to 12 seconds more of green man time for elderly people who tap their senior citizen concession card on the reader mounted above the standard push button on the traffic light pole.

## Postgraduate Conference 2012: Exploring English Language and Literature through Teaching and Researching

By ELL-Postgraduate Conference Organising Committee 2012

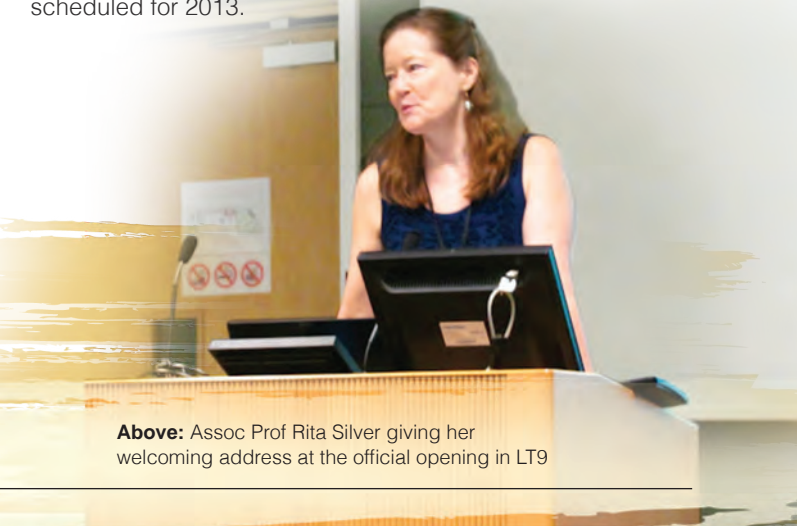
The English Language and Literature (ELL) Academic Group at NIE hosted and sponsored the third annual NIE-ELL Postgraduate Conference (PGC) on English language, Literature, and Education on 23 April 2012. This year's theme, "Exploring English Language and Literature through Teaching and Researching" strongly reflects the on-going efforts of ELL to promote research within the teaching education fraternity and, in particular, to emphasise the importance of engaging educators with the nexus of research and practice.

Associate Professor Rita Silver, Deputy Head of Research, ELL, warmly welcomed more than 70 local and international students as well as faculty members in her address. Dr CJ Wee Wanling, Associate Professor of English in School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) at the Nanyang Technological University, further captivated the conference participants with his plenary address on "Difficult Reading Skills and Mass Culture – So is There a Connection Here?".

The conference proceeded with the parallel sessions which focused on teaching and researching in English Language and Literature. More than twenty presenters from the different programmes within ELL — PhD, MA by Research, MA (Applied Linguistics), MEd (English Language), MEd (English Literature) and Postgraduate Diploma in English Language Teaching

(PGDELT) — presented papers that ranged from practical classroom applications to theoretical discussions of language education issues. The lively presentations were followed by engaging discussions during the Q-and-A session.

The successful one-day conference provided a platform for postgraduate students to showcase and share their research, created opportunities for the exchange of diverse ideas, facilitated collaborative research efforts and fostered professional understandings. The next conference is scheduled for 2013.



Above: Assoc Prof Rita Silver giving her welcoming address at the official opening in LT9

# Sowing the seeds of self-determination

By Assistant Professor Adrian Kee and Mr How Yew Meng, Physical Education and Sports Science Academic Group

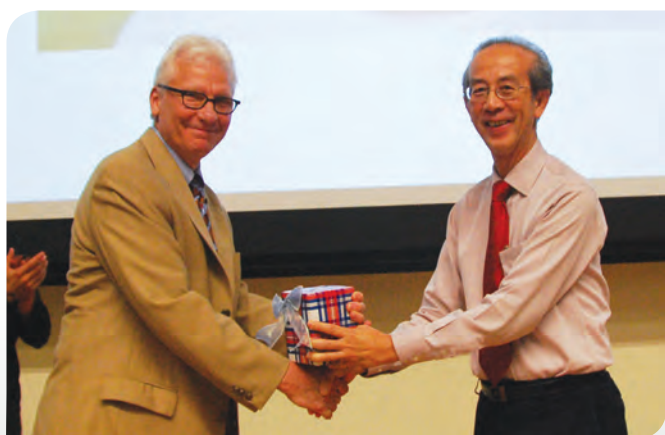
The seeds of autonomy and intrinsic motivation were widely dispersed in Singapore when Professor Richard Ryan from the Rochester University spent two months in NIE as a visiting professor from the 11th March to 7th May 2012. This is Professor Ryan's second visit to NIE. He was here with Professor Edward Deci two years ago at the inaugural Annual MERL Seminar. These two scholars are internally renowned for their work in motivation, and are the originators of the now widely-researched Self-determination Theory. They are also consultants to the Motivation in Educational Research Laboratory (MERL) in NIE.

This year, Professor Ryan was invited back to NIE by the Psychological Studies (PS) Academic Group and the Physical Education and Sports Science (PESS) Academic Group. During his stint, he frequently shuttled between the PS and the PESS academic groups, offering his expertise to various

research projects and advised several faculty members and students. He also presented in the Annual MERL Seminar on the 27 March 2012, where he spoke at length about motivation, learning and flourishing from the Self-Determination Theory perspective to the predominately teachers audience.

After the MERL seminar, Professor Ryan was interviewed by the Straits Times. His view on the importance of autonomy and intrinsic motivation was given a full-page coverage on the 1st April 2012 edition of the newspaper. The provocative article title "Should you reward your child for A grades?" certainly caught the attention of many parent-readers. Consequently, the seeds of autonomy and intrinsic motivation were further dispersed when the Ministry of Education's Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) Branch and Guidance Branch, CHIJ St Nicholas Girls, and the Air Force Training Command (the training institution for the Republic of Singapore Air Force) invited him to present at their venues. Professor Ryan's short stay in Singapore had definitely created a huge impact on the ways parents, teachers and trainers view motivation, and we look forward to his return to NIE to witness the fruits of the seeds he had sowed.

[Interested readers can visit <http://www.nie.edu.sg/newsroom/media-coverage/2012/should-you-reward-your-child-a-grades> to read the featured news article.]



Above: Dr Quek Jin Jong gracing the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour



Above: Teachers learning about Prof Ryan's work during the Annual MERL Seminar



Above: Prof Ryan making a point on the importance of autonomy and intrinsic motivation

# The Caring Teacher Awards 2012 Presentation Ceremony

Time to Show These Educators Some Care and Concern

By Ms Vivien Lee, Public, International and Alumni Relations



On 8 May 2012, 15 teachers from various schools were honoured as exceptional role models at the Caring Teacher Awards (CTA) 2012 Presentation Ceremony. These caring teachers were nominated by their students, students' parents and colleagues for their dedication and commitment towards the holistic development of their students.

Here's a look at the presentation ceremony.

**Below:** Guest-of-Honour Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education (2nd from right) with CTA 2012 National Level winners: (from left): Mr Ng Hong Peng, Anderson Junior College, Mdm Valeria Chee, Xinghua Primary School and Mr Allan Yeong, Northland Secondary School



**Above:** CTA 2012 winners with Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education (10th from right); Mr Matt Aguiar, Chairman and Managing Director, ExxonMobil Asia Pacific (9th from right); Mr Loh Pin Chuan, Singapore Public and Government Affairs Manager, ExxonMobil Asia Pacific (7th from right); Dr Nick Aplin, Chairman, CTA Organising Committee



**Above:** Students of Fernvale Primary School at the CTA Award Ceremony with Mdm Balakrishna, Principal of Fernvale Primary School (extreme left) to support Mrs Emily Chua (centre), one of the CTA 2012 National Commendation Award winners



**Above:** Mdm Valerie Chee, CTA 2012 National Award Winner with Xinghua Primary students who turned up to celebrate this joyous occasion with her

**Below, from left:** Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education shares a light-hearted moment with national winners, Mr Allan Yeong and Mr Ng Hong Peng

**Middle:** Guests tucked into a sumptuous buffet after the ceremony



**Above, from left:** Mdm Rahayu Binte Shukor and guest exchange ideas with Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education



**Above:** Dr Nick Aplin, Chairman of the CTA Organising Committee welcoming guests to the CTA 2012 Presentation Ceremony



**Above:** Mr Loh Pin Chuan, Singapore Public and Government Affairs Manager, ExxonMobil Asia Pacific acknowledging the hard work and dedication of teachers. ExxonMobil Asia Pacific is the sponsor of the Caring Teacher Awards since the award started in 1996



**Above:** Mdm Rahayu Binte Shukor, one of the National Commendation Award Winners with Mdm Heilda-Iryani, Vice-Principal of Junyuan Primary School

## National Award Winners

1	Mdm Valerie Chee	Xinghua Primary School	Primary School Level
2	Mr Allan Yeong	Northland Secondary School	Secondary School Level
3	Mr Ng Hong Peng	Anderson Junior College	Junior College/Centralised Institute Level

## National Commendation Award Winners

1	Mrs Emily Chua	Fernvale Primary School	Primary School Level
2	Mrs Mey See	Greendale Primary School	Primary School Level
3	Mdm Rahayu Binte Shukor	Junyuan Primary School	Primary School Level
4	Mr Patrick Ang	Loyang Primary School	Primary School Level
5	Mdm Angie Thong	Rivervale Primary School	Primary School Level
6	Mrs Janet Koo	Tampines North Primary School	Primary School Level
7	Ms Angelina Huang	Yumin Primary School	Primary School Level
8	Miss Fang Chye Pin	Dunman High School	Secondary School Level
9	Mdm Loh Mui Ching	Nan Hua High School	Secondary School Level
10	Miss Jacque Loo	Si Ling Secondary School	Secondary School Level
11	Miss Teo Siew Lan	St Hilda's Secondary School	Secondary School Level
12	Miss Elizabeth Teo	Dunman High School	Junior College/Centralised Institute Level

# Distinguished NIE Alumnus, Brunei Education Minister visits NIE

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

NIE welcomed the distinguished Brunei Education Minister, Pehin Dato Hj Abu Bakar (4th from right), who visited NIE as part of his Singapore visit programme organised by the Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship. Besides briefings on NIE's programmes, the Minister met up with the Bruneian participants of the 2012 Leaders in Education Programme, and learnt about the training and development of school teachers and leaders. Minister is an NIE alumnus with a Diploma in Education.



## Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Venue	Contact Person
35th Annual Conference of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA) 2012 Register at: <a href="http://math.nie.edu.sg/merga2012/">http://math.nie.edu.sg/merga2012/</a>	2 - 6 July	NIE, Singapore	Associate Professor Dindyal Jaguthsing, Mathematics and Mathematics Academic Group Email: <a href="mailto:merga@nie.edu.sg">merga@nie.edu.sg</a>
Leaders in Education Programme International 2012	4 - 18 July	NIE, Singapore	Mr Bryan Ang, NIEI Email: <a href="mailto:weiloong.ang@nie.edu.sg">weiloong.ang@nie.edu.sg</a>
Teachers' Investiture Ceremony (July) 2012	11-12 July	Nanyang Auditorium, NTU	Mrs Mak Lek Cher, Office of Teacher Education, Email: <a href="mailto:lekcher.mak@nie.edu.sg">lekcher.mak@nie.edu.sg</a>
International Biology Olympiad 2012 Register at: <a href="http://www.ibo2012.org/">http://www.ibo2012.org/</a>	8 - 15 July	NIE, Singapore	Ms Choong Tsui Wei, Secretariat Email: <a href="mailto:secretariat@ibo2012.org">secretariat@ibo2012.org</a>
Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association (PECERA) Conference 2012 Register at: <a href="http://pecera2012.aeces.org/">http://pecera2012.aeces.org/</a>	19 - 22 July	NIE, Singapore	Email: <a href="mailto:pecera.sg@aeces.org">pecera.sg@aeces.org</a>
The 20th International Conference on Computers in Education (ICCE) 2012 <a href="http://www.lsl.nie.edu.sg/icce2012/">http://www.lsl.nie.edu.sg/icce2012/</a>	26 - 30 November	NIE, Singapore	Email: <a href="mailto:icce2012@nie.edu.sg">icce2012@nie.edu.sg</a>
World Association for Lesson Studies (WALS) 2012 Register at: <a href="http://www.walsnet.org/">http://www.walsnet.org/</a>	28 - 30 November	NIE, Singapore	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@walsnet.org">admin@walsnet.org</a>

**WALS International Conference 2012**  
**Challenging Practice, Enhancing Partnerships, Nurturing the Child**  
**28 – 30 November 2012**  
**National Institute of Education, Singapore**

The World Association of Lesson Studies (WALS) is hosting its 8th Annual Conference in Singapore! The linchpin of educational improvement involves the examination of cultural routines, questioning the assumptions that underlie these routines and working to improve these routines over time. The WALS 2012 Conference will provide rich discussions and sharing on how teachers and researchers around the world challenge assumptions and strive to improve their practice of nurturing the child.

WALS 2012 will also provide a platform for enhancing partnerships and facilitate sessions where researchers and practitioners from around the world can share potential collaborative research projects.

### Program Highlights

The three keynote speakers who will address you at the conference are:



**Professor Kiyomi Akita**  
University of Tokyo, Japan



**Professor James Spillane**  
Northwestern University, USA



**Professor Ann Lieberman**  
Stanford University, USA

You may also look forward to exciting collaborative plenary sessions by researchers, teacher educators and school leaders in the Lesson Study field from various countries including the China, Hong Kong, Japan Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam. These cover a range of international perspectives on enduring issues pertaining to leadership, partnership, school reform, teaching, learning communities and students development in relation to Lesson Study. Some of these plenary sessions include:

1. Where is the Theory in Lesson Study?
2. Deepening Student Learning through Lesson Study
3. Breaking New Grounds in Early Childhood Settings
4. Partnerships to Sustain Lesson Study
5. Learning Communities and School Reform through Lesson Study
6. Developing Tools and Artefacts for supporting Lesson Study and Instructional Approaches

### Call for Papers

The WALS 2012 Conference is accepting papers on Lesson and Learning Studies related to the following sub-themes:

- Teacher Professional Development
- Action Research
- Pedagogies and Teaching Strategies
- Designing for Learning with Quality in Specific Subjects
- Research on Lessons in Different Cultures
- Issues about Leading Lesson Study
- Learning Communities for School Reform
- Developing Communities of Practices
- Creating Knowledge in Practice
- Student Learning and Development

Deadline for abstract submission: 1st July 2012  
Notification of acceptance: 1st September 2012

[www.walsnet.org](http://www.walsnet.org)

Organised by:

**WALS**



Supported by:



Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE



At NIE we can help you realise your potential to become an informed and competent educator who will have an impact on transforming professional practices in your school and institution. You will learn from teams of dedicated academics with a wealth of practical knowledge and research experience in programmes that have been carefully designed to meet your diverse needs. We can help you succeed!

## Higher Degree Programmes

Application opens for January 2013 intake!

### DUAL AWARD PROGRAMME WITH INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (Closing date: 24 June 2012)

- Doctor in Education

### BY COURSEWORK (Closing date: 24 June 2012)

- Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics)
- Master of Arts (Applied Psychology)
- Master of Arts (Instructional Design & Technology)
- Master of Arts (Humanities Education)
- Master of Arts (Leadership & Educational Change)  
*(joint programme with Teachers College, Columbia University)* **NEW**
- Master of Education with the following specialisations:
  - o Art
  - o Chinese Language
  - o Curriculum & Teaching
  - o Developmental Psychology
  - o Drama
  - o Early Childhood
  - o Educational & Psychological Measurement & Evaluation

### BY RESEARCH (Closing date: 31 July 2012)

- Master of Arts
- Master of Science
- Doctor of Philosophy
- o English Language
- o English Literature
- o Gifted Education
- o Learning Sciences & Technologies
- o Malay Language
- o Mathematics
- o Music
- o Primary
- o Science
- o Special Education
- Master of Science (Exercise & Sport Studies)
- Master of Science (Life Sciences)
- Master of Science (Mathematics for Educators)
- Master of Teaching
- Doctor in Education

For more information, please visit [www.nie.edu.sg/jan2013](http://www.nie.edu.sg/jan2013) or e-mail us at [nieadmpp@nie.edu.sg](mailto:nieadmpp@nie.edu.sg)