

## N I E ARTS FESTIVAL '91



Dr Cham delivering his address at the Opening Ceremony of the Artsfest '91.



NIE presented a scroll to Dr Cham as a memento. It reads "Open the Paths to Excellence in Technology" & "Preserve Our Peoples' Cultures".

The National Institute of Education held its own Arts Festival from 29 November to 1 December '91. Entitled "Learning Through the Arts", the three-day festival served as a showcase for the newly established NIE to highlight the role of the Arts in Education. It also served to heighten awareness of the Arts among the student body and to encourage awareness of artistic expression across the cultures in Singapore. The event also attempted to provide glimpses of the many varied activities carried out in NIE, particularly in the area of Arts.

The NIE Artsfest '91 was opened by the Guest of Honour, Dr Cham Tao Soon, President of NTU and Chairman of NIE Council, on 29 November '91. In his address, Dr Cham highlighted the need for educators to recognise the importance of cultivating intelligent minds and feeling hearts. He said, "We must develop among our children and students the habit

of seeing, knowing and discriminating, and help them through learning to know something good when they see one, be it a painting, a piece of music, a play, a building, or a speech. It is therefore fitting that NIE, an institute of the University dedicated to education, would on this occasion choose to emphasize the importance of learning through the arts. Not that all learning has to be learning through the arts, but that the arts as a learning subject, is no less important than mathematics or science or the languages in the schools, or accountancy, engineering or the sciences in the Universities. Just as mathematics may cultivate a culture and a discipline of analytical thinking, so the arts cultivate a culture and a discipline of fine perception and expression. There is no lack of intellect in either, there is much of necessity in both".

Dr Cham also highlighted in his speech the plans for NIE (as part of NTU's commitment to becoming a comprehensive



Dr Cham being briefed by Dr Jane Chia, Lecturer from the School of Arts, during the tour of art exhibits & displays.



The NIE Band entertained guests at the Official Opening.

University of excellence), to offer new academic programmes in the expressive and fine arts and programmes which would allow for a combination of the arts and the sciences.

The three-day festival saw culture, drama and the arts being promoted extensively throughout the Bukit Timah campus. The arts festival covered a wide range of activities which included the various forms of creative expressions such as rhythmic gymnastics, Indian music, modern dance, plays and poetry reading. The many exhibitions on display included Chinese calligraphy and painting, ceramics display and sculpting, all done by NIE students and staff and children who attended NIE's Saturday Morning Art Programme, better known as S.M.ART.

The festival culminated in OPUS 16 - a concert of choral, instrumental and symphonic band music - held at the Victoria Concert Hall on Sunday, 1 December '91.

The NIE Artsfest '91 was indeed a memorable occasion for the entire NIE community - and especially for our first year students who for the first time experienced the diversity of what NIE has to offer in the area of Arts education. The vibrant atmosphere reflected in all the activities demonstrated the enterprising energy of the staff and student population at NIE and the success of the three-day festival is no doubt attributed to them. There are plans for the 1992 arts festival to include the involvement of the main NTU student body in Jurong Campus. This would not only promote a better relationship between the student bodies in both campuses but also offer a more exciting range of programmes in the festival.



A performance on Indian classical & modern music.



Learning of Social Studies through Dance – a dance using the 4 main principles of movement: shape, space, time & weight.



OPUS 16 - A showcase of the musical versatility & achievements of both NIE staff & Students.