

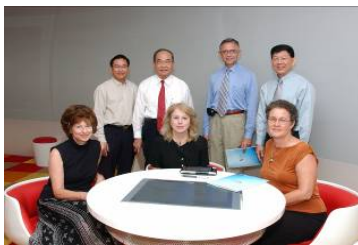
Year In Review AY 2007-2008 Corporate Highlights



National Institute of Education, Singapore

NIE is an established provider of teacher education and recognized for its research excellence in the field of education, producing high quality graduates who form the foundation of a successful education system. The past year has seen many exciting developments, resulting in greater international recognition, more robust academic programmes, an increased research capacity and a standard of excellence that marks NIE as an 'institute of distinction'. This report highlights some of NIE's most noteworthy achievements during AY 2007 – 2008 (July 2007 – June 2008).

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL LAUDS NIE's STRATEGIC ROADMAP TO 2012



The academic year got off to a rousing start when an International Advisory Panel (IAP), appointed by the Ministry of Education, arrived in Singapore between 16 and 20 July 2007 to advise NIE on its strategic directions over the next five years. The panel deliberated on how NIE could enhance its reputation as a teacher education institute within a university context and build further capacity in educational research, development and innovation so as to expand its contribution to the development of education in Singapore.



Chaired by former NTU President Prof Cham Tao Soon, the panel comprised of distinguished academics such as Prof Marilyn Cochran-Smith (Lynch School of Education, Boston College), Prof Linda Darling-Hammond (Stanford University School of Education), Dr Robert Kozma, (Center for Technology in Learning, SRI International), Prof Marlene Scardamalia (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto) and Prof Geoff Whitty (Institute of Education, University of London).



The IAP reviewed and fully endorsed NIE's Strategic Plan, known as the 333 Roadmap 2007 – 2012. The panel viewed the 333 Roadmap as having set the right strategies which are directly relevant to the needs of the Singapore education system, and having identified the right enablers for NIE to achieve sustainable success. The panel also advised that the timely implementation of these strategies was critical to the continued growth of NIE and to the development of a quality teaching force. The IAP members were also unanimous in their assessment that amongst teaching institutions, NIE is unique in pursuing and excelling at both teacher education and education research.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

NIE provides a comprehensive range of academic programmes with a holistic teacher-centric continuum. Pre-service and In-service programmes are integrated towards holistic professional development for new teacher trainees and serving educators, preparing them for classroom teaching and future leadership responsibilities. While there has been an increase in enrolment for current offerings, new programmes were introduced to cater to new demands of teacher education and the needs of school communities which target various types of educators.

New Pre-service Programmes

- The ***Bachelor of Education (BEd) programme*** caters to non-graduates of the teaching force, particularly primary school educators who wish to develop their skills as classroom teachers. A key component in the BEd programme is the Pedagogical Content Knowledge (PCK) Subjects which provide the necessary content and pedagogical foundations for teaching in primary schools. The other main components comprise research methodology, action research project and integrative arts course.
- A ***Junior College track for the PGDE programme*** was initiated and currently being improved with the objective of preparing new teachers for the learning needs of junior college students. The course will be offered starting July 2009.

New Higher Degree Programmes

- The ***M-Teach*** is a re-positioning of the PGDE as a masters degree programme geared for teacher practitioners.
- ***MEd (Developmental Psychology)*** and ***MA (Counselling and Guidance)*** were added in the roster of programme offerings based on market demands and analysis of the needs of teaching community on these fields.
- There are ***new specialisations under the MSc Life Sciences***, namely, Applied Physics and Zoological Sciences.
- The ***Doctor in Education Dual Award programme*** saw its pioneer cohort embark on their first course in August 2007. The programme is a result of a collaborative agreement made in August 2006 between NIE and the Institute of Education, University of London. This professional qualification is targeted at experienced practitioners who intend to enhance their professional expertise further with skills in research, evaluation and reflection on practice.

Teacher Professional Development (TPD) Offerings

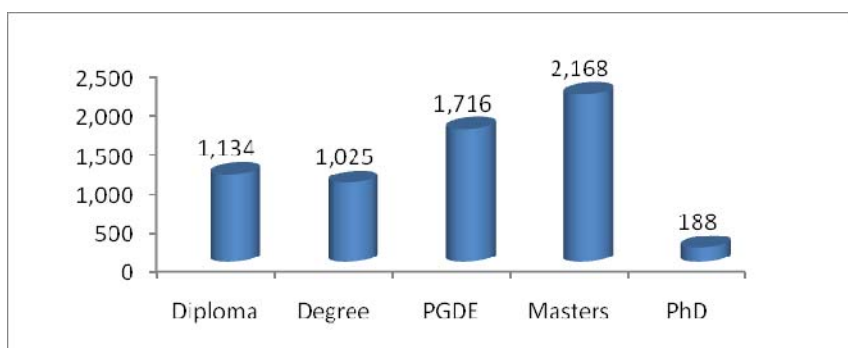
- TPD offerings comprised several course and programme initiatives offered in collaboration between NIE and MOE in 2006 as well as new ones launched in 2007. These include:
 - Diploma in Physical Education (launched in 2007)
 - Certificate in Teaching Pupils with High Ability (launched in 2007)
 - Teach Less Learn More (TLLM) courses (launched 2007)
 - Diploma in School Counselling (launched in 2006)
 - Certificate in Special Needs Support (Phase 2 - launched in 2006)
 - Structured Mentoring Programme (launched 2006)
- ***Management and Leadership in Schools (MLS)*** was launched in July 2007 with a cohort of 160 participants. Two key components of the programme are the regional visits (fully funded by MOE) and the Curriculum Project. From July 2008, a new session on Curriculum and Instructional Leadership will be added to strengthen the link between the project with the school and national dimensions of curriculum and instructional leadership.
- NIE in partnership with MOE, Singapore, has developed a number of ***joint leadership programmes*** with Malaysia, United Kingdom, and Germany :
 - **NIE/MOE – IAB**
NIE and IAB (Institut Aminuddin Baki) Malaysia signed an agreement to train school principals, in a ceremony witnessed by Education Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen and his Malaysian counterpart, Hishamuddin Hussein. The Agreement of Cooperation and Exchange' provides the platform for educational leaders from both countries to learn and develop, as well as deepen school linkages.
 - **NIE/MOE - NCSL**
Arising from MOE Singapore and NIE's discussion with NCSL (National College of School Leaders) UK, the Joint Leadership Development Programme for Singapore and UK School Leaders has been developed. This programme will start in November 2008. The proposed programme will be a 2-week fulltime executive programme for school leaders in UK and Singapore. Participants will spend 1-week in each country.
 - **NIE-TUM**
NIE has also developed a Joint Leadership Programme with the Technical University of Munich (TUM). Two NIE staff will travel to TUM to provide leadership training and development to school leaders in Munich. The one-week programme will adopt features of the Leaders in Education Programme.

New Teachers' Language Development Centre (TLDC) enhances language use among student teachers

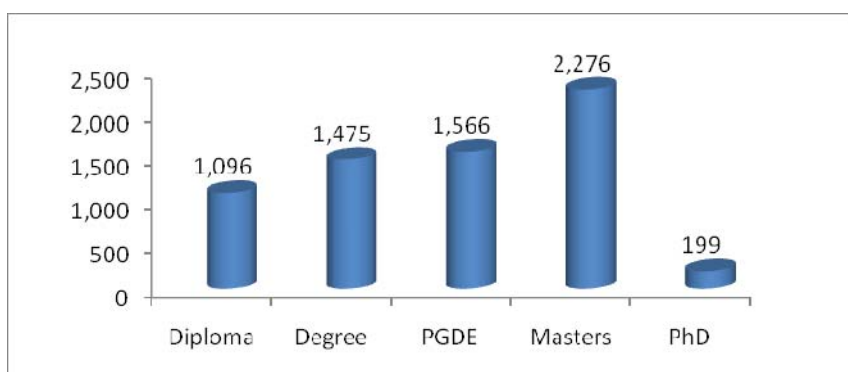
The Teachers' Language Development Centre (TLDC) was set up in January 2008 to help enhance the standards of language use amongst NIE student teachers. Besides taking charge of the LEADS modules in the pre-service curricula, namely *Communication Skills for Teachers*, *English for Academic and Professional Purposes* and *Academic Discourse Skills*, the TLDC also conducts courses leading to the Certificate in English Language Studies (CELS) for English language teachers in the Diploma in Education and degree courses.

ENROLMENT STATISTICS

AY 2007/2008



AY 2008/2009



Teachers' Investiture

At the Teachers' Investiture Ceremony in July 2007, 2,051 graduands were formally welcomed into education service. Inclusive of the 349 who graduated earlier in January 2007, the total number of graduating teachers in 2007 was 2,400. In 2008, the January and July graduands numbered 2,006.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHER EDUCATION

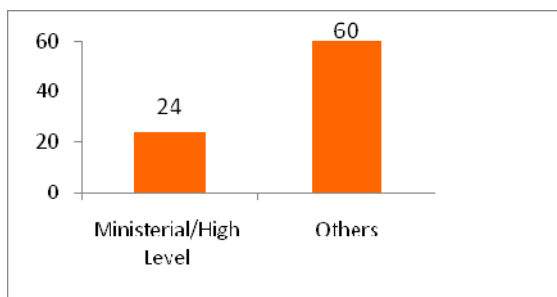
NIE's expertise goes beyond contributing to the Singapore education system. Many requests were made by overseas visitors to visit the campus to learn about best practices in teacher education and to initiate future collaborations. High level decision-makers such as education ministers and senior leaders of educational institutions have made NIE its first choice in exchanging ideas on teacher education, teacher preparation, curriculum planning and professional and leadership programmes.

Visit Highlights

Israel's Minister of Education Prof Yuli Tamir together with the Israeli Ambassador to Singapore Mr Ilan Ben-Dov and ministry officials were hosted by NIE on 25 July 2007. The visit was prompted by the desire to learn about Singapore's education system, which the Minister believed was due to the quality of Singapore teachers, and expressed interest in the thinking skills in the local curriculum and the use of technology in the classrooms.

A list of Who's Who from the local and international Olympic fraternity visited NIE on 5 April 2008 to witness the unveiling of the Singapore Olympic Academy's Olympic Mural by Dr Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee. Dr Rogge and his delegation were also in town to sign the inaugural Youth Olympic Games 2010 contract, in which NIE has been earmarked as the Games Village.

Delegates from the African nations of Ghana, Madagascar and Mozambique visited NIE as part of their Singapore Study tour organized by the World Bank, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Enterprise, Singapore. The delegates took part in the Leaders in Education Training for Sustained Growth in Africa (LETSGA), a workshop conducted by NIE and ITE. The workshop provided a venue for discussion on strategic leadership, school management systems, curriculum development and delivery, resource management and development. Some participants shared that they are "impressed with Singapore's education system and with NIE" and noted that, "NIE will play a critical role in transforming teachers into an expert of education and also an agent of change in the education system of the future."



**Breakdown of
AY 07/08 Visits**

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

A significant number of partnerships have been established with both local and foreign institutions in the form of MOUs and Agreements. The linkages with such reputable and distinguished institutions as a strategic partner in achieving educational goals attests to NIE's standing as one of the top high-calibre teacher education institutions in the world.

- ***International Alliance of Leading Educational Institutes***

Eight founding members of a new international alliance, representing some of the world's leading education institutes, inked a Memorandum of Understanding formalising their partnership at NIE on 21 August 2007. The alliance serves as a think tank to enhance the profile and quality of education internationally. Its initial priority is to examine the issue of teacher education. The institutes in the International Alliance are:

- Danish School of Education, University of Aarhus, Denmark;
- Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University, People's Republic of China;
- Institute of Education, University of London, UK;
- Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne, Australia;
- College of Education, Seoul National University, Korea;
- Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada;
- School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA; and
- National Institute of Education, Singapore.



- ***Citi Foundation***

The reality show Ka-Ching! was aired on the national television Kids Central (TV 12 channel) from July to October 2007 on Saturday afternoons. The reality show, through the sponsorship of Citi, aimed to inform children about good money management and entrepreneurship. There were nuggets of information on financial literacy given to children in a fun and interesting manner. Dr Koh Noi Keng (HSSE) worked with Mediacorp and the casts to promote the KaChing! programme through financial literacy game shows at various schools and the business tips on the programme. She played a crucial role from the conceptualization and production of the programme to the grand finale at Vivocity.

NIE and Citi Foundation also launched the Citi-NIE Financial Literacy Hub for Teachers on 31 October 2007 with an initial funding of \$795,000 from Citi. The Hub offers a pioneering teacher development education programme that aims to equip teachers with skills to impart financial literacy to students. In the first year of existence, the Hub has trained 1140 teachers from more than 100 schools in Singapore. Course participants are also empowered with engaging pedagogies in an ICT-rich environment where they will be using to teach their students about money management. The Hub has also assisted schools in organising financial literacy cluster events as well as public outreach events.

- ***Temasek Foundation-NIE Leaders & Educators in Asia Programme (LEAP)***

NIE signed an MOU with Temasek Foundation in January 2008 to offer the Leaders and Educators in Asia Programme (LEAP). LEAP aims to encourage growth and innovation in education and establish a network of leaders and educators who will foster innovative teaching practices within their community and beyond. Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines) was the first partner institution of NIE under LEAP. Nine participating schools from Manila comprising of 80 educators from pre- and in-service would be sponsored by the Foundation to take up leadership and PGDE programmes.

- ***National Institute of Education Management (NIEM), Vietnam***

A formal collaboration between NIE and NIEM in October 2007 paved the way for the establishment of Vietnam-Singapore Centre for Educational Excellence (VSCEE). The Centre will be developing the skills of educational managers and leaders through executive leadership programmes, enabling them to train their own nationals and strengthen their education management. NIE's critical role in this collaboration apart from 'training the trainers' is to help Vietnamese school leaders upgrade their English proficiency and offer Masters and PhD courses in Applied Linguistics.

- ***University of Wisconsin-Madison***

NIE signed an MOU with the School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison in January 2008. The first project under the collaboration is entitled “Promoting Singapore Workforce Development Programming and Research”. It aims to engage academic staff to conduct training in using a career portal system with Singapore schools and conduct research on career development.

- ***Teachers College***

NIE forged an MOU with one of the world’s leading teacher education institutions, Teachers College, Columbia University (USA) in June 2008. The link-up involves faculty exchanges with TC academic staff conducting ‘summer courses’ in NIE, co-teaching courses in the MEd Programme and a joint MEd in Educational Policies.

- ***UNESCO***

NIE has successfully applied to establish a UNESCO Observatory to facilitate collection, analysis and dissemination of information relating to arts education and its impact on society. The observatory will be called Asia Pacific Centre for Arts Research in Education.

- ***Institut Aminuddin Baki (IAB)***

Building Educational Bridges: Innovation for School Leadership Programme (BEB) is a collaborative project between the education ministries of Singapore and Malaysia and is co-delivered by NIE and Institut Aminuddin Baki. BEB was developed with principals as target participants to impart innovation, improve their capacity to manage resources, improve their understanding of educational systems, and enable them to define routes for sustaining leadership and innovation.

- ***China Scholarship Council (CSC)***

NIE and the China Scholarship Council (CSC) are working together in selecting qualified Chinese college and university lecturers to undertake the PGDELTA programme in NIE. The PGDELTA programme was borne from the collaborative effort of the Chinese and Singaporean governments in providing professional development in the area of English language teaching for Chinese academics.

VISITING PROFESSORS AND SCHOLARS

NIE welcomed to its campus 7 distinguished professors who hail from prestigious universities around the world, who came to share their knowledge and expertise as well as participate in collaborative projects. NIE also hosted a diverse group of scholars on research attachments. They came from various countries and institutions, namely Thailand, China, Australia, New Zealand, India and Pakistan.

Distinguished Professors :

- Prof Courtney B Cazden Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Prof Peter Freebody Professorial Research Fellow, Faculty of Education & Social Work, University of Sydney
- Prof Scott Paris Professor, Psychology & Education, University of Michigan
- Prof Ruth Hayhoe Professor, Department of Theory & Policy Studies, OISE, University of Toronto
- Prof Magdalena Mok Centre Director & Professor, Education Psychology, Counselling & Learning Needs, Centre for Assessment Research & Development, Hong Kong Institute of Education
- Prof Alejo Jose Sison Galsim Professor Contratado Doctor, University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain
- Prof Christopher James Dede Wirth Professor in Learning Technologies, Harvard Graduate School of Education

SHARING NIE'S EXPERTISE

Cognizant of its expertise in initial teacher preparation and professional development, local and international organisations, including governments have sought NIE's help in developing their emerging educational systems and in providing training for teachers and education leaders. Central to the success of these consultancy projects are the professionalism and competence of NIE's academic staff. Clients who have benefited from consultancies have conveyed their satisfaction on NIE's services.

- NIE was pivotal in helping the UAE government set up the Emirates College for Advanced Education (ECAE), through a contract with the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC). The College aims to be a regional leader in teacher education by offering world-class programmes, education research and leadership development. A team of academic staff from NIE headed by Prof S Gopinathan (CRPP) was instrumental in the development of its the programmes and curriculum for the institute as well as in facilitating manpower recruitment. Prof Quek Jin Jong was seconded from NIE as ECAE's Vice Chancellor.
- NIE was commissioned by Bahrain's Ministry of Education to assist in their Teachers' Education reform initiatives. Specific consultancy areas were in the recruitment and selection of candidates for teacher training, implementing a sound performance management system, setting up a Teacher's Training College and developing a training framework. To date, NIE has delivered 2 specialised training programmes for school leaders and senior teachers that enabled them to develop their knowledge, skills and capability to lead their organizations effectively in a time of rapid change. The ministry officials of Bahrain gave positive feedback to NIEs work especially in lesson content and dedicated teaching of NIE lecturers.
- NIE's consultancy services have also made its mark within Southeast Asia. The Sampoerna Foundation Institute based in Indonesia was completed in mid-2007 and now offers a Postgraduate Diploma curriculum with the help of NIE. Leadership training was also conducted for 100 school principals and 20 senior ministry officials sent by Indonesia's Ministry of Education. The Educational Leadership Programme for Vietnam was held from 25 March to 4 April 2008. A workshop was also conducted in Hanoi on curriculum design and development. In partnership with Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines under the sponsorship of Temasek Foundation, leadership projects under LEAP were conducted. The programmes targeted school principals and heads of departments to build their capabilities in management and teaching.
- NIE is active in local projects through partnerships with industries and other academic institutions. Training and award programmes were conducted for SAFTI Military Institute, Continuing Professional Education Programme for the Army, PGDE for NAFA and MOH, assessment programme for WDA and award programmes for MUIS.

CONFERENCES/ INTERNATIONAL FORA

NIE's participation in international conferences and fora signifies the quality and relevance of academic staff's research work. Invited as keynote or featured speakers, the conferences acted as a platform to share their expertise on their fields and provided current knowledge to the education community.

Keynote addresses made by NIE faculty

Five representatives from NIE from CRPP and ELL attended the 5th International Conference on English Language Teaching in China and the 1st Congress of Chinese Applied Linguistics. The theme of the conference is *Language, Education and Digital Age* and was attended by about 1500 international participants. Asst Prof Lawrence Zhang (CRPP), who was a featured speaker, presented his paper on *Doing Critical Reading in TEFL Professional Development Classrooms in Asia: Exploring Possibilities and Meeting Challenges*. Staff from ELL presented their papers as well.

Assoc Prof Looi Chee Kit (former Head, LSL) delivered a keynote address titled *Bridging Research to Practice in Technology Mediated Learning: Innovations and Challenges in Singapore* at the International Conference on Computers in Education (ICCE) in Hiroshima, Japan in November 2007. The conference served as a venue for exchange on ideas about the use of computing technologies in education. Researchers from the Learning Sciences Lab (LSL) won the Best Paper Award for their entry *Handheld Computers as Cognitive Tools: An Environmental Learning Project in Singapore*.

The Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah Institute of Education, University of Brunei Darussalam held a National Seminar/ Workshop in Education in November 2007. The keynote address was delivered by Prof Goh Kim Chuan (Assoc Dean, Student Development and Liaison/ FPO) with his paper entitled *Current Trends and Practices in Education*. The paper expounded on teacher education curriculum, school-based practices and school-university partnership, teacher effectiveness and the outcomes question, as teacher education and professional development.

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate of Human Education Research (EHR) invited Prof Tan Oon Seng (Dean, FPO) to deliver the EHR Distinguished Lecture in September 2007. The NSF, based in Washington, DC is an independent agency of the US which funds research and activities that promotes science and developments for the nation and the human race. A/P Tan's lecture titled *Educational Innovation through Problem-based Learning Approaches* was delivered before a community of researchers, policy makers, academics and educators. Prior to this event, A/P Tan has made his mark among international researchers working on undergraduate reform and development in learning sciences in the USA through his publications on problem-based learning.

Assoc Prof Goh Yeng Seng (Head, ALC AG) and Assoc Prof Low Ee Ling (Sub-Dean, Degree, FP) were invited to present keynote addresses at the 43rd Regional Language Centre International Seminar on the theme *Language Teaching in a Multilingual World: Challenges and Opportunities*. Assoc Prof Goh spoke on *Bilingual Education Policy in Singapore: Challenges and Opportunities*, while Assoc Prof Low shared her insights on the topic *Sounding Local and Going Global : Moving beyond Intelligibility in the Pronunciation Classroom*.

Major international conferences hosted by NIE

NIE also played host to numerous international educational fora. The major conferences that attracted distinguished academics and international delegates were :

- *The **Annual ASEAN Educational Forum** was held at the NIE campus on 17 May 2008, an event organized by NIE's ASEAN Club in partnership with the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA). With the theme *The Roles of Youths in ASEAN*, the forum aimed to create awareness among students and future educators of the current affairs within the regional group and provided a venue for discussions on various issues such as commonalities across ASEAN nations to the challenges and opportunities of youths. The guest-of-honour was Ambassador-at-Large and former ASEAN Secretary Ong Keng Yong.*
- *In conjunction with a conference held in honour of Physics Nobel Laureate C N Yang's birthday, a **Science Education Symposium** was held on 2 November 2007. The event was jointly organized by NIE and the Institute of Advanced Studies, and sponsored by Ministry of Education. The keynote speaker was Prof Walter Kohn, who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1998. His talk also featured excerpts from *Power of the Sun*, a new documentary on solar energy*
- *The **4th International Conference on Educational Technology** was held in Singapore from 21-22 November 2007 with the theme *Rethinking Pedagogies: Creating Possibilities Through Digital and Interactive Media*. The conference brought together academics, researchers, schools, government organizations and industries who were interested in learning about the use of ICT innovations, including gaming, interactive digital media, digital content and devices, to improve teaching and promote learning in schools. It attended by many international keynote speakers. The conference was organised by NIE and MOE, with A/P Philip Wong (LST) as the organizing chairman.*
- *A **Symposium for Lesson Study in Mathematics** was held on 13 August 2007 as a joint collaboration of NIE with Tsukuba University of Japan. The symposium was organised by the MME and CTL academic groups with the support of CRPP. It was attended by 80 educators from Singapore and Japan. Research papers were presented by academic staff from both educational institutions followed by discussions on alternative teaching approaches for mathematics.*

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Research excellence has been one of the driving forces behind the distinction given to NIE as a premier teacher education institute. Two research centres, CRPP and LSL have been crucial in producing research work and findings that have impact on policies, pedagogical practices and learning outcomes in the schools. The focus of CRPP's research is to discover innovative ways of teaching and learning particularly in the areas of language and literacy, mathematics and science and communications and technologies. LSL is the first centre in Asia devoted to research from the perspective of learning sciences. Its mission is to discover technology-enabled pedagogical practices for cultivating 21st century knowledge and skills. Academic staff from academic groups have also been active in NIE's research enterprise.

Research Funding

NIE's research endeavours have been made possible through funding from MOE as well as external competitive grants. NIE has been awarded a 5-year (2008 – 2012) block grant of approximately \$96.6 million by MOE. In addition, for AY 07-08, NIE also received about \$4.5 million in external funding. On the whole, NIE staff have been largely successful in competing for content research grants in a highly competitive university research community. About 100 content research projects are currently in various stages of progress. The grants from overseas institutions such as HK IEd, University of Plymouth, University of Exeter and Georgetown, have been beneficial in promoting research collaborations between NIE staff and international top-notch researchers.

Some notable competitive grants :

- NIE received a grant of \$500,000 from Pan Pac/ Creative Technology in November 2007. It will be used to produce a bilingual electronic textbook. Collaborators in this project are academic staff from ALC.
- A \$392,000 was awarded by the National Research Foundation and MOE R&D on Interactive Digital Media to Asst Prof Caroline Koh from the Psychological Studies AG. She will undertake a research on the Effectiveness of 3D simulation based learning for polytechnic students.
- The project "Low cost, microcrystalline silicon thin-film solar cells via advanced plasma processing" by Prof. Xu Shuyan competed and won at the national level with award of \$1,738,425 in the National Research Foundation's research strategy on clean energy for Singapore. It was one of only 7 awarded out of hundreds of proposals.
- Another project worth mentioning is from English Language & Literature AG which won an award of \$24,662 from the prestigious Merlion research programme funded by the French Embassy.

- NIE received a total of \$5,705,294 from the IDM for Education Research Grant which is managed by MOE for NRF. The grant allowed LSL to embark on five projects which focus on a range of research areas such as interactive learning, fictionalized game environments and mobile technology to promote technology-enabled learning in schools. The projects involved the participation of primary and secondary schools as well as Temasek Polytechnic. The grant also provides an opportunity for NIE to carry out its role as a key partner of MOE in implementing the Master Plan for IT in Education (mp2 & 3). The five IDM projects are:
 - *Group Scribbles: Flexible collaboration for interactive Whiteboard (IWB) classrooms*
 - *Serious immersion and embodied learning: Traces of dinosaurs in earth system science*
 - *Legends of Alkhimia: Fostering authentic learning of chemistry within fictionalized game environments*
 - *Trans-contextual Learning: Student learning with mobile devices in a persistent-world game to construct meaning and identities*
 - *Leveraging mobile technology for sustainable seamless learning in Singapore schools*

PUBLICATIONS

NIE's academic staff has consistently produced excellent publications which are recognised in the international community. Besides in-house publications such as CRPP's *Asia Pacific Journal of Education* and *Pedagogies: An International Journal*, academic staff have contributed articles to international refereed journals and have co-authored with other experts in the field.

Some of the more notable efforts are listed below :

- The World Bank and NIE partnered in publishing two tomes to commemorate the opening of Leaders in Education for Sustained Growth in Africa. The first book entitled *Toward a Better Future: Education and Training for Economic Development in Singapore since 1965* was co-edited by NIE Director, Prof Lee Sing Kong with contributions from academic staff of various departments. The publication dealt with the analysis of the development of education in Singapore with a focus on strategic management that led to its education and training system. The second book is titled *An African Exploration of the East Asian Experience*.
- A book with Assoc Prof Tan Oon Seng (Dean, Foundation Programmes) as the main author, titled "*Educational Psychology: A Practitioner-Researcher Approach*" was translated to Chinese by Shanghai Century Publishing, the largest publishing company in the eastern part of People's Republic of China. This is the first internationally published book on the subject that was translated by the publisher due to its significance to the Chinese educational context. It is expected to benefit not only teachers and educators but also parents, psychologists and practitioners.
- *Endgame Virtuoso Anatoly Karpov*, a book co-penned by Assoc Prof Nicholas Aplin (PESS) was shortlisted for the British Chess Federation (BCF) Book for the Year 2007. The book looks at the endgame technique of the eponymous master which made him one of the greatest chess players of all time. A/P Aplin worked with another international chess master from Hungary, Tibor Karolyi in this publication.

- The *English Language and Literature Series* is a collection of titles which provides advice on methodology and approaches to language and literature pedagogy. Written by experienced teachers and educators, the books are based on current research and effective pedagogical approaches, taking into account the Southeast Asian classroom context to meet the needs of teachers working in the region.
- Assoc Prof Michael Chia (Head, PESS) made lead author chapter contributions to two internationally renowned books on sports science – *Volume XIII Encyclopaedia of Sports Medicine: The Young Athlete* and *Paediatric Exercise Physiology*. The former which was commissioned by the International Olympic Council based in Lausanne, Switzerland is distributed to universities worldwide. The 2nd tome is used extensively as university text for sports science in the UK and Europe. A/P Chia's co-authors were world experts in the field. He is the sole author from Asia.
- *Education Psychology : A Practitioner-Researcher Approach (An Asian Edition)* was recently translated into Chinese, targeting a potential audience of more than 22 million teachers. Assoc Prof Tan Oon Seng (Dean, Foundation Programmes) is the main co-author of the original English version. The textbook not only has an Asian contextualisation but also provides key features such as use of problem-based scenarios at the beginning of every chapter, action research illustrations and strong emphasis on teachers' reflections on practice.
- *Redesigning Pedagogy : Reflections on Theory & Praxis* brings together selected papers from a conference focusing on Redesigning Pedagogy organised by CRPP in 2007. The papers are organised around seven key themes – Literacy Education, Relations of Power, Reflections, Meaning Making, Evaluation and Mathematics and Science. In addition to providing readers with an introduction to pedagogy in Singapore, it also contains discussions on the environments in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, South Africa and the USA, with a focus on classroom practices.
- *Redesigning Pedagogy : Voices of Practitioners* is an anthology of articles presented at the Redesigning Pedagogy Conference in 2005 organised by CRPP. The book showcases the experiences of practising teachers, with practical and innovative research-based strategies and instructional techniques for various disciplines.
- A pioneering effort by four academic staff of PESS AG resulted in the publication of a school textbook that helps prepare students taking Physical Education (PE) as a subject at the GCE 'O' Level examination. *Physical Education for Upper Secondary* was written by Mr Steven Quek, Asst Prof C Kunalan, Asst Prof Alan Ch'ng and Mr Mohammed Azhar Yusof.
- The *NIE Language and Literature Series* was designed to offer practical support for school teachers of English Language and Literature, with a special focus on the interests and needs of those working in Southeast Asian classrooms. Titles include : *Autonomy in Language Learning*, *English Grammar FAQs*, *Task Design, Implementation and Assessment*, *Phonics and Beginning Reading*, *Real World Learning*, and *Teaching Expository Writing*. The series editors are A/Prof Anneliese Kramer-Dahl from ELL; A/Prof James Albright, CRPP; A/Prof David Deterding from Universiti Brunei Darussalam.
- A *Visual Grammar of English* authored by A/Prof Lubna Alsagoff, Head of ELL AG presents grammar through the use of easy-to-read charts, diagrams and pictures. Tapping on varying visual thinking tools, the book explains how grammar works in a way that is less abstract and more interesting.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Excellence in teaching and research is most exemplified by the awards received by academic staff. Research awards in particular are judged by international peers, and they signify recognition of the high standards of education research endeavours within NIE, outcomes of which not only impact Singapore schools but can be applied in foreign contexts as well.

Our notable award winners are :

- *Assoc Prof Christine Chin (NSSE) was awarded the 2007 Journal of Research in Science Teaching Award for her paper titled Teacher Questioning In Science Classrooms: Approaches That Stimulate Productive Thinking. The award is given annually by the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST), USA for outstanding research articles published in the same journal and is judged by peers in the field of science education research. A/P Chin is the first recipient of the honour whose work was done in an Asia-based university.*
- *The 2006/2007 Wright Prize by St John's College, Cambridge University was won by Asst Prof Tan Chee Lay (ALC) for producing the best research titled The Singapore Bilingual Literary Archive.*
- *A paper entitled "Handheld Computers as Cognitive Tools: An Environmental Learning Project in Singapore, presented by a team from the Learning Sciences Laboratory won the Best Paper Award at the International Conference on Computers in Education was held in Hiroshima, Japan in November 2007. The co-authors includes Nicholas Tan, Chen Wenli, Looi Chee Kit, Zhang Baohui, Peter Seow, Anwar Chan, Chung Tze Min and Oh Teck Tiong.*
- *Assoc Prof Esther Tan received the prestigious 2008 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Psychology in Singapore, from the Singapore Psychological Society during its annual general meeting. The award recognised Assoc Prof Tan's exemplary leadership in the advancement of psychology as both a scientific and professional discipline.*

PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Asst Prof Jude Chua (Policy and Leadership Studies Academic Group) was appointed a Fellow of the prestigious Salzburg Global Seminar at Schloss Leopoldskron, from 1 to 6 December 2007. The competitive appointment, which is accompanied by a grant, was for Session 449 entitled *Salzburg Young Leaders Summit: Global Scenarios and Strategies for 2030*. Together with 59 other Fellows and exceptional emerging young leaders, he contributed to identifying, discussing and ranking the major driving forces of the next two decades, as well as the desirable scenarios for year 2030.

Asst Prof Chua also scored a Visiting Research Scholar appointment at Blackfriars Hall of the University of Oxford for the later Hilary Term (late February to March 2008). Blackfriars Hall is a leading centre of learning for the thoughts of Thomas Aquinas. He joins four other Visiting Scholar appointees including the distinguished Thomist scholars Prof Ralph McInerny and Prof Roger Scruton.

Assoc Prof C J Wee Wan-ling (English Language and Literature Academic Group) took up a year-long prestigious Visiting Fellowship at Cornell University's Society for the Humanities. Working on the theme, *Improvisation*, Assoc Prof Wee will examine the 'improvised' emergence of experimental and contemporary art forms in theatre, the visual arts, literature and independent films in Singapore during the 1980s and 1990s. Two of the artists he is examining – visual artist Tang Da Wu (Fukuoka Cultural Prize winner) and the late theatre doyen, Kuo Pao Kun – have had affiliations with NIE in adjunct teaching capacities. In addition to doing research, Assoc Prof Wee also offered a 14-week experimental, innovative seminar to a class of Cornell students. Entitled *Imagining Contemporary Asia in High and Mass Cultural Production*, the seminar is based on his research project *Creating Contemporary Asian Art: Late Modernisation, Cultural Production, Singapore*.

Assoc Prof Low Ee Ling, Sub-Dean, Degree, Foundation Programmes won the coveted 2007 – 2008 Fulbright Research Scholarship. This is the second year running that NIE academics have done the institute proud. Assoc Prof Low will be working on the research topic *A Cross Cultural Comparison Between the Professional Preparation of English Language Teachers in Singapore and English as a Second Language Teachers in the USA*. The 2006 – 2007 award was won by Assoc Prof Ang Cheng Guan, Head, HSSE AG.

Dr Arief Darmanegara Liem, a Research Fellow with CRPP was awarded the Harry and Pola Triandis Doctoral Thesis Award by the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology. The award aims to help advance the early careers of dedicated researchers by honoring and rewarding exceptional research studies. Dr Liem won the award for his work on understanding how culture influences the ways that students approach learning.

Asst Prof Dong Fengming, Mathematics and Mathematics Education AG was awarded a Visiting Fellowship to the Isaac Newton Institute of Mathematical Sciences of the University of Cambridge, to participate in the Combinatorics and Statistical Mechanics programme from 14 January to 4 July 2008. The programme is intended to build on the cross-fertilisation of combinatorialists, probabilists, computer scientists and theoretical physicists concerned broadly with the study of probability theory on graphs or statistical mechanics on graphs.

Assoc Prof Wong Tai Chee, Humanities and Social Studies AG spent a month in December 2007 as a Visiting Professor to the Institute of Geography, University of Paris IV-Sorbonne. Assoc Prof Wong is the Sorbonne's external adviser, stationed in Singapore to co-supervise its masters and PhD students research topics on Southeast Asia. While in Paris, he gave two seminars and made site visits with his research counterpart to outlying new towns and the Parisian suburban townships where ethnic minorities are highly concentrated.

CONCLUSION

The achievements in the past academic year (AY07/08) have reaffirmed NIE's status as an outstanding teacher education institution whose value extends beyond Singapore's education system. Despite the rapid changes in the educational landscape which underpinned the developments of the past year, NIE was able to deliver and respond to these demands and in the process, showcased its strengths in providing teacher education and producing quality research. Factors such as the quality of its academic staff, comprehensive programmes and a vibrant research environment have contributed to its many successes. With a fast changing education landscape looming on the horizon, these strengths and competitive advantages will stand NIE in good stead as it prepares to ride the next wave of challenges in the year ahead.

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