Chairman Prof Cham, Prof Scardamalia, Prof Cochran-Smith, Prof Darling-Hammond & Dr Kozma of the International Advisory Panel advised NIE on its strategic directions during their visit to the institute from 16 to 20 July 2007 while Prof Geoff Whitty provided his inputs in absentia.

(page 3)
Following my inaugural address to the NIE community in November 2006, a strategic planning process was initiated to develop corporate plans for the period 2007 to 2012 to support the institute’s three main pillars of (a) meeting the needs of stakeholders (b) achieving international recognition through educational research and (c) impacting the educational fraternity internationally. A Strategic Planning Taskforce and six Working Groups (WGs) were formed to look into each of the following areas: programmes, international positioning, infrastructure and physical facilities, human capacity, governance and management, and research. The strategic initiatives from all WGs were consolidated into three strategies:

**Strategy 1: Teaching** — Establish NIE as a world-class provider of teacher learning programmes, transforming NIE into a vibrant multi-cultural institution, serving the needs of educators in Singapore and internationally.

**Strategy 2: Research** — Build NIE’s competence and capacity as a centre of excellence and innovation in educational and content research, through recruitment and promotion of top-echelon academic staff, and leveraging on international research partnerships.

**Strategy 3: Enabling Corporate Support** — Introduce a proactive and enabling corporate support that anticipates NIE’s future needs in organisational management, governance, physical infrastructure and ICT, and incorporate an employment framework that allows flexibility between teaching and research roles, assigning each with an equitable value in performance assessments.

Based on these three strategies, a matrix of initiatives was prepared and circulated to all NIE staff for their feedback. A dialogue session was also held on 16 April 2007 for the Strategic Planning Taskforce and Chairs of WGs to clarify questions from staff regarding the matrix. I wish to thank staff who presented their views during the dialogue session as well as those who had contributed via other means. Their inputs have been incorporated into a report for consideration by the NIE Council and IAP in July 2007.

July 2007 saw a significant development for NIE — the visit by the International Advisory Panel (IAP) to evaluate our five-year strategic plans. This was no doubt a watershed for the institute.

**International Advisory Panel 2007**

The IAP advises NIE on its strategic directions towards becoming an institute of distinction. Specifically, IAP 2007 deliberated on how NIE could further elevate its reputation as a teacher education institute within a university context while ensuring that its academic staff contributed to the wider education community and were duly recognised for the totality of their output. We were privileged to have Education Minister of State Rear-Admiral (NS) Lui Tuck Yew host the following eminent members of the panel during their visit to NIE from 16 to 20 July 2007:

- Chairman, Prof Cham Tao Soon, former President, Nanyang Technological University;
- Prof Marilyn Cochran-Smith, John E Cawthorne Chair in Teacher Education for Urban Schools, Lynch School of Education, Boston College;
- Prof Linda Darling-Hammond, Charles E Ducommun Professor of Education, School of Education, Stanford University;
- Dr Robert Kozma, Emeritus Director and Principal Scientist, Center for Technology in Learning, SRI International; and
- Prof Marlene Scardamalia, Presidents’ Chair in Education and Knowledge Technologies, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

I look forward to robust support from the NIE community in implementing these initiatives. Together, we will move NIE ahead as she soars to new heights as a beacon for others to emulate.

Prof Geoff Whitty, Director, Institute of Education, University of London, who was unable to come to NIE for the visit, provided his inputs in absentia. I will share with the NIE community the outcomes of these proceedings on an appropriate platform in the near future.

Prof Lee Sing Kong
New Kid on the Block

By Dr Jasmine Sim, Curriculum & Teaching Unit

One of you may not have noticed the Curriculum and Teaching Unit, being the new kid on the NIE block. In short, the Curriculum and Teaching Unit, which is known as CTU, is located next to the Dean (Academic)’s Office in Block 3. CTU was established in January 2006 and is headed by Assoc Prof Christine Lee. The establishment of CTU recognises that curriculum is an area of vital importance in education, and indeed the raison d’etre for teachers in school.

At present, CTU is a small unit comprising a dedicated core group of academics from diverse fields of education. Nonetheless, CTU has been making an impact through the new Curriculum and Teaching specialisation offered in the Master of Education (MEd) programme. The size of CTU notwithstanding, the care and attention the faculty give to the students, the use of diverse pedagogies in challenging students to question the taken-for-granted and distribution of knowledge? How is the curriculum organised and who evaluates?

MOE scholarship full-time study, the accelerated and/or partial accelerated mode, where students can mix and match part- and full-time study in different semesters through the Professional Development Continuum Model or direct entry route. In July 2007, CTU shall graduate its pioneer cohort of MEd (Curriculum and Teaching) students, as well as grow in both size and significance in NIE and the educational landscape in Singapore.

MEd (Curriculum & Teaching) Student Voices...

Ms Noorismawaty Ismail
Special Assistant, Schools Division, MOE
2005 President’s Award for Teachers recipient
2005 MOE postgraduate scholar
2006/2007 MEd (Curriculum and Teaching)

I had been teaching for eight years before embarking on the MEd (Curriculum and Teaching) programme. I was looking for a programme that would broaden my understanding of curriculum, one that would provide the link between theory and practice. I found it in the Curriculum and Teaching specialisation. I learnt that every teacher is a curriculum developer and this has made a difference in the way I understand my role in the curriculum. I was given many opportunities to explore my research interest and express my thoughts. The faculty were caring, supportive and passionate in their teaching. The programme has helped me become a more reflective practitioner. I now no longer simply teach. I pause and ask – What should count as knowledge? Who decides? Who should control the selection and distribution of knowledge? How is the curriculum organised and who evaluates?

Mr Loo Kwok Wai
Senior Teacher (Physics)
Author of physics textbook, Scientist in Focus: Physics for GCE ‘O’ Level
2006 President’s Award for Teachers recipient
2006/2007 MEd (Curriculum and Teaching)
candidate, January 2007 intake

I believe in surprising my students occasionally with an ‘electrifying moment’. The purpose is to raise their adrenaline, level of attentiveness, inquisitiveness or any useful mental state that could help them to learn. This is easier said than done. After teaching for over two decades, I am painfully aware of how easily and rapidly an ‘electrifying moment’ can degenerate into a sparkless debacle. I am constantly searching for the spark that could transform a dry concept into a captivating insight, a planned curriculum into a memorable experience. This was my impetus for signing up for the MEd (Curriculum and Teaching) at NIE. This course is both challenging and rewarding. It challenges me to assess my own values and orientations through its diverse pedagogical approaches. It stimulates me to think further and deeper into complex curriculum issues. Even though I have completed only two courses, I can say that a window in my mind has been opened and I can look at curriculum issues from a different perspective.
Feet Unbound

Assoc Prof Kelly Tang (Visual and Performing Arts) composed the music for Feet Unbound, an Australian film about a never-before-told story of the Chinese Red Army’s female soldiers of the Long March from the perspective of a 28-year-old female journalist from Beijing. The 12,500-km march was a massive military retreat of 200,000 troops on foot that lasted from 1934 to 1937. One percent on the march were females, some with bound feet.

Assoc Prof Tang’s works have been performed by internationally renowned ensembles such as the Russian National Orchestra, the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ensemble Contemporain of Montreal, the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra. His compositions have been presented at famous venues worldwide, such as Carnegie Hall in New York and Suntory Hall in Tokyo. Locally, his music has been featured by prominent groups such as the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, the Singapore Lyric Opera, the Chinese Theatre Circle and the Philharmonic Winds.

The film, directed and produced by Mr Ng Khee-Jin, premiered at the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam in November 2006 and subsequently presented at international film festivals in Greece, Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Taiwan and, most recently, the Singapore International Film Festival. The music score was performed and recorded by Singapore’s celebrated T’ANG Quartet.

Feet Unbound was filmed on location in China between February and October 2005 and is Mr Ng’s directorial debut. Details on purchasing the music soundtrack online are available on the film’s official website http://www.feetunbound.com/.

Awards & Honours

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Corporate Developments

Ms June Wong Kwai Yeok
Senior Teacher (Biology)
Integrated Programme, National Junior College
Current MEd (Curriculum & Teaching) candidate,
July 2006 intake

Going back to school raised uncertainties for me, as I had laid off serious studying for more than 20 years. But I was drawn to this challenge because I wanted to gain deeper insights into curricular practices. I like the balance between theory and practice in the MEd (Curriculum and Teaching) programme; I could tap into my teaching experience for the assignments, and the theories I learnt inform my practice. The courses provided many opportunities for students and lecturers to deliberate on issues and co-construct knowledge together with openness and mutual respect. The flexibility in the programme allowed me to customise it to meet my needs. Through the encouragement of the CTU faculty, I accelerated my master’s, doing it full-time in one semester. As a result, I now have only one more course to take to complete the programme in one-and-half years, when the normal duration is two to three years. Finally, the personal touch of the CTU faculty helped ease me through challenging moments in my academic pursuit. Kudos to the CTU faculty!

Mr Mark Minjoot
Vice-Principal (Acad)
Victoria School
MOE postgraduate scholar MEd (Curriculum & Teaching), 2006/2007

"Why do you teach what you teach and how do you teach it so that the students have learnt?" This question prompted my MEd (Curriculum and Teaching) odyssey and what a fulfilling learning journey it has been! The programme blends theory with practice in offering an array of experiential learning opportunities to the intrepid inquirer. I especially liked the intellectually stimulating tutorial discussions which broadened my perspective on a range of curriculum issues. Through this experience, I have grown in instructional leadership and feel better equipped to influence the design and delivery of school-based curriculum. The programme effectively caters to the learning requirements of the various career tracks and I encourage every practitioner to embark on this currere, enroute to becoming a better teacher, curriculum specialist or school leader.
Prof Xu Shuyan (Natural Sciences and Science Education) (right) was awarded the Denison Distinguished Visitorship by the University of Sydney in May 2007. Established in 2004, the Denison Distinguished Visitors Scheme funds visits by distinguished scientists to the university’s School of Physics for the purpose of enhancing the school’s research and outreach programmes and its status with the general public.

Prof Xu received a BSc degree from Nanjing University in Semiconductor Physics in 1982 and a PhD from Flinders University in Plasma Physics in 1991. From 1991 to 1994, he was an Australian Research Council postdoctoral fellow working on radio frequency rotating magnetic field current drive in spherical plasmas. He joined NIE in 1994 and worked on the development of steady state high density RF plasma sources for materials processing. In 2001, he founded the Plasma Sources and Applications Research Centre, comprising a plasma processing laboratory and an advanced materials and nanostructures Laboratory. Prof Xu’s research interests are in the areas of development of low frequency inductively coupled plasma sources for nanofabrication, surface processing and modification, low-temperature growth of ultra-large area Si/SiC thin film photovoltaic materials, plasma assembly of nano- and bio- materials, quantum dots, wires, superlattices, as well as modelling and simulation of chemically active plasma-grown nanoparticles and nanoduster dynamics and self-organisation processes.

Prof Xu’s R&D and publication records include more than 250 papers in peer-reviewed international journals, conference proceedings and two books entitled Plasma-Aided Nanofabrication (published by WILEY-VCH, Germany) and Challenging Limits, Forging Bonds (published by World Scientific Publication Co) (see page 7).

Besides being editor-in-chief of the Singapore Journal of Physics and an editor of Physics Update, he is a Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Studies, Nanyang Technological University.

Prof Xu serves on many national and international academic and professional bodies. He is the key driver of the Division of Plasma Physics (DPP) /Association of Asia-Pacific Physical Society and a guest lecturer of the DPP Graduate School on Plasma Physics. He actively promotes research collaborations with leading international institutions.

During his tenure as Distinguished Visitor, Prof Xu will deliver two public lectures, the first is entitled Plasmas, Quantum Dots, and Solar Cells: Towards Sustainable Green Energy and the second is related to the organisation of the 17th International Physics Olympiad, which Prof Xu chaired in 2006. He will work on the research programme Plasma-Aided Nanofabrication of Low-Dimensional Semiconductors for Third Generation Photovoltaic Green Energy. Prof Xu will be hosted by Assoc Prof K Ostrikov, Group Leader, Plasma Nanoscience@Complex Systems, University of Sydney.

Mr Ong Kim Lin, a student teacher from the January 2007 intake of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) programme, emerged champion at the BRAND’s Sudoku Challenge 2007 held on 10 June 2007 at the National Library.

Kim Lin, who was nominated for this competition by his Mathematics Curriculum Studies tutor, discovered Sudoku in the local newspapers about two years ago and found this number puzzle very stimulating. A puzzle enthusiast since young, he has developed a very keen interest in Sudoku by picking up books on this brain-bending game of numbers and logic. He usually solves Sudoku puzzles as a form of stress relief when travelling on public transport.

Kim Lin felt that the training at NIE has helped reinforce his logical thinking ability, which is a very important skill needed in solving Sudoku puzzles. In particular, he regularly applies the make-a-systematic list and trial-and-error strategies, as well as deductive reasoning skill, to help him solve the puzzle.

Kim Lin advises people interested in Sudoku to start off with simple puzzles before progressing to the more challenging ones. Additionally, he emphasises that perseverance is the key to success. People should take their time to work on the puzzle, and when stuck, take a break before continuing again.
Art & Money in the Writings of Tobias Smollett

By Asst Prof William L Gibson, English Language & Literature

Shedding new light on a misunderstood master, this study situates Tobias Smollett (1721–71) as a key witness to the birth of the modern commercial art market. Focusing on the aesthetic issues of taste, luxury, commercialism, as well as aesthetics itself, the author examines Smollett’s histories and non-fiction writing as well as his novels to open a panorama on the 18th century art world. Art and Money in the Writings of Tobias Smollett demonstrates how Smollett’s articles on fine art for the Critical Review (1756–63) straddle the fence between advertisements and art criticism, and create snapshots of the role periodical publishing played in fostering the commercial art market. Chapters on Peregrine Pickle (1751, revised 1758), Travels Through France and Italy (1766), and The Expedition of Humphry Clinker (1771) explore Smollett’s perspective on the burgeoning art market of the period, the social aspect of art appreciation, and the role of fashionable architecture. Smollett’s articles from the Critical Review, never before collated and printed in a scholarly work, are collected in an annotated appendix, while the lavish illustrations to his Complete History of England (1755–58), and its Continuation (1760–65), which underlines the writer’s complicity in the for-profit art world of the time, are examined in a second appendix.

The Tobias Smollett that emerges in this study is a far cry from the blustering “Smelfungus” portrayed by his fellow novelist Laurence Sterne. Instead, his is discovered to be sensitive to the major aesthetic issues of his day, and instrumental in the birth of the public art market. Lucidly written and thoroughly researched, Art and Money in the Writings of Tobias Smollett will be of interest to people in literary history and criticism, art history, and social history – whether as scholars, students, or generally educated readers.

Challenging Limits, Forging Bonds

Edited by Prof Xu Shuyan, Assoc Prof Kwek Leong Chuan, Natural Sciences 
& Science Education, NIE & Prof Tang Sing Hai, Faculty of Science, 
National University of Singapore

The International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) was started in 1967 in Poland and is hosted by a different country each year. The 37th IPhO was held in Singapore for the first time in July 2006, with more than 800 visitors from 85 countries, including four Nobel Prize winners and a Templeton Prize winner. Regarded as the most prestigious international physics competition for pre-university students, the Olympiad serves as a platform for the world’s brightest young minds to exchange ideas and promote friendship among the youth of different nations. This volume provides a record of the organisational work, the academic rigour and quality in the questions, and the camaraderie developed during the event.
NIE Staff Make Strong Representation at AERA Annual Meeting

By Assoc Prof Tan Oon Seng, Head, Psychological Studies

This year’s annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) was held in Chicago, Illinois, USA from 9 to 13 April 2007. The theme was *The World of Educational Quality*. President Eva Baker of the University of California Los Angeles observed that the theme encouraged participants firstly “to look beyond our usual discipline and political borders in the search for work that can inform our own efforts” and secondly “to re-evaluate our standards of quality – both the quality of education and the quality of our own research.”

The conference was attended by over 13,000 delegates from the USA and internationally. NIE was represented by 30 presentations ranging from round-table discussion papers, symposia, paper presentations and a presidential session. The papers covered an extensive range of research topics including technology, science curriculum and assessment, cooperative learning, teacher education, professional development of teachers and lesson study, literacy studies, gifted education, cross cultural learning and teaching, and problem-based learning. Staff from NIE’s Learning Sciences Laboratory, Centre for Research in Pedagogy and Practice and the various academic groups made their presence felt in the research discussions as both contributors and discussants.

Assoc Prof Tan Oon Seng (Head, Psychological Studies and President, Educational Research Association of Singapore) gave an invited presidential address on *Problem-Based E-Learning — A View from Singapore*, a first for a Singaporean at AERA. Singapore is one of only four Asian countries to have a presidential session, the others being Japan, Korea and China. Assoc Prof Tan’s session was chaired by Dr Wanda E Ward from the Directorate of Education and Human Resources of the National Science Foundation. The discussants were Prof Marshall Smith of the William and Hewlett Foundation (formerly a professor at Stanford University) and Prof J D Fletcher of the Institute for Defense Analyses.

Chinese Culture Takes on New Perspective

By Asst Prof Zhang Ai Dong, Asian Languages & Cultures

NIE’s Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) Academic Group and Nanyang Girls’ High School jointly organised the International Forum on the Interpretation and Teaching of Chinese Culture: From New Perspectives on 29 May 2007. About 200 teachers from Singapore secondary schools and junior colleges as well as ALC staff attended the forum.

Five overseas and local scholars, specialising in Chinese Studies, delivered speeches at the forum. They were Prof Li Zhonghua (Beijing University), Prof Pan Tianqiang (Renmin University of China), Assoc Prof Goh Heng Seng (Head, ALC), Dr Neo Eng Guan (former NIE professor) and Mr Ang Liang Peng (ALC).

Participants had given positive feedback on the forum and expressed their strong interest in attending similar events in the future.
Conference & Seminars

Strengthening Human Capital Through Maths
By Dr Boey Kok Leong, Mathematics & Mathematics Education

The third International Conference on Research and Education in Mathematics, organised by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 10 to 12 April 2007. The theme was Strengthening Human Capital Through Research and Education in Mathematics. Conference papers were divided into Pure Mathematics, Statistics, Applied Mathematics and Mathematics Education.

Assoc Prof Wang Khoon Yong (Head, Mathematics and Mathematics Education (MME)) delivered a keynote address entitled Redesigning Pedagogies for Mathematical Learning at Secondary and Tertiary Levels. The other two keynote addresses were by Prof Ali Hadi (American University in Cairo) and Prof Ha Huy Khoai (Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology). Asst Prof Yap Ban Har (MME) presented a paper on Development of Sense-Making Behaviour of Primary School Students. Asst Prof Yap’s paper is based on a three-year Education Research Fund project about children’s ability to consider contextual factors when solving word problems.

Maths Educator Highlights Quality Assurance in Higher Education
By Dr Boey Kok Leong, Mathematics & Mathematics Education

Assoc Prof Wong Khoon Yong (Head, Mathematics and Mathematics Education (MME)) delivered an invited address entitled Quality Assurance in Higher Education: A Case Study from Singapore. The conference was organised by Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University in celebration of its 70th anniversary. The audience included presidents, deans and senior administrators from several Thai universities. Invited speakers from the USA, UK, Australia and South Korea dealt with emerging trends in quality assurance at tertiary institutes, including a new focus on quality enhancement, a stronger emphasis on the skill aspects of higher education even up to doctorate level, validation with the Baldrige Award for Education in the USA, initiatives of the Higher Education Academy in the UK, creation of the European Higher Education Area by 2010 in 25 countries and an inclusion of international perspective into curriculum and training.

Vedic-Metal Presented at Workshop
By Public & International Relations

At the Workshop on Asian Pop Music in Transition: New Economy, New Subjectivities and Inter-Asian Perspective, organised by the National University of Singapore’s (NUS) Asia Research Institute, Asst Prof Eugene Dairianathan (Deputy Head (Music), Visual and Performing Arts) (standing, third from left) presented a paper on the practice of Extreme metal in the South Indian community in Singapore – Vedic-Metal.

Together with a cotent of 10 presenters from Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Thailand, and Assoc Prof Wee Wan ling (English Language and Literature) (standing, second from right) as one of two discussants, they met from 3 to 4 March 2007 at NUS to delve into the meaning of “New Economy” within an Asian context. The workshop also focused on popular music and the music industry in Asia. More specifically, the papers investigated new subjectivities associated with new “technoscapes” and “mediascapes”, with a number dealing with critical inquiry about cultural industries (music industry) and research on sub-cultural or post-subcultural realities.

Drawing on oral and e-interviews, Asst Prof Dairianathan’s presentation was based on a study of Rudra’s presence and practice since their formation in 1992: performing their own Extreme metal compositions at Kalaa Utsavam (an annual Indian Arts Festival) in November 2006 and their unconventional combination of Sanskrit and English lyrics in ‘Vedic-metal’, and their affiliation with a number of identities viz South Indian, Hindu, Vedic philosophy, youth, and musics of popular culture, specifically Extreme metal.

Asst Prof Dairianathan’s other paper Vedic-Metal: Global/Local Identity in Extreme Metal in Singapore’s South Indian Community — based on the same local extreme metal group Rudra — was accepted for publication in the conference proceedings of the Australian Society for Music Education’s 40th Anniversary National Conference. The conference took place from 6 to 10 July 2007 in Perth, Australia.
Redesigning Pedagogy: Culture, Knowledge & Understanding Conference

By Public & International Relations

The second Redesigning Pedagogy Conference from 28 to 30 May 2007 attracted nearly 1,800 participants from some 30 countries including Australia, Bhutan, Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, UK and USA.

The conference provided a platform for educational practitioners and researchers to share best practices across languages, contexts and countries and forge new innovative directions and educational research and practices that would significantly impact education systems worldwide.

Guest of honour Education Minister of State Rear-Admiral (NS) Lui Tuck Yew (above, left with Prof David Hogan, Co-convenor of the conference) presided at the opening ceremony of the three-day conference, held in the Nanyang Auditorium, Nanyang Technological University on 28 May 2007. He considered the conference unique and important; unique, due to the deliberate structuring of the conference to ensure active participation from both academics and practitioners and important, because the nexus between these two groups was now critical at this juncture of educational development in Singapore as well as in many other countries.

Strands of the Conference

The papers were categorised according to the following strands: Language and Literacy Education, Mathematics Education, Multiliteracies and Multimodalities, Science Education, IT Education, Affective Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, School Change and Leadership, Innovation in Curriculum Development and Classroom Practice, Student Performance and Assessment, Anthropology and Cultural Studies, Cognition and Understanding, Cultures of Learning and Teaching, Teacher Professional Development and Visual and Performing Arts.
**School Presentations**

There were a significant number of papers presented by Singapore teachers. Besides the 36 papers from 16 schools, some teachers co-authored papers with NIE faculty, officers from the Ministry of Education and even teachers from other schools. For example, the paper "Using Concept Mapping Tools to Construct Knowledge" was presented by Mr Peh Chin Heng from Maris Stella High School, Mr Cheng Ghee Hock from Beatty Secondary School and Ms Tan Sok Ngin from Anglican High School.


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**Dr Ruth Wong**

A Grateful Institute Remembers

By Public & International Relations

Dr. Ruth Wong was a remarkable educator and scholar. Born in Singapore to poor but highly respected immigrants from Fuzhou, China, Dr. Ruth Wong taught briefly at the Singapore Anglo-Chinese School and attended Queen’s University in Belfast, Ireland and Harvard University in the USA under various scholarships. When she returned from Harvard University with a doctorate, Dr. Wong taught at the then University of Malaya in Singapore and started the Faculty of Education at the newly established University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur.

Upon her return to Singapore in 1969, Dr. Wong joined the Ministry of Education as Director of Research and concurrently, Principal of the Teachers’ Training College (TTC) along Paterson Road. Dr. Wong single-handedly upgraded the TTC to II in 1973, which streamlined and improved teacher education considerably. She retired from II in 1976 but succumbed to her illness six years later at the age of 64.

Dr. Wong, Dr. Grigorenko is Associate Professor of Child Studies and Psychology at Yale University and Associate Professor of Psychology at Moscow State University.

In her lecture, she discussed the US school curriculum with regard to the attention given in teaching academic competencies, development of creative thinking and formation of emotional maturity. Dr. Grigorenko urged educators to look beyond the three ‘R’s’ — reading, writing and arithmetic — and teach creativity and compassion as everyday skills. She noted that most schools still emphasised memory and abstract analytical abilities, while intelligence in everyday life required a broader range of abilities than what conventional tests measured. She opined that a child’s ability in finding applications of knowledge learnt and how good he was in extending the knowledge should also be measured.

Her discussion included recent empirical education studies carried out at Yale University that illustrated the efficacy and importance of teaching creativity and compassion along with academic competencies.
Leaders in an Interconnected World

Taking place at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel from 3 to 5 July 2007, the Academy of Principals Singapore’s Global Education Conference was based on the theme Leading Schools in an Interconnected World. Alongside keynote addresses, concurrent sessions and a plenary session, paper presentations were based on the following types: School leadership experiences such as those of principals, vice-principals and other departmental heads of schools; district and state education offices; projects showcasing the interconnectedness of school leadership across cultures; interdependencies of school leaders nationally, regionally and internationally; issues related to curriculum leadership; and successful collaborative efforts between schools at the national and international levels.

After the opening ceremony on 4 July 2007, presided by guest of honour Mr Ong Kong Yeng, Secretary-General of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, Prof Andy Hargreaves presented the first keynote address. Change for Sustainable Knowledge Societies. Prof Hargreaves is Thomas More Brennan Chair in Education, Lynch School of Education, Boston College.

In the afternoon, NIE Director Prof Lee Sing Kong spoke on Common Leadership Characteristics that Connect Educational Leaders Across Borders. Quoting Bertha Calloway: “We cannot direct the wave, we can adjust the sail”, he highlighted that change was an ingredient that impacted not only leadership. Having a global mindset, leading by empowerment and working in collaboration with international partners were keys in both the education fraternity and the business world. The driving forces of technology would always challenge the educator in terms of information mastery and knowledge. However, like that of a gardener, the fundamental principles also applied to an educator, that ways be sought to innovate and create an environment that would harness maximum growth in each individual.

Assuming the directorship of NIE in November 2006 and known to his peers as the vegetable man and tree man, Prof Lee’s passion in nurturing still thrives. A gardener turned educator, he also touched on the demands of education leadership in the 21st century.

Assoc Prof Lee Ong Kim (Head, Policy and Leadership Studies) and Asst Prof David Ng (Associate Dean, Leadership Programmes, Graduate Programmes and Research) contributed as the organising committee’s Vice Chairman and Secretariat and Logistics Sub-committee member respectively.

Collaborations

Consultants Begin Work in Bahrain

he Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, the University of Bahrain, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Supreme Council for Women and the Economic Development Board, has been working on a reform of Bahrain’s education system.

One of the important steps that the Bahrain Ministry of Education is undertaking is the strengthening of the teaching profession, which will see improvement in how teachers are recruited, the quality of training for both preservice and inservice programmes as well as employment conditions.

NIE submitted a proposal for the review and improvement of Bahrain’s teacher education and the teaching profession, one component of the overall reform agenda. This process involves a Needs Analysis Study, which will provide inputs for the determination and design of professional development programmes for teachers and principals. This will lead to the next two stages which are (a) the establishment of a performance management system and (b) the establishment of a teachers’ training college.

For the Needs Analysis Study, a team of NIE consultants, led by Assoc Prof Lee Ong Kim (Head, Policy and Leadership Studies), was in Bahrain from 6 to 17 May 2007 to conduct a Competence Needs Assessment of teachers and principals. The other members of the team were Assoc Prof Subramaniam Ramanathan (Associate Dean, Educational Research), Asst Prof Jonathan Goh (Policy and Leadership Studies), Mr Hiron Salleh (Policy and Leadership Studies), Asst Prof Harry Tan (Physical Education and Sports Science) and Asst Prof Goh-Leong Lai Keun (Physical Education and Sports Science).

They visited a total of 30 schools during the trip and convened 12 focus group discussions with ministry officers, principals and teachers. Data were also collected using two sets of rating scales for quantitative measures and two sets of questionnaires for qualitative data.

The team is currently analysing the data and preparing a report, which will be presented to the Bahraini Ministry of Education in July 2007.
IE officiated a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Graduate School of Education, The University of Tokyo on 28 May 2007 at NIE. The two academies formalised their existing and potential areas of collaboration in lesson study, comparative studies in classroom pedagogy and practice, as well as citizenship education.

The University of Tokyo ranks as a top Asian university and strives “to create an institution that contributes to the benefit of all human society”. Similarly, NIE as Singapore’s sole teacher education institute, aspires to graduate passionate and committed teachers, who then contribute to the nation by nurturing future generations of Singapore.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by dons and academics from the University of Tokyo, University of Nagoya and NIE.

SRI International
Silicon Valley-based SRI International (SRI) and NIE agreed on 13 June 2007 to carry out a long-term strategic collaboration by jointly setting up the Centre of Excellence for Learning Innovation (CELI). The centre’s vision encompasses building innovation and research capacity in education and to conduct collaborative research that will impact educational practices and advance learning.

SRI is one of the world’s leading independent research and technology development organisations. Founded as Stanford Research Institute in 1946, the non-profit research institute performs contract research and development for government agencies, commercial businesses and private foundations. In addition to conducting contract R&D, SRI licenses its technologies, forms strategic partnerships and creates spin-off companies.

Among the joint collaborations that will be carried out through CELI include joint research programmes in the learning sciences and in Interactive and Digital Media for education. “As the nation’s teacher education institute, our imperative is to harness the enabling power of new technologies to encourage engaged learning among our ‘digital natives’ through education. This collaboration with SRI International brings together expertise and resources from both organisations that will help bring this vision one step closer to reality,” said NIE Director Prof Lee Sing Kong.

An overall theme of the collaboration will be innovation. “Through this alliance, Singaporeans can access SRI’s rich legacy and disciplined approach to innovation, with the goal of fostering innovation best practices. Through the new CELI, NIE and SRI’s Center for Technology in Learning will access each other’s expertise in education research and the development of promising new tools and curricula,” said Dr Curtis Carlson, President and Chief Executive Officer of SRI.

An important initial focus will be on using research-based technologies to improve mathematics and science education, such as the technologies SRI studied in its scaling up SimCalc research. “SRI’s research on scaling up the use of interactive graphs and simulations for teaching conceptually difficult mathematics has demonstrated robust learning gains with diverse populations in the USA,” said Dr Jeremy Roschelle, Director of SRI’s Center for Technology in Learning (above, left). “Bringing together SRI’s research on innovative learning technologies and Singapore’s expertise in mathematics instruction will strengthen the integration of technology with high quality curriculum and increase the opportunities for large scale impacts in education in both countries.”
During a tour of Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia, Ms. Zahiya Zareer, Maldivian Education Minister paid a visit to NIE on 1 June 2007. She was accompanied by Mr. Abdulla Ismail, Principal, Kalafaanu School and Mr. Hamid Sodique, Assistant Director, Foreign Relations, Ministry of Education, Maldives.

Prof Paul Teng (Dean, Graduate Programmes and Research) hosted the ministerial delegation as well as gave a presentation on the professional development programmes. Briefings on the initial teacher preparation and external programmes were facilitated by Mr. Eric Teo (Assistant Head, Planning, Foundation Programmes) and Mr. Jacques See (Business Development Manager, External Programmes) respectively. The minister and delegation discussed the possibility of training school teachers and instructors through short- and long-term education courses, and exchange programmes, after which they were hosted to lunch by Prof. Teng.

She also visited the Institute of Technical Education on 30 May 2007 and engaged in discussions with Education Minister of State Gan Kim Yong on 1 June 2007.
Jordanian Officials Experience Singapore Education System

By Public & International Relations

Hosted by NIE Director Prof Lee Sing Kong, Assoc Prof Cheah Horn Mun (Dean, Foundation Programmes) and Asst Prof David Ng (Associate Dean, Leadership Programmes, Graduate Programmes and Research), the secretary-generals listened intently to presentations on the institute’s initial teacher education, professional development and leadership programmes. The possibilities of collaboration were also explored with both parties expressing an interest in future linkages.

Besides observations at Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Institute of Technical Education, the delegation also learnt the role of the National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University and INSEAD in Singapore’s tertiary education system.

Benefactor Updated on Disbursed Donations

By Public & International Relations

The C J Koh collection in NIE’s Library and Information Services Centre was made possible by Mr Koh on his 96th birthday in 1997, in addition to another donation of $30,000 to kick-start the collection in memory of his wife.

The couple, who arrived together with Mrs Marina Tan-Harper (Director, Development Office, NTLU) and Mr Eddy Seet (Relationship Manager, Development Office, NTLU), was warmly welcomed by NIE Director Prof Lee Sing Kong, Prof Leo Tan (Natural Sciences and Science Education) and NIE’s management. Mrs Isabel Yeo (Head, Library and Information Services Centre) then led Mr and Mrs Ong to view the consummate C J Koh Collection, which NIE had acquired over the last decade.

Ms Ng Ee Lynn and Ms Lim Zee Ying are this year’s recipients of the Pradap Kow Scholarship. Ms Ng, who is pursuing her master’s degree, delivered a presentation on her research at the Applied Cognitive Development Laboratory. Their supervisor Asst Prof Kerry Lee (Psychological Studies) gave insightful information on applied cognitive development and effects of test anxiety on both working memory and mathematical performance.

The visit by Mr and Mrs Ong concluded with an informal discussion cum tea reception and a much-appreciated bouquet for Mrs Ong.
British Peer Gains Insights into School Leadership

**By Public & International Relations**

The British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools learnt about factors that contributed to the high levels of attainment in schools during his visit to Singapore from 28 to 29 May 2007. Lord Andrew Adonis (left) discussed the critical role of school leaders during his hour long meeting with NIE Director Prof Lee Sing Kong on 28 May 2007. His Excellency Paul Madden, British High Commissioner was also present.

**Happenings**

Former NIE Director Prof Leo Tan was the special guest speaker at a university graduation ceremony in Australia in May 2007. Prof Tan spoke at a graduation of students from the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Fraser Coast campus. The campus is located in the coastal city of Hervey Bay but the ceremony was in nearby Maryborough, one of Australia’s most historic cities.

Prof Tan processed through the streets with the 104 graduands and 40 academics and dignitaries from the city’s town hall to the Brolga Theatre.

An audience of 900 people listened to Prof Tan speak about education, in particular NIE and Singapore’s education system. His inspiring words to the new graduates were received with great enthusiasm and gave hope to them as they embark on careers in teaching, nursing, business, science and the arts.

The Fraser Coast campus celebrated its 10th anniversary while Prof Tan was visiting. He attended a celebratory evening at the campus, which featured fireworks and entertainment.

During his three-day visit to the city, Prof Tan also presented a public lecture entitled Why Singaporean Kids Do So Well at School: Some Challenging Thoughts for Aussie Parents and Teachers. The lecture was well attended and was also covered in the local press.
n alumni relations function within NIE’s Public and International Relations Department was recently established to foster closer rapport between 40,000 graduates and their alma mater and predecessor institutes, Teachers’ Training College and Institute of Education. Ms Jolene Tan (above) is overseeing this function with the aim of strengthening a longstanding relationship between NIE and its rapidly-growing alumni, developing a strong community bonding among alumni, student teachers and staff, and involving graduates in the continuing development and activities of the institute.

“I would be delighted to meet you in NIE. If we see each other while on campus, do say ‘hello’. We will be coordinating a particulars update exercise in the next issue of NIE News, slated for publication in October 2007. With these updates, we will be able to keep all of you posted of the institute’s happenings and possibly elicit your participation. I am also working with a group of alumni in setting up the NIE Alumni Association,” says Jolene.

Those seeking more information concerning alumni affairs may contact Jolene on Tel: (65) 6790 3612 or Email: jolene.tan@nie.edu.sg.

A Beaming Alumnae

Kudos to NIE Stars

“Having completed 13 modules, I crossed paths with many tutors, tutors who taught with their hearts and tutors who did not. The reversal of role from teacher to student helped me appreciate the influence of a good teacher. As an institute of educating teachers, Asst Prof Ramona Tang, Assoc Prof David Deterting, Asst Prof Alvin Leong and Asst Prof Teo Kok Ming are NIE’s shining stars! They emanate the essence of a stellar teacher who not only teaches, but makes a difference in a student’s life,” shares Ms Wendy Tan Wui Leng (standing, fourth from left), a returning teacher from Chongfu Primary School. She completed her Diploma in Education in 2001 and is now reading for a Bachelor of Arts (Education), majoring in English.

Asst Prof Ramona Tang, English Language & Literature

Asst Prof Ramona Tang often went the extra mile to upload extra practices and notes on Blackboard for our access. She refused to indulge in the naive belief that students understood when they were silent during tutorials. Her remark, “Don’t think that you’re the only one who does not know; when you don’t ask, you will never know” struck a deep chord in me. Her passion in what she teaches is truly contagious. In her, I see the love for English and most of all, the inspiration to pass on the love to our school children.

Assoc Prof David Deterting, English Language & Literature

Assoc Prof David Deterting for the way he engages his students. The most valuable take-away from his class is the way he models good teaching. A good teacher, in his words, ensures that children practise, practise and practise. Before every lecture and tutorial, he made sure we did likewise! On top of that, he incorporated English games at the end of every lecture to prove that the English language could be fun! I remember him vividly from my days at NIE’s Bukit Timah campus: his fervour for what he teaches is still burning brightly.

Asst Prof Alvin Leong, English Language & Literature

Although the module on discourse writing was mind-boggling, Asst Prof Leong took pains to synthesize the concepts into bite-size for us. Besides lending us a hand, he empathised wholeheartedly with our heavy workload and our lapse of time away from the groves of academe. The one aspect I appreciated most about him is his advocacy of multi-drafting. He saw this methodology as a way to help us improve our writing. Though multi-drafting meant more work for him, he was very willing to sacrifice his time to see us progress. In him, I see the true spirit of teaching.

Asst Prof Teo Kok Ming, Mathematics & Mathematics Education

Asst Prof Teo exemplifies the patience of a teacher. Mathematics was my nemesis despite being a lower primary teacher for years. Being thrown with Primary 6 Mathematics in the first semester was a struggle. If not for him, I would not have passed the module. He sacrificed his time to sit down with us for hours to explain the concepts, not once but numerous times. We were not the only group of students he helped. He did the same for every tutorial group.
First-year Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Physical Education) student teacher Mohammad Rahazam Bin Tumadi (above, left) passed away on 15 May 2007 from an accident in Mount Ophir in Johor, Malaysia. His friend and fellow aspiring teacher, Mohamed Sayadi Bin Mohamed Nor (above, right), shares his heartfelt reminiscences of a dear friend he affectionately called “Zam”.

“Life is so wonderful, so perfect yet so flawed; so beautiful yet so uncouth, so smooth yet at times rough. Lord, life is a wonderful thing. I used to take life for granted. I expected and felt entitled to live to a ripe old age. All changed on 15 May 2007. Zam’s passing sent me into denial. Tears soon followed. Why him?

At the funeral, Zam’s parents were beyond tears. The sound of a sobbing mother burying her son breaks your heart. His sister was putting on a brave front for mum and dad but her eyes betrayed her. They looked empty, almost lost. Then a realisation hit me. What right do I have to cry, to grieve, when I only knew him for less than a year? I felt almost embarrassed to show any emotion.

I first noticed Zam during our year one orientation camp. I was glad to see him, not because I knew him as a person but because he too was ‘horizontally challenged’. We ended up in the same class and became friends. We did what normal guys would do in between and at times, during lessons. Football, girls and planning gym workouts (in a bid to look more like Physical Education teachers) were our favourite conversation topics.

Zam was a natural entertainer. He did not even need to try. During track and field, form was more important than performance to Zam. He could do the perfect pose for hurdles but struggled to clear three hurdles at one go. Football drills were accompanied by running commentary complete with a Spanish accent. He played with the flair of a young Pele and the speed of an aging Maradona. Most notably, he celebrated his goals just like Thierry Henry. He irritated us and we loved him for that.

On the first Wednesday of semester two, we had a five-hour break in between lessons. Zam brought me to the gym at Jurong East Stadium. We had a good workout and planned to make this a weekly routine for the whole semester. We lasted two sessions. The other Wednesdays were spent in the canteen talking over a plate of chicken cutlet with spaghetti (Zam’s favourite) followed by an attempt to read our Exercise Physiology text in the library which never failed to end in an afternoon siesta within 37 seconds of opening the book.

Zam was full of ‘nonsense’ but when the crunch came, when someone needed help, when work needed to be done, Zam could get things done. He was responsible and his sincerity always shone through a carefree façade.

These little excerpts may mean nothing to those who did not know him but these little memories are all I have to hang on to Zam. I may not feel that I have the right to grieve but maybe, just maybe, missing a friend is fine for me.”

NIE news
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visit by NIE International Advisory Panel</td>
<td>16-20 Jul 2007</td>
<td>NIE Campus/Shangri-La Hotel</td>
<td>Ms Chan Guet Har Email: <a href="mailto:guethar.chan@nie.edu.sg">guethar.chan@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT Seminar for Cluster Superintendents &amp; Principals</td>
<td>18-19 Jul 2007</td>
<td>NIE Campus</td>
<td>Ms Nenny Noorman Email: <a href="mailto:nenny.noorman@nie.edu.sg">nenny.noorman@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>NTU Convocation</td>
<td>23-27 Jul 2007</td>
<td>Nanyang Auditorium, NTU</td>
<td>Mr Aaron Chong Email: <a href="mailto:aaron.chong@nie.edu.sg">aaron.chong@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation Programme for New Student Teachers from the Initial Teacher Preparation Programmes</td>
<td>23 Jul-5 Aug 2007</td>
<td>NIE Campus</td>
<td>Mrs Jessica Tan Email: <a href="mailto:jessica.wong@nie.edu.sg">jessica.wong@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma in Departmental Management Graduation Ceremony for January 2007 Intake</td>
<td>24 Jul 2007</td>
<td>Civil Service College</td>
<td>Ms Mae Chan Email: <a href="mailto:meipoh.chan@nie.edu.sg">meipoh.chan@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>International Southeast Asian Geography Association Forum on Southeast Asian Futures: Is Geography Destiny?</td>
<td>28 Jul 2007</td>
<td>National Library Building</td>
<td>Prof Ooi Giok Ling Email: <a href="mailto:giokling.ooi@nie.edu.sg">giokling.ooi@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<td>Commerce Seminar 2007</td>
<td>28 Jul 2007</td>
<td>M Hotel</td>
<td>Ms Koh Noi Keng Email: <a href="mailto:noikeng.koh@nie.edu.sg">noikeng.koh@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<td>NIE Director's Relay Run 2007</td>
<td>3 Aug 2007</td>
<td>NIE/NTU Campus</td>
<td>Ms Lynn Chew Email: <a href="mailto:lynn.chew@nie.edu.sg">lynn.chew@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<td>National Day Celebrations</td>
<td>8 Aug 2007</td>
<td>NIE Campus</td>
<td>Mrs Jessica Tan Email: <a href="mailto:jessica.wong@nie.edu.sg">jessica.wong@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<td>International Alliance of Leading Education Institutes</td>
<td>20-21 Aug 2007</td>
<td>NIE Campus</td>
<td>Mr Aaron Chong Email: <a href="mailto:aaron.chong@nie.edu.sg">aaron.chong@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<td>Graduation Ceremony for Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education (Ministry of Health)</td>
<td>Aug 2007</td>
<td>NIE Campus</td>
<td>Ms Cherie Lek Email: <a href="mailto:yianping.lek@nie.edu.sg">yianping.lek@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<td>Second e-Learning Week</td>
<td>3-8 Sep 2007</td>
<td>NIE Campus</td>
<td>Ms Nenny Noorman Email: <a href="mailto:nenny.noorman@nie.edu.sg">nenny.noorman@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<td>Leaders in Education Programme (International)</td>
<td>3-14 Sep 2007</td>
<td>NIE Campus</td>
<td>Ms Cherie Lek Email: <a href="mailto:yianping.lek@nie.edu.sg">yianping.lek@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Forum on the School-based Chinese Curriculum Design &amp; Action Research for Primary Schools</td>
<td>4 Sep 2007</td>
<td>Nanyang Junior College Auditorium</td>
<td>Asst Prof Aw Guat Poh Email: <a href="mailto:guatpoh.aw@nie.edu.sg">guatpoh.aw@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<td>Naa Go Tamil IT Award Ceremony cum Seminar on Tamil Language Teaching &amp; Learning</td>
<td>7 Sep 2007</td>
<td>To be confirmed</td>
<td>Asst Prof Seetha Lakshmi Email: <a href="mailto:seetha.lakshmi@nie.edu.sg">seetha.lakshmi@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<td>Welcome Ceremony for Hebei-Beijing Master in Educational Administration Programme</td>
<td>Sep 2007</td>
<td>NIE Campus</td>
<td>Ms Cherie Lek Email: <a href="mailto:yianping.lek@nie.edu.sg">yianping.lek@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Official Opening of Emirates College for Advanced Education</td>
<td>Sep 2007</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi, UAE</td>
<td>Ms Cherie Lek Email: <a href="mailto:yianping.lek@nie.edu.sg">yianping.lek@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaders in Education Programme Graduation Ceremony</td>
<td>Oct 2007</td>
<td>To be confirmed</td>
<td>Ms Mae Chan Email: <a href="mailto:meipoh.chan@nie.edu.sg">meipoh.chan@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Opening of the Sampoerna Teachers Institute</td>
<td>Oct 2007</td>
<td>Jakarta, Indonesia</td>
<td>Ms Cherie Lek Email: <a href="mailto:yianping.lek@nie.edu.sg">yianping.lek@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Conference in Educational Technology</td>
<td>21-22 Nov 2007</td>
<td>Republic Polytechnic</td>
<td>Ms Nenny Noorman Email: <a href="mailto:nenny.noorman@nie.edu.sg">nenny.noorman@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrichment Programme for Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) January 2007 Intake</td>
<td>Nov 2007</td>
<td>NIE Campus</td>
<td>Mrs Jessica Tan Email: <a href="mailto:jessica.wong@nie.edu.sg">jessica.wong@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>14th Annual Academic Session for Young Participants, Singapore Olympic Academy</td>
<td>4-6 Dec 2007</td>
<td>Sentosa</td>
<td>Assoc Prof Nick Aplin Email: <a href="mailto:nicholas.aplin@nie.edu.sg">nicholas.aplin@nie.edu.sg</a></td>
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</table>
The NIE Director’s Relay Run is being organised for the second time on 3 August 2007 evening, in aid of the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS) Jurong Gardens School.

MINDS aims to maximise the potential and ability of persons with intellectual disability by providing special education and employment development services, so as to enable them to live as independently as possible.

The relay run is the institute’s annual fund-raising event, incorporating a competitive relay run for serious runners and a “Fun Run” category for those who prefer a more comfortable pace. You can participate by registering a relay team of six runners in the competitive race or as individual runners in the non-competitive “Fun Run”. Alternatively, you can make a one-time donation to the event.

All proceeds will benefit NIE’s adopted beneficiary. For more information on how to register or donate to the event, please refer to the website www.nie.edu.sg/dir_relay2007. Rules and regulations, route maps and sponsorship opportunities are listed on this site.

You can also send your queries to Email: dirrelay@nie.edu.sg.