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A TIME TO SHINE: ITE HONOURS TOP GRADUATES AT GRADUATION CEREMONY 2009

Daiko drum enthusiast tops cohort of 11,540 graduates

When 18-year-old Wang Junyong first took up Japanese Daiko drumming, little did he dream that his favourite pastime would become the reason for his resounding success today. The once-reserved lad, who suffered from low self-esteem, regained his confidence and uncovered his leadership abilities through public Daiko drum performances. Junyong's newfound self-belief propelled him to excel in the *Nitec* in Applied Food Science course at ITE College East, and he will graduate with the prestigious **Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal**, the highest award given to an ITE graduate.

2 For Junyong and 662 of his peers who have achieved outstanding results in their respective ITE courses, the **ITE Graduation Ceremony on 16 June 2009** will be their time to shine and to savour the fruit of their hard work and determination.

3 In the Academic Year 2008/2009, **11,540** students will be graduating from ITE. Of these, **663** have been awarded **Certificates of Merit**. Among them, **140** will be awarded **Course Medals** for their excellent performance in their respective courses. The most outstanding **four** among these will be presented with Top Medals – the **Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal, Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal, Sng Yew Chong Gold Medal** and **Singapore Labour Foundation Gold Medal**. Profiles of the top four graduates are at **Annex A**.

4 The ITE Graduation Ceremony 2009 will be held on **Tuesday 16 June 2009** at **1530 hours** at the **University Cultural Centre Hall**, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge Crescent. **Mr S Iswaran**, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade & Industry and Ministry of Education, will be the Guest-of-Honour at the Ceremony.

Invitation to Media Members

5 Members of the media are cordially invited to the ITE Graduation Ceremony 2009, and to cover the event. The Programme and Location Map for the ceremony are attached at **Annexes B and C** respectively.

6 To confirm your attendance or for further information / arrangements for interviews, please contact:

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Institute of Technical Education

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Singapore, was established as a post-secondary education institution in 1992 under the Ministry of Education. ITE is a principal provider of career and technical education and key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards to enhance Singapore's workforce competitiveness. Under its "One ITE System, Three Colleges" Model of Education and Governance, ITE has three Colleges, comprising ITE College Central, ITE College East and ITE College West. For more information, please visit www.ite.edu.sg.

RECIPIENTS OF TOP MEDALS AT ITE GRADUATION CEREMONY 2009

LEE KUAN YEW GOLD MEDAL WINNER 2009

Wang Junyong, 18

Nitec in Applied Food Science
ITE College East

Wang Junyong was like a piece of hidden treasure – his potential hidden by a lack of confidence. It was Japanese Daiko drumming that built up his self-belief. To share his passion, he founded the Daiko Club in ITE College East. Under his dedicated leadership, the Club amassed 30 members in two short years.

Just like the spectacular pounding sound of the drums, Junyong's resounding success is evident in his field of study. He led a team in developing an innovative food product – Baked Shark's Fin Rice – which was later commercialised by a private manufacturer.

To Junyong, academic success was not as important as having a good heart and an impeccable character. And indeed, he is an all-rounded young man with his heart in the right place. He has actively volunteered in many community projects, locally and overseas. He was also part of the Singapore contingent that went to Hong Kong for the International Youth Exchange Programme.

A model student, Junyong firmly believes that "your pace matters not, as long as you do not stop and surrender." He is now pursuing a Diploma in Food Science & Technology at Singapore Polytechnic.

TAY ENG SOON GOLD MEDAL WINNER 2009

Natalie Lim, 19

Higher Nitec in Business Studies (Administration)
ITE College West

An outspoken and open-minded individual, Natalie Lim took a keen interest in national issues and actively participated in many dialogue sessions with Ministers, Members of Parliament and other leaders.

The opportunity to air her views, together with portfolios, such as President of the Student Council and Vice-President of the Co-op Shop in ITE College West (Clementi Campus), marked a rewarding ITE journey for Natalie. She summed up her ITE experience by saying: "I could not ask for more."

In 2008, Natalie spent two months on a student exchange programme at Boxhill Institute in Melbourne, Australia. It was a fruitful experience which widened her global perspectives.

With a confident and never-say-die attitude, Natalie led her Student Council members with humility, integrity and compassion for others. Currently pursuing a Diploma in Business

Studies at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Natalie hopes to impart these same values to future ITE students, when she completes her studies and return to teach at ITE.

SNG YEW CHONG GOLD MEDAL WINNER 2009

Muhammad Afiq Hakim Bin Masroni Osland, 18

Nitec in Building Drafting (Architectural)

ITE College Central

Muhammad Afiq Hakim is a natural leader who takes great pride in being the best that he can be in every aspect of his life. He was the first Chairman of the ITE College Central Student Council Central Committee and the President of the Bedok Campus Student Council.

A young man who displays a level of maturity beyond his youth, Afiq was chosen to represent Singapore in the 13th Malaysia-Singapore Youth Camp in 2008, an annual event that focuses on strengthening bilateral ties between the youth of Singapore and Malaysia. He was also selected to represent ITE College Central in various dialogue sessions with Ministers and community leaders.

As the Vice-Chairman of the Community Services Club, he made use of every opportunity he had to participate in community service and leadership programmes, including leading a team of 30 students on an expedition to Chiang Rai, Thailand.

Living by the mantra, "There are very few dead ends in anything, except in people's minds", Afiq has the winning formula to make a success of his future, indeed – a disciplined mind and a loving heart. He is currently a Diploma in Architecture student at Singapore Polytechnic.

SINGAPORE LABOUR FOUNDATION GOLD MEDAL WINNER 2009

[for top graduate of ITE's Continuing Education & Training Programme]

Aizuriah Bte Mohamed Ali, 34

Nitec in Nursing

ITE College East

It took nearly a decade of searching, opportunities and continuous self-discovery for Aizuriah Bte Mohamed Ali to discover her calling in Nursing. She held different jobs over the years, but it was the interaction with nurses in her last job at a polyclinic that piqued her interest in Nursing.

Following her heart, Aizuriah made a mid-career switch to embark on a Nursing career. She enrolled in an accelerated Nursing course at ITE, and has never looked back since.

It was no easy feat balancing her studies and family commitments, but the steely lady managed to overcome the challenges with sheer determination. She is now an Assistant Nurse at Alexandra Hospital.

Now, Aizuriah knows nursing is where her future lies and she has big plans for furthering her studies. Whichever path she embarks on in the future, Aizuriah has learnt the wonders of continuous learning and experienced the beauty of nursing, neither of which she will ever give up.

ITE GRADUATION CEREMONY 2009

16 June 2009, 1530 hours
University Cultural Centre Hall, National University of Singapore

Programme

1510 hrs	Guests to be seated
1525 hrs	Arrival of Guest-of-Honour Mr S Iswaran Senior Minister of State Ministry of Trade & Industry and Ministry of Education
1530 hrs	National Anthem ITE Song Video Presentation Address by Mr Bruce Poh Director & Chief Executive Officer Institute of Technical Education Address by Guest-of-Honour Presentation of Certificates of Merit Presentation of Course Medals Presentation of Top Awards to Outstanding Graduates Valedictory Speech Song Tribute for Class of 2009
1730 hrs	Reception

**University Cultural Centre,
National University of Singapore
50, Kent Ridge Crescent, Singapore 119279**

