A Step Closer to the New Home

Topping Out Ceremony at the New ITE Headquarters and ITE College Central

by Shalini Veijayaratnam

A step closer to a new home - ITE Headquarters and the five ITE College Central campuses inch closer to their move-in date of the new Regional Campus at Ang Mo Kio. On 3 February 2012, a significant milestone in the construction process was reached, with the completion of the building structure. Set in the neighbourhood of Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5, the third and final mega campus of ITE looks certain to stand out as an icon.

Topping Out for an Important Milestone

To celebrate the structural completion of the building, ITE, together with Kajima Corporation, organised a symbolic Topping Out Ceremony at the roof-top of the new ITE HQ and College. At 8th storey of the new block, the roof-top provided an excellent vantage view of the building and its surroundings for its 50 guests who participated in the brief but meaningful event wearing hard hats and safety shoes, no less.

Led by Mr Bob Tan, Chairman, ITE, eleven gentlemen from ITE, RSP Architects & Planners and Kajima Corporation poured concrete mix into the last cavity in the building. The eleven gentlemen then shoveled the cavity evenly within the cavity to complete the ceremony.

Ms Chew Ee Sin, Deputy Director, Development & Estates, ITE, was glad that the completion of the building structure was commemorated grandly. She said: “As we reach a milestone in the construction phase, I am glad that consultants and colleagues who have worked hard for this project have come together to celebrate.”

A Jolly Good Time

Guests at the roof-top joined another 100 over guests, who watched a live feed of the Topping Out Ceremony from ground level. To celebrate the momentous occasion, they were treated to a lion dance performance by ITE College Central and the Japanese Daiko Drums performance by ITE College East.

A highlight of the celebration was the sake-barrel breaking, which is usually done at celebratory events among the Japanese. Two sake barrels were specially ordered from Japan, and the sake was subsequently served to all guests in a masu, or a wooden cup, in true Japanese fashion.

Eileen Tan, a student from ITE College Central (MacPherson Campus) who performed the lion dance item, was thrilled about her new ‘home’. She said: “I am glad I performed, as I am one of the first few to step into the new campus. My first impression is that ‘it is such a big campus!’ I am really excited about moving here and I wish this could be done sooner!”

Read more on the story behind the new ITE Headquarters and College Central on page 6 and 7.
Our Distinguished Visitors
ITE hosted the following distinguished visitors between January and March 2012:

His Excellency Dr Mya Aye, Minister for Education, Myanmar

Curiosity Piqued: His Excellency Dr Mya Aye, Minister for Education, Myanmar (second from right in tie), poses questions to Mr Lim Teck Lee, Senior Director, School of Engineering, ITE College East (first from right), on the intelligent and energy-efficient building systems at the Building Automation System Laboratory of ITE College East.

House of Commons Education Select Committee, United Kingdom

In-House Capability: Mr Bruce Poh, Director & CEO, ITE (second from left), presents an ITE Corporate Video fabricated at the Flexible Manufacturing System Laboratory at ITE College West to a delighted Mr Graham Stuart, Member of Parliament and Chair of the House of Commons Education Select Committee, United Kingdom.

American Federation of Teachers, United States of America

Experiencing Operation Theatre Simulation Training: Members of the American Federation of Teachers discover how and why nursing skills are imparted via simulation at the ITE Centre for Healthcare Simulation Training at ITE College East.
Our Distinguished Visitors  

Centres for General Adult Education, Denmark

Meeting the Vehicle of the Future: Leaders of Centres for General Adult Education in Denmark were captivated by the Hydrogen-Powered Urban Vehicle at the Automation and Robotics Centre at ITE College West.

Ministry of Finance, Office of the Deputy Minister for Administration, Reform Implementation & Management Unit, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Improving Patient Care: Delegates from the Ministry of Finance, Office of the Deputy Minister for Administration, Reform Implementation & Management Unit, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan were briefed on the usage of high-fidelity patient simulation mannequins in nursing classes held in ITE Centre for Healthcare Simulation Training at ITE College East.

The World Bank’s “Benchmarking Workforce Development Technical Workshop”

Hospitality Assured: Participants of the World Bank’s “Benchmarking Workforce Development Technical Workshop” from various countries gained an insight into the authentic learning environment in ITE College’s West Training Hotel.
Let the Games Begin!
Singapore Robotics Games 2012 held at ITE College East
by Josephine Lefort

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UTOBOTS Transform! ITE students from the School of Engineering, rose up to the challenge to compete in Singapore Robotics Games (SRG) 2012, an annual competition to push the boundaries on robotics capabilities.

Organised by staff and students from ITE College East’s School of Engineering, ITE College West emerged Champion, 1st Runner-up, 2nd Runner-up in the PicoMouse Open Category Competition and the 1st Runner-up in the PicoMouse JC/ITE Competition.

The three-day competition, where “home-made” robots “compete” against one another in challenging tasks, showcases the highest technical level of robotics with a focus on non-traditional applications. The Organising Committee, comprised members representing all the local tertiary and post-secondary institutions, namely the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, ITE and the five polytechnics. Science Centre Singapore and the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (Singapore Chapter) were also represented in ensuring the success of the event.

Automation Culture
Automation is a key factor towards keeping Singapore productive and efficient. The SRG is one of the national initiatives to foster public awareness of automation capabilities. ITE-SRG Coordinator and Course Manager for Facility Technology at ITE College East, Mr Chong Chon Hsien, shared: “Apart from SRG’s main objectives of inculcating automation culture to and educating the general public, the committee hopes to co-ordinate efforts of all academic and research institutions towards practical robotics and automation. The gradual increase in participation rate over the years has been an encourage indicator of the continuous growth of technology.”
ITE students clinched nine out of 11 awards, including the top three prizes, in the 9th Green Wave Environmental Care Competition for Schools. A competition championed by Sembawang Shipyard, this year’s installment saw a record number of more than 1,250 students participating in it, with 312 project entries from 79 schools. ITE’s awards were in the Junior College/Institute of Technical Education category.

The project entries this year covered a wide variety of green issues, ranging from environmental pollution and global warming to resource scarcity and environmental conservation. The winning projects, selected after the stringent judging process, were acknowledged during the Green Wave Awards Presentation Ceremony, where Guest-of-Honour MG (NS) Chan Chun Sing, Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Minister of State of Information, Communications and the Arts, gave prizes out to winners at the Marina Mandarin Hotel, Singapore, on 20 January 2012.

**No Idea too Small**

ITE Green Crusaders bagged Top Prizes at Green Wave Environmental Care Competition for Schools by Josephine Lefort

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**Saving the planet, one drop of oil at a time**

“This is the first time in nine years that ITE has won the 1st prize in the JC/ITE category,” exclaimed Lim Yuan Chen Clarence, a Technical Engineer Diploma in Machine Technology student at ITE College Central, and leader of the award-winning *Used Cutting Oil Repossess Machine* project. His classmate and fellow team member, Muhammed Yusof Sulaiman said: “We are pleasantly surprised with the results. This project took off when our Class Advisor, Mr Tan Chee Kiong, challenged us to come up with a viable solution to help reduce-reuse-recycle oil wastage in the CNC Machining process. Our genuine interest to reduce cost and wastage propelled us to work hard, think out-of-the-box and come up with solutions.” “After a successful pilot test, Mr Tan and our Technical Supervisor, Mr Vincent Tang, encouraged us to compete in this prestigious Green Wave Environmental Care Competition. We did not know we had a winning formula in our hands!” added Faruk Abdullah, their third and final team member.

**The world is your oyster**

At ITE, students are encouraged to innovate and challenge themselves outside the comfort of their classrooms. “Lessons learned in school are brought alive when practical applications are encouraged and fostered. Participating in such competitions will encourage our students to come out of their comfort zone, employ their creative ideas and innovative thoughts for effective problem solving. And, most importantly, develop them into mature individuals who can present themselves confidently and eloquently on an external platform,” shared Mr Tang.
History in the Making
ITE College Central and Headquarters Ready for Relocation by Victor Yen

A S staff from ITE College Central (CC) and Headquarters (HQ) eagerly anticipate the relocation, or transition to the majestic complex in Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5 by end of this year, I could not help but flip through past news reports to understand when this all began. A Straits Times article on 23 August 2005 caught my attention. It was titled: “Two new ITE colleges to be ready by 2011”. From the onset, it would appear that we were behind time. This prompted me to give Mr Lim Cheng Siong, Divisional Director of Campus Development and Estates (CDE), a call for an interview.

Mr Lim Cheng Siong, has been an integral member of ITE’s management team since 1985. A civil and structural engineer by training, Mr Lim has a Masters in Property Management as well. Since joining ITE, he has played a key role in overseeing major building projects, as Project Director of both Regional Campuses in ITE College East (CE) and ITE College West (CW).

Maximising Resources, Managing Costs
Responding to the question why the project was late, Mr Lim clarified: “The original plan was to build three mega campuses over 15 years, or within five year apart. This would allow us time to better scrutinise learning points that could be applied to the next project, and manage resource constraints more comfortably. When the announcement to expedite ITE’s physical transformation was made, we faced several big challenges. First, we had to firm up details involving the acquiring of land. Second, there was a deliberate decision to integrate ITE HQ with ITE CC in the same premises. This move makes economic sense for the government, as we were relinquishing premises in Dover Drive to optimize land use in Singapore. Third, with the two Integrated Resorts (IRs) being built at around the same period, the construction industry had overheated. It was more cost efficient to adjust the timing of this project.”

ITE’s third and final mega College will open its doors for students in January 2013, notably two years ahead of the original 15-year schedule. Positioned as a College of Creativity and Innovation, the new location will have facilities such as an outdoor synthetic grass pitch, 10-lane Olympic-sized swimming pool, adventure park, 1,200-seat auditorium, three cafeterias and a campus broadcast station to name a few. The site, spanning 10.64 hectares (about 15 football fields), will house 1,400 staff and 10,400 students.
The Relocation
The relocation is a big operation in itself, requiring a lot of coordination among many parties to ensure a smooth process. The move will be preceded by a symbolic moving-in ceremony conducted at the end of October 2012. Mr Lim shared four milestones that must happen before the Big Move can take place. He said: “We must continue to monitor the building project closely to make sure that we are on track to obtain the Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) by mid-October. This will require very detailed scrutiny by our project team beforehand, as good workmanship is of utmost importance. We also have to do a comprehensive stock-take exercise of all the existing furniture and equipment at HQ and the five smaller campuses in ITE CC to decide what we want to bring over and what we need to condemn. As a public institution, we have to be prudent. If an asset is in good condition, we want to continue using it.”

The CDE project team for the Big Move is a well-qualified one. Led by Mr Lim as Project Director, the seven-man in-house team comprises mechanical and electrical engineers, quantity surveyors, building & estates specialists, and architects. The array of expertise is necessary, according to Mr Lim, as contemporary building projects are increasingly complex, with demands for green features and intelligent designs. He added: “Seventy per cent of the project team’s attention is spent the new development. On top of project monitoring, we are planning policies on the maintenance of the three mega Campuses and attracting tenants to run the on-site commercial outlets.”

ITE College Central: A College for the Community
With the new Campus equipped with impressive facilities, residents and the Ang Mo Kio neighbourhood-at-large can look forward to using them. ITE CC and CDE are working together to engage the community and arrangements are being made to welcome residents to enjoy the College’s sports facilities and commercial outlets.
SINCE ITE’s first assessment in 2009, the six-member External Review Panel (ERP) was back at ITE again in February 2012, to review ITE’s mid-cycle progress over the last three years.

In January 2009, the Ministry of Education (MOE) implemented an ITE Quality Assurance Framework (I-QAF) as an initiative to ensure that ITE’s systems and structures are properly aligned to achieve its mission, as well as to ensure accountability in the use of public funds. The first assessment in 2009 culminated into a list of commendations and recommendations for ITE.

During the four-day assessment, the ERP, which comprised three local and three international assessors, met up with Chairman/ITE, Senior Management, process owners and employers on new developments in ITE, as well as to better understand ITE’s curriculum process in terms of reviewing and introducing new courses. They also visited our authentic learning facilities in ITE College West, such as Hotel@College West, Rapid Transit Facilities, Automotive Technology Centre and Integrated Business Town. To have a sense of learning by students, the assessors also surprised the students by sitting in some practical classes.

At the end of the review, the ERP commended ITE for its strong linkage with alumni and employers, as well as its efforts in delivering on the promise of quality training to this special group of students. In short, the ERP felt that ITE had made exceptional progress since 2009.
DID you know that 1,400 people collapse out-of-hospital every year? Did you know with each passing minute, the chance of survival reduces by 7-10%, with only 2-3% surviving a cardiac arrest?

In a split second, life can change.

ITE College East staff and students volunteered their time and expertise in this year’s second National Life Saving Day on 16 January 2012, to make more hearts beat in life-threatening situations. Some 800 students participated as trainees, and about 100 Nursing staff and students imparted their skills in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) as instructors. Another 100 students lent their helping hands to provide logistical support to make it a successful event.

The National Life Saving Day event was organised by the Singapore Heart Foundation and the National Resuscitation Council with an attempt to set a new Guinness Book of World Records for organising the largest training session in CPR and AED. The world-record was broken and the aim was reached as 5,000 participants were trained in life-saving skills at the Singapore Expo.

The National Life Saving Day was graced by Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health.

A Life-Saving Achievement

ITE is proud to participate in this record-breaking feat. Ms Yvonne Lau, Section Head, Nursing, ITE College East, who was one of the trainers at the session, said: “At the end of the day, I felt happy and rewarded that I have trained laymen on basic CPR and AED skills, which may save the lives of their loved ones or the man on the street. The participants were motivated in learning useful skills, and they really enjoyed themselves.”

First-year student from Community Care and Social Services, Nur Safirah Bte Abdul Latiff, participated in the training session and found it very useful. She shared: “I am glad I learnt the proper way of giving CPR, because now I can help anyone whose life is in danger. You will never know when this skill will come to good use.”

Keeping Hearts Beating

Guinness Book of World Records Set as ITE College East Staff and Students Participate in National Life Saving Day

by Shalini Veijayaratnam

ITE students listened intently to the instructor on how to apply emergency life-saving techniques when the heart stops beating.
“It’s My Turn”

ITE College West Hosts Total Defence Day

by Victor Yen

“IT’S My Turn” – an apt theme for this year’s celebration of Total Defence (TD) Day – empowers the public to take ownership and do something in the interests of Singapore’s defence. To encourage more from the public to take part, a series of meaningful community projects by individuals and groups were on hand to show that every little bit matters.

Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, was the Guest-of-Honour at the Total TD Day held at ITE College West on 15 February 2012. He said: “... keeping Total Defence strong is a continuous effort and it is now the turn of this generation of Singaporeans to build on the hard work of our forefathers and pass it on to our next generation.”

This was the first TD Day event jointly organised by students and full-time National Servicemen as part of the SAF-School Partnership Programme. The event was also held at three other education institutions across the island - Raffles Institution, Singapore Polytechnic and Tampines Junior College.

TD Day takes place on 15 February every year, the day Singapore fell to the Japanese during World War II in 1942. This is to remind Singaporeans that everyone has a part to play in defending our country.
It is a naughty title for a movie, but what else would you expect from Singapore’s acclaimed director Jack Neo? “We Not Naughty” is a movie produced by Neo’s film company J Team Productions, in collaboration with ITE.

The story is titled somewhat similar to his earlier successful film “I Not Stupid”, and used the same cast and is set in an educational institute. The film aims to heighten youth’s perception of personal issues and how they impact society. The story revolves around a lecturer, Mark and two of his students, and shows how their journey in school helps mould their characters for the better. The message of the screenplay is that even amidst adversity, at the end of it all, “It’s the End That Counts”.

Working alongside Neo is Mr Boi Kwong, an ITE lecturer in filming, who is the producer of the video. Other key staff involved in this project are lecturers in filmmaking, Ms April Tong as line producer and animation lecturer Mr Vince Lau as storyboard artist. There are also 25 students attached to J Productions for a month and six ITE alumni members employed as professional crew. The project had enhanced staff capabilities with industry attachment opportunities and provided students with an invaluable experience to apply what they have learned.

Mr Kwong said: “It was a wonderful experience for everyone on board of the movie “We Not Naughty” from ITE, especially so for the students. Seeing their hard work and effort on the big screen was a huge satisfaction. The real life and work experience on an actual commercial film set has contributed to their personal growth and added value to their portfolio.”

Timed perfectly to leverage on the Chinese New Year box-office crowd, the movie opened on 19 January 2012 and was screened in all cinemas island-wide. “We Not Naughty” costs $1.5 million to make, which is the highest budget for a local film to date.
**KOPI Talk**

**MOS Lawrence Wong meets ITE students**

by Valerie Ng

**THERE is nothing like a cup of hot coffee that gets people relaxed and in the mood for a chat. In Singapore, the more endearing local “kopi” is a must-have for many to perk up the day. On 8 February 2012, some 100 students attended the third Kopi Talk dialogue session, titled “Pathway to Success”, organised by REACH, a branch of the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sport (MCYS). The dialogue session was chaired by Minister of State for Education (MOS), Mr Lawrence Wong, and attended by REACH chairman, Dr Amy Khor. Dr Khor is the Minister of State for Health.**

The aim of the forum is to engage youths and to help them understand policies impacting Singaporeans. Held at Club ITE, ITE College East, the issues raised by ITE students included polytechnic admission, influx of foreign workers and the importance of co-curricular activities (CCA).

“It was a very beneficial session, where we could share our opinions and views with the MOS. I asked about the importance of CCA and he cleared my doubts,” said Nitec in Community Care & Social Services student, Muhammad Faisal bin Rajamansorsah.

Another Nitec in Applied Food Science student, Alicia Teo, 19, echoed his sentiments. She said: “It was a very insightful experience. MOS also shared with us his personal experiences as a student. He showed us how we could gain some work experience first and work on a part-time diploma programme, if I could not gain entry to a Polytechnic immediately after ITE,” shared Alicia.

The dialogue lasted for about 1.5 hours.