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There has never been a more exciting time for education as technology has enabled learning and teaching to take place out of the classroom and across borders. In the year in review, Singapore Polytechnic continues to develop international relations with educational institutions and partners abroad through visits, exchanges and conferences in a bid to make education at Singapore Polytechnic a truly global experience for its students. A total of 1,530 international students, 10.5% of Singapore Polytechnic's full-time population, were enrolled in full-time courses.

# ional



**Tricia Yong**  
School of Media and  
Info-Communications Technology

## MULTI-NATIONAL



Singapore Maritime Academy students benefit from overseas exposure as part of their training.

### VISITS ABROAD

Where possible, schools embarked on curricula that exposed students to foreign lands and cultures. More than 500 students were sent abroad by Singapore Polytechnic in the year in review. Of these, 17 students from the School of Business joined the Credit Transfer Programme to Finland from 23 April to 17 May 2007. Organised in conjunction with Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences, the objectives of the programme were to expose students to the challenges of adapting to a

foreign culture and impress on them the importance of taking initiative.

This was echoed by the Singapore Maritime Academy's Maritime Interests Excursion in November 2007, which exposed participants to maritime places of interest in Malaysia. In a friendly cultural exchange, students got to interact with Malaysian Maritime Academy (ALAM) students through games and dinner get-togethers.

The Diploma in Business Administration from the School of

Business introduced the International Business and Trade Option. Students in this option have the opportunity to go on an Overseas Business Study Mission to witness and experience first-hand how international business and trade are conducted.

The School of Media and Info-Communications Technology organised several study trips for its students to Japan, Malaysia and the USA as well as an attachment to the Singapore-MIT Gambit Game Lab. They worked with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) students

on a total of six game-based audio or animation projects which provided the participants with invaluable exposure to the overall games production cycle as well as the chance to interact with students from MIT.

Visits abroad also included training opportunities for academic staff. Four of them attended the third Conceive–Design–Implement–Operate (CDIO) Conference at MIT, USA in June 2007 and presented two papers. Three staff members attended CDIO workshops and meetings at Shantou University in China.

## EXTENDING A WARM WELCOME

Singapore Polytechnic welcomed visitors from abroad to share knowledge across borders. Distinguished guests included Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn from Thailand and HE Pehin Dato Rahman Taib, Minister of Education from Brunei. The Department of Corporate Communications facilitated the hosting of many other overseas visitors in the year. This included several delegations from Japan and a visit by 36 government officials from Jiangsu, China.

Hosting does not always have to happen on campus. Singapore Maritime Academy proved this as it welcomed a group of logistics students from Chung-Ang University, Korea and two students from a Thai college to join the Maritime Experimental Learning (MEL) Camp on the mega 'floating hotel', SuperStar Virgo, an interesting alternative to the traditional classroom.

To support the implementation of the CDIO initiative, Singapore Polytechnic extended a warm welcome to Ms Kristina Edstrom, programme leader of the CDIO Initiative at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, Sweden. She came to Singapore Polytechnic and conducted workshops to facilitate the smooth implementation of the scheme.



Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn from Thailand receives a warm welcome from staff and students.

# MULTI-NATIONAL

## EXCHANGES AND COLLABORATIONS

Students were amply exposed to cultural exchanges. The School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences began its first year with some interesting cultural exchanges that included tea ceremonies with Chado Urasenke Tankokai Singapore Association, and visits to Waseda Shibuya Senior High School's Open House and to the Japanese Cultural Society. These enlightening trips aimed to give students the opportunity to interact with native Japanese speakers.



Singapore Polytechnic plays host to many overseas visitors.



Strong international links pave way for Singapore Polytechnic graduates to study for the Bachelor of Maritime Operations at the Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz.

The inaugural graduation ceremony of the Bachelor of Maritime Operations (BMO) degree programme, awarded by Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz (MIWB), a division of the University of Applied Sciences Noordelijke Hogeschool Leeuwarden, Netherlands was held in January 2008 in conjunction with the Singapore Polytechnic–Singapore Maritime Foundation (SP-SMF) Scholarship Signing Ceremony. Under the MaritimeONE initiative, the Singapore Maritime Academy offers three full

scholarships a year for an initial period of three years from 2008, allowing deserving graduates to pursue degrees in maritime education.

With a view to share knowledge with educational institutions overseas and enrich the education of its students, Singapore Polytechnic signed numerous agreements with prestigious world-leading educational institutions. Notable examples include a Memorandum of Understanding between the Singapore Maritime Academy and Youngsan University in Korea and a Letter of Intent with

Aarhus Maskinmesterskole in Denmark to provide the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) Standard of training and certification and watchkeeping short courses.

The School of Media and Information Communications Technology also signed a Memorandum of Co-operation with the Business Administration Department of Chung Ang University, Korea in which the two institutions agree to identify opportunities for advanced standing for final-year students.

In further collaborations, an advanced standing agreement was reached between the School of Design and RMIT University, Australia for its Bachelor of Design, Communication Design and Advertising Design courses. A Memorandum of Co-operation was also signed between the School of the Built Environment and the University of Western Australia. The former enhanced the global education of its students with a total of nine study trips in the year to destinations including Malaysia, Hong Kong and China.



Strong ties with overseas institutions add value to Singapore Polytechnic students.

# MULTI-NATIONAL



Global industrial training programmes continued to be a focus for the School of Chemical and Life Sciences, with an emphasis on students gaining insights into the workings of industries and institutes of higher learning. Programmes were conducted for students at National Metal and Materials Technology Center, Assumption University in Bangkok, East China University of Science and Technology and Ngai Hing Hong Co Ltd in Shanghai, China, University of Western Australia, University of Queensland and RMIT University in Australia.

## DEVELOPING A GLOBAL MINDSET

The School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences brought the world to the Singapore Polytechnic campus with its cultural festival FUSION: Ticket to the World. This valuable exercise encouraged students to 'think global' and raised their awareness of foreign language learning opportunities within the School.

Extending beyond Singapore and into the region, the Business Communication Centre of the School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences continued its communications courses, reaching out to industries and government departments in Cambodia, Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam, among others.

## OVERSEAS COMMUNITY PROJECTS

It was exciting to see voluntary student participation in overseas community outreach projects increase significantly in the year in review. Over 160 students participated in nine overseas community service expeditions to Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. Projects

**Casper Koh**  
School of Chemical and  
Life Sciences

ranged from electrification, biotechnology, and environmental conservation to building and healthcare.

The School of Chemical and Life Sciences alone organised three such trips to Thailand and India. The experience provided students with a well-rounded education. Each learned valuable life lessons and, through interaction with the local communities, took home a deep appreciation for what they have in Singapore.

## MAINTAINING GLOBAL STANDARDS

Competing on a global stage, Singapore Polytechnic measures itself among the world's best and imposes the highest possible standards. The Polytechnic's Academic Quality System was compared against 28 organisations from various parts of the world. Four benchmarking partners were identified and visited by a team led by the Department of Educational and Staff Development. The department engaged the Assistant Director of the Higher Education Academy in the UK, Ms Helen Thomas, to review Singapore Polytechnic's academic quality management system, including the validation and review of courses.



Students taking part in a community service project in the Philippines.



School of Chemical and Life Sciences students in India to deliver a vision screening programme.