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Moulding talents is not limited to campus learning and activities. Community collaborations and school outreach programmes serve to ensure the holistic development of not just Singapore Polytechnic students but also potential applicants.

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# MULTI-TALENTED

## DEDICATED STAFF

The importance and contribution of staff do not go unnoticed. To ensure that the driving force of Singapore Polytechnic is in peak condition, staff are constantly upgraded on their teaching methods and techniques, and recognised for their in-house and industry achievements.

Singapore Polytechnic rolled out the Professional Development Framework as a tool to develop staff to their fullest potential. The Learning Roadmap component of the framework guides staff in formulating their annual Staff Development Plan.

The Department of Educational and Staff Development offered a range of professional development workshops

in the areas of Learning Design and Management, Assessment, Student Management, Reflective Practice in Action and Learning Resources. New workshops offered included Designing Lessons with Notebook Activities and the application of Web 2.0 tools in teaching and learning. A Professional Development website was also set up to provide staff with easy access to workshop materials and resources.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Recognising the importance of its staff as the foundation to educational excellence, staff learning and development remained a strategic investment. A sum of \$2.65 million was allocated for implementation of staff learning and development. The main learning focus was on industrial attachment and sabbatical programmes, CDIO (Conceive-Design-Implement-and-Operate) programmes, programmes with a view to developing new courses, and leadership development programmes to hone the leadership skills of those on the management track. 79.4% of planned training programmes were utilised with each staff achieving an average of 134 training hours.



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Environment

Workshops also extended to new teaching staff, who benefited from a one-week full-time induction programme, weekly half-day workshops, and a one-week learning design project. These workshops taught them to integrate the core principles of learning and notebook PC activities in teaching and learning as part of the enhanced Certificate in Teaching (Higher Education) programme. Consultancy was also provided to 17 Advanced Certificate in Teaching (Higher Education) participants.

Staff members continued to upgrade their skills through sabbaticals and exchanges at overseas institutions. Within Singapore Polytechnic, they kept in touch with new techniques and methods of teaching and learning through internally organised workshops and training sessions.

## STAFF WELLBEING

Singapore Polytechnic continued to encourage staff members to lead an active and balanced lifestyle at the workplace. Popular programmes like the different types of *taiji* and other exercise classes continued to cater to staff with different fitness levels and preferences. A constant offering of new activities helped to attract greater participation as employees looked for programmes that matched their interest.



Well-trained staff contribute to a positive learning experience.

Staff members were also encouraged to achieve a balance in their work life through the enhancement of family-friendly policies and programme of activities. Other perks of the work life programmes included the adoption of corporate membership cards for free admission to places of interest and discounts on the bulk purchase of movie vouchers.

Staff health was a major focus, driven by the Polytechnic's comprehensive health promotion programme. Apart from the annual on-site mass health screening which was also extended to spouses, emphasis was given to

breast cancer education. Eligible staff were encouraged to go for on-site mammography screening via the Mammobus. Other activities for staff included the Amazing Green Race, Public Service STAR Games and Inter-Statutory Board Games.

Singapore Polytechnic's efforts in workplace health promotion activities secured for the institution the Singapore Health Award (Gold) three times in a row since 2004.

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## MAKING A MARK

Many staff members made invaluable contributions to enhancing the education of students and advancing the causes of industry through research. One example is Messrs Loh Hoo Chong and J Selva Raj, who published a book with ACE McGrawHill entitled "Thermofluids I". Staff also promoted the good standing of Singapore Polytechnic through the many visits to institutions abroad in which they shared their knowledge with their counterparts and students.

Professional skills upgrading workshops were conducted for external organisations and for Singapore Polytechnic staff.

The School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences lecturers shared their knowledge on communication skills in the Educational and Staff Development Department's Conceive-Design-Implement-Operate (CDIO) workshops for lecturers from the Schools of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.

## AWARDS

Singapore Polytechnic believes in recognising the contributions of its staff and presented many awards in the year to recognise and celebrate teaching excellence, contribution to industry and research, and commitment through long service.

## COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Singapore Polytechnic actively promotes the involvement of its students in community events. Similarly, the polytechnic engages secondary schools by offering them its resources and expertise. This not only gives its students and staff invaluable exposure and experience but stimulates close ties between Singapore Polytechnic and the communities it ultimately serves.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

From their freshman year onwards, students are inculcated with Singapore Polytechnic's core values, one of which is Care and Concern. The many voluntary community programmes that helped to cement these values throughout the year included the Singapore Polytechnic Flag Day. This annual event, held during the orientation period, serves as a good initiation into the Singapore Polytechnic community. It even helped the 5,000 freshmen raise \$146,000 for the President's Challenge in 2007.

In other community projects, Habitat for Humanity approached the School of Design to be involved in the Build-4-Hope project to create housing



Raising funds for President's Challenge 2007, one of many fund-raising activities by students and staff.



Singapore Polytechnic actively contributes to the Build-4-Hope project to create housing using tetra paks.

using tetra paks. This event raised funds for Fund for Humanity to continue building projects in Asia Pacific to provide needy families with decent places to live. Other community projects included the Singapore Heart Foundation's Health Mapping Project and the Animals Concerns Research & Education Society (ACRES) project developed by the School of Chemical and Life Sciences.

The School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering was involved in many research projects that benefited the

industry and community. These included work to destroy mosquito breeding grounds, voluntary events to develop mobility aids and assisting the National Parks Board in its reforestation of coastal areas.

### SCHOOL OUTREACH

Several programmes were organised to reach out to secondary schools and inculcate an interest in programmes offered by Singapore Polytechnic.

Secondary students got a taste of campus life at Singapore Polytechnic with the very first running of the Polytechnic Preparatory Programme for its first intake of Direct Polytechnic Admission (DPA) students. The eight-week programme offered four academic modules, a leadership training camp in Batam, industrial visits, enrichment activities, and sports and community service projects. This served as an excellent introduction to the rich educational experience students can look forward to at Singapore Polytechnic.

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Familiar annual events included the Young Entrepreneurship Challenge (YES) as well as Communication 101, for which students garnered \$25,000 in sponsorship in 2007. The School of Business, with sponsorship from the Association of Chartered Accountants (ACCA) Singapore, organised its first Accounting Race to prove to schools that accounting can be fun. More than 130 secondary school students vied for the \$1,000 top prize.

Broadening the secondary school education experience beyond the classroom environment, Singapore Polytechnic conducted 63 runs of 23



Accounting Race organised by the School of Business proves to students that accounting can be fun.



Secondary school students experiencing Singapore Polytechnic's conducive learning environment.

Advanced Elective Modules to 36 schools, with a total of 1,340 students taking part. Singapore Polytechnic also offered applied subjects at 'O' Level to further enrich the school curriculum. This year, 'Introduction to Enterprise Development' was offered for the first time to Outram Secondary School and Fairfield Methodist Secondary School and 60 students took up the challenge.

The School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering signed two Memoranda of Co-operation (MOC) with Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School and Woodlands Ring Secondary School to promote awareness of electrical and electronic engineering and provide a host of enrichment programmes to the schools.

Over at the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, the Toy Design Competition proved a big hit with 123 teams from 25 secondary schools.

On the digital front, the School of Media and Info-Communications Technology (SMIT) offered training under the Infocomm Development Authority's ICT Club Programme to the Infocomm Clubs at Jurongville Secondary School and Hua Yi Secondary School.

The School of Design also reached out to secondary schools in several ways during the year through talks and workshops. Secondary school

students were exposed to the eight-week ManyWaysOfSeeing (MWOS) workshop, a joint collaboration between Singapore Polytechnic and the DesignSingapore Council, designed to expose secondary school students to the process of creativity by seeing things in different ways. In a joint bid to increase awareness of climate change among some 300 secondary school students, the School of Media and Info-Communications Technology and the School of Business held the Blue Earth Greening 2007.

Stories! Stories! proved a novel and popular event. Organised by the School of Business, the event treated

some 400 secondary school students to a presentation by Ms Kiran Shah of the Asian Storytelling Network and a select eight students fought it out in the Storytelling Competition.

As part of the Ministry of Education ExCel Fest in July 2007 held at Singapore Chinese Girls' School, the Department of Educational and Staff Development and the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering showcased the use of interactive digital media to make the learning of the Japanese language more engaging.

Singapore Polytechnic also enhanced its website to reach out to schools and the community.



Toy Design Competition proves to be a big hit with secondary schools.