

## ***Engaging Adult Learners: My experience and strategy***

PACE AEC Sharing Series: Talk by Oh Eng Kiong, Adjunct Lecturer



On 4 August 2015, Mr Oh Eng Kiong, one of our adjunct lecturers, gave a talk at SP entitled 'Engaging Adult Learners: My experience and strategy' which was organised under the AEC Sharing Series. He shared his experience on the challenges adult learners encountered in their learning journey; the strategy which he adopts to overcome these challenges and the practical approach to transfer new skills and knowledge to their workplace.

Eng Kiong believed that trainer-led and content-focused approach involving mainly lecture would not be effective in dealing with adult learners. He advocated the facilitation approach instead where learning is collaborative and very much driven by the learners themselves. This point serves to emphasize that facilitation skills is one of the key-contributing factor to a successful adult educator. On facilitation skills, Eng Kiong touched on the 4-E model where the 4Es mean to excite, engage, encourage and enable the learners. During his presentation, he also introduced games to illustrate how participants could learn collaboratively through group activity.

Eng Kiong is currently a TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) consultant with Singapore Polytechnic International, and has been travelling throughout Asia to roll out projects in Curriculum Design and Development in this capacity. He was a recipient of the Singapore Polytechnic Excellence in Teaching Award in 2014.



**Director PACE Suresh Punjabi stressed Adjunct Lecturers should be actively engaged in AEC activities. He thanked Eng Kiong for being the first adjunct lecturer to speak in the Sharing Series.**



**Eng Kiong pointed out many challenges facing adult learners and shared some of his experience in effectively engaging them. He used games to highlight certain points which he was bringing across.**



**The participants were very engrossed in some group activities. It was also a good opportunity for meeting up old acquaintances as well as making establishing new contacts.**