

# ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES

## Language and Communication

During the year, the Department of Language & Communication continued to organise activities and offer programmes to students within Singapore Polytechnic and to the industry in Singapore and the region.

Two new modules were introduced in the areas of 'Communication Skills for Entrepreneurs' and 'Communication Skills'.

A reading programme was introduced to the 'Critical Reasoning Skills' module. A training video was produced and talks under the 'Professional Preparation Programme' were organised for students taking the 'Communication Skills for Work' module. A 'News in Class' software was introduced to make teaching more interesting and more up-to-date.

In addition to its core programmes, the Department continued to provide language enrichment as well as language improvement activities for all Singapore Polytechnic students. These included creative writing workshops and competitions, drama workshops, inter-polytechnic debating sessions, the Australian Debating Tournament, a dialogue session with Member of Parliament Mr Teo Ser Luck, and a Friendship Fair.



Apart from offering newly designed self-access learning packages, the Department conducted 21 language workshops and four discussion workshops for 951 students. Following a study tour to universities in the UK, the Department began offering the IELTS English Proficiency preparation courses for international students.

The Foreign Language arm introduced Spanish and Korean classes and continued to have language-related and cultural activities such as Japanese tea ceremony classes and quizzes.



1. Inter-Polytechnic debating challenge to hone students' skills.

2. Learning Japanese culture by mastering the intricacies of the tea ceremony.

In addition, a total of 24 courses in communication skills, English proficiency and English methodology were conducted for industry participants from Singapore as well as ASEAN countries by the Business Communication Centre.

During this time, the Department also explored the feasibility of offering a Certificate in Malay Language Studies as a Diploma-Plus programme.

For the first time, the Department also sought direct feedback through dialogue sessions with students. In addition, it published two books featuring students' work and winning stories and poems from its Creative Writing Competition.

### **Mathematics and Science**

The number of students taking General Elective Modules reached a steady participation rate of about 9,000 students per semester, with the first cohort of 4,303 students successfully completing all their requirements. The Department of Mathematics & Science which spearheaded its implementation in 2004, continued to review and improve upon the modules based on feedback from students and staff at the end of every semester.

By the end of the year in review, students from two separate cohorts of the Diploma-Plus Programmes successfully completed their studies in the Certificate in Engineering Mathematics and the Certificate in Software Programming & Applications.

### **Educational and Staff Development**

The Department of Educational & Staff Development launched several new initiatives during the year in review. Tasked to develop and deliver innovative and quality programmes under the 'Implement CDIO (Conceive – Design – Implement – Operate)' strategic initiative, it developed roadmaps and strategies for three of the 12 CDIO standards.

A Handbook on Teaching and Learning was launched to help academic staff deal with students and meet professional responsibilities.

The Department also supported Singapore Polytechnic's move towards an e-learning environment. Plans were put in place for all first-year full-time diploma students to own notebook PCs to access IT resources for learning and communication.



Notebooks for all first-year students.

The Department continued to provide consultancy services to academic schools and departments in curriculum development, improvement of teaching effectiveness, production of teaching/ learning materials and assessing learning.

To enhance the professional expertise of academic staff, the Department offered four main programmes – Certificate in Teaching (Higher Education), Advanced Certificate in Teaching (Higher Education), Certificate in IT for Teaching (Foundation) and specialised programmes in Educational Technology and Learning & Teaching.

It also conducted 43 classroom and online programmes in Educational Technology and Learning and Teaching, with a total attendance of 1,499. Eight roundtable sessions were organised to explore and evaluate new developments in curriculum, learning and teaching, and assessment. The annual Excellence in Education and Training Convention was organised with the theme 'New Needs, New Curricula, New Approaches'.



Several papers were presented at teaching and learning conferences. The Department also coordinated a training programme for a group of lecturers from Weihai, China, from 26 July to 18 August 2006.

A Certificate of Competence course in IT for Teaching and Learning was also conducted in February and March 2007 for 20 participants from Kazakhstan. The course is a competency-based programme on using a range of IT applications and tools to design, deliver, manage and assess learning. It was fully sponsored by ST Electronics Pte Ltd.

The Department further provided technical expertise, quality facilities and rich media services such as video, audio, graphics and animation, in the production of training and presentation materials, video packages and web-based modules.



1. Exploring 'New Needs, New Curricula, New Approaches' at the Excellence in Education and Training Convention.
2. Providing rich media services in the production of training and presentation materials.