

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED TILL 29 OCTOBER 2008 7pm

9 TEACHERS RECEIVE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD THE FIRST NATIONAL AWARD FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS IN SINGAPORE SCHOOLS

They engaged, they motivated, and they inspired – all for the love of English.

An award ceremony honouring the 9 winning English teachers will be held at the Plaza of the National Library Building at 7pm on 29 October 2008. RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education, is the Guest-of-Honour. Award recipients will receive a trophy and a cash award.

163 teachers were nominated by their students, parents and fellow teachers, and endorsed by their principals, for the Inspiring Teacher of English award. The Inspiring Teacher of English Award is jointly presented by The Straits Times and the Speak Good English Movement, and supported by the Ministry of Education. All award nominees will receive a certificate of commendation.

On the award, RAdm (NS) Lui said, “We recognize and salute the continuing efforts of all our English Language teachers to seek ever more meaningful ways of engaging our students in their learning. In particular, we celebrate the qualities of the nine awardees who have demonstrated their ability and determination to inspire.”

Mr Matthew Ong of Anglo-Chinese School (Junior) inspires his students through the innovative use of an interactive classroom game he created, called ‘Quest for the Lost Scrolls’. By engaging his students’ love for stories about knights and armies, Matthew motivates them to improve their English by weaving English lessons into the game, and at the same time improve their presentation skills through game discussions.

Mr Eddie Tan of Temasek Secondary School leads a team of teachers in examining how best to teach narrative writing for lower secondary students. Through his leadership, the resulting teaching framework has been successfully implemented and has enabled students to significantly improve their writing skills. Eddie also inspires his students to develop a passion for reading and writing through his lessons.

Representatives from the Speak Good English Movement, British Council, and English Master Teachers from MOE observed lessons delivered by these awardees. Peter Hamilton, Programmes Manager, British Council, commented, “The lessons observed by British Council judges were of a very high standard indeed. It is very encouraging to know that there are such inspiring English teachers in Singapore.”

(Please refer to Annex for a complete list of winners.)

The Inspiring Teacher of English Award acknowledges teachers who have been instrumental in igniting a love for the English language and are effective in helping their students speak and write better. These teachers are passionate about making English interesting and relevant to their students, and are innovative in engaging their students to

help them learn English better. The Award salutes these teachers for continually learning and upgrading themselves to ensure their students acquire the most out of their teachers.

Annex:

Winners of the Inspiring Teacher of English Award

| PRIMARY | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| NAME | SCHOOL |
| Mr Bernard Chan | Rulang Primary School |
| Mr Matthew Ong | Anglo-Chinese School (Junior) |
| Mr Tan Ying Kiat | Nanyang Primary School |
| Mrs Nirmala Sharma | Temasek Primary School |
| SECONDARY | |
| NAME | SCHOOL |
| Mdm Lim Boon Siang | Broadrick Secondary School |
| Mr Eddie Tan | Temasek Secondary School |
| Ms Hong Wee Fui | Pierce Secondary School |
| JUNIOR COLLEGE / INSTITUTE | |
| NAME | SCHOOL |
| Mdm Elizabeth Mesenas | Millennia Institute |