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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOMINATE YOUR TEACHER FOR *THE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD* NOW

The *Inspiring Teacher of English Award* is the first national award for English teachers in Singapore schools. It sets out to acknowledge teachers who have been instrumental in igniting a love for the English language and are effective in helping their students speak and write better, and also have them share their teaching practices with their fellow teachers. The award is jointly presented by *The Straits Times* and the *Speak Good English Movement*, with the support of the *Ministry of Education*.

Nominations are open from today till 17 July 2008. Each winner of the award will be the proud recipient of a cash award and a trophy.

Mr Goh Eck Kheng, Chairman of the Speak Good English Movement Committee, said, "Schools form one of the front lines of improving the standard of English in Singapore, and good teachers of the language are key if we are to see this improvement happen. The Inspiring Teacher of English Award focuses awareness on the important role of English Language, Literature and General Paper teachers, and we hope that the recognition of their importance by way of this award will encourage and motivate them."

RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, said, "The Speak Good English Movement Committee should be commended for taking the initiative to recognise our best English teachers. I urge students, parents and fellow teachers to recommend these outstanding English teachers for the award."

"As Singapore's main English-language newspaper, The Straits Times is happy to support this search for the most inspiring teachers of English," said ST deputy editor Alan John.

"These are teachers you know you'll remember for life. It's her voice you hear in your head, correcting you when you say bring instead of take. Or he's the one who helped you enjoy a novel so much, you surprised yourself by reading it again.

"If you know a teacher who did something special to help you speak, write and appreciate good English, nominate him or her for this award."

We are looking for teachers who:

- are **passionate** about making English interesting and relevant to their students;
- use **innovative** methods to engage their students and help them learn English better; and
- are **role models** in their own use of English.

All students, their parents, and fellow teachers are invited to make nominations by filling up a nomination form and briefly describing why they think their nominated teacher deserves the award.

Nominations for the award are open to all in-service teachers of English (including Literature and General Paper) from primary and secondary schools, junior colleges and centralized institutes.

Details:

- Nomination forms are available in all schools, and can also be downloaded via:
 - (i) *The Straits Times Interactive* website at **www.straitstimes.com** or
 - (ii) The *Speak Good English Movement* website at **www.goodenglish.org.sg**.
- Awardees will be announced in October 2008.
- Up to ten deserving teachers will be proud recipients of the award.

About the Speak Good English Movement:

The Speak Good English Movement was started to promote the habit of using and speaking Standard English amongst Singaporeans. Standard English is simply English with correct grammar and pronunciation; and is not about accent. For more information, please visit www.goodenglish.org.sg.