

**NINE INSPIRING ENGLISH TEACHERS RECOGNISED
AT THE 10th INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARDS**

13 October 2017 – Nine teachers were awarded the Inspiring Teacher of English Award this evening. Seven teachers received the **Teaching Award** which honours outstanding teachers of English Language, English Literature and General Paper. Two Heads of Department received the **Leadership Award** which recognises school leaders who have led in the development and implementation of an effective English Language programme in their schools. The winners were selected from 80 nominated English Language teachers.

In conjunction with the award's tenth-year celebrations, the awardees and their students will each receive a year's complimentary subscription to NewsEd, a digital learning portal for schools, courtesy of the Straits Times. At the award ceremony today, Guest of Honour Dr Janil Puthuchery, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Communications and Information, presented each winner with a trophy, certificate and cash award of \$2,000. Their principals were also presented a plaque in recognition of each school's support for their award-winning teachers.

The Inspiring Teacher of English Award is presented by the Speak Good English Movement and the Straits Times, with support from the Ministry of Education. To date, more than 80 teachers have been recognised for igniting a love for the English language in their students and inspiring them to think and communicate more effectively in English.

Ms Sheela Devi, a teacher at Temasek Primary School, is one of the winners of the Teaching Award. Sheela incorporates drama and debate into lessons to engage her students and develop them as confident speakers. She encourages them to think critically and share their opinions freely, and to not be afraid to be themselves.

Ms Michelle Tan, another winner of the Teaching Award, cites her students as her greatest source of inspiration, motivating her to constantly seek new ways of engaging them. In exploring the concept of self-identity, Michelle designed an integrated skills unit inspired and partially modelled after the 'Humans of New York' initiative by Brandon Stanton.

Ms Sharon Chan teaches General Paper and is also a recipient of the Teaching Award. Sharon is energised when she is able to discuss with her students, as equals, issues of the day with the aim of finding different ways to frame and find perspectives. Having taught for 19 years, Sharon continues to explore innovative ways to enhance language teaching for General Paper in the classroom.

Mdm Kogilavani Veerappan, one of two recipients of the Leadership Award, hopes to engage and share visible thinking and ICT-enriched lesson designs with teachers from the English Language fraternity. Kogilavani works closely with her teachers to nurture students to become effective communicators.

About the Inspiring Teacher of English Award

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. The Award salutes these teachers for their constant efforts to upgrade themselves to benefit their students and schools.

About the Speak Good English Movement

Launched in 2000, the Speak Good English Movement is a nationwide movement to encourage Singaporeans to speak Standard English that is universally understood. Standard English is English with correct grammar and pronunciation, and not about accent. The Speak Good English Movement and its partners provide programmes to help people learn to speak good English in fun and interesting ways. If you want to learn more, visit www.goodenglish.org.sg.

About the Ministry of Education (MOE)

The Ministry of Education (MOE) formulates and implements education policies on education, structure, curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment. It oversees the management and development of Government-funded schools, and the Institute of Technical Education, polytechnics and universities. More information on the MOE can be found on www.moe.gov.sg.

About The Straits Times

The Straits Times, the English-language flagship daily of Singapore Press Holdings, is the most-read newspaper in Singapore and is followed widely in the region for its comprehensive coverage of local, regional and world news, provided by its correspondents in 20 bureaus in major cities worldwide.

Launched on July 15, 1845, The Straits Times underwent a major redesign across all platforms in July 2015, when it celebrated its 170th anniversary. This revamp is part of its continuing efforts to refresh its products, maintain quality and stay relevant to the changing needs of its readers. Its integrated newsroom operates round-the-clock, providing readers with news as it happens on all platforms, from its website at www.straitstimes.com, Apple and Android apps to social media.

The Straits Times is a member of two media networks - the Asia News Network and the Impact Journalism Day alliance of newspapers - and it has won multiple international media awards, including from the Society of Publishers in Asia, the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers, the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers' Association (Panpa), Society of News Design and Wan-Ifra. Its revamped paper won a gold medal for overall newspaper design by the World Association of Newspaper at the Asian Media Awards in Manila in 2016.