



**For Immediate Release**

## **SST sets tone for applied learning during first day school activities**

**Singapore, January 4, 2010** – The School of Science and Technology, Singapore (SST), the latest school under the Ministry of Education’s Future Schools programme, today opened its doors to its pioneer intake of Secondary 1 students selected through the Direct School Admission (DSA) exercise.

SST is the newest FutureSchools@Singapore which focuses on applied learning. The school’s 200 Secondary 1 students spent their first day immersed in orientation activities that advocate applied learning formats, a practice-based approach that makes learning more relevant and interesting through real-life scenarios.

Mr Chua Chor Huat, Principal at SST, elaborated, “As one of six FutureSchools to pioneer innovative teaching methods based on information and communication technology (ICT), SST has proven to be popular with students and parents alike. With a full enrolment, SST will value add to students’ overall growth beyond their ‘O’ level results, nurturing every student to be a thinker, innovator and entrepreneur.”

### Breaking boundaries, building friendships

One of SST’s orientation activities, ‘Building Bridges Beyond Boundaries’, was designed as a bond forming session in which students were shown how to build model bridges such as swing and retractable bridges using provided materials and laptops for research. By putting into practice physics principles like force, load and levers, this interactive session motivated new students to break boundaries, overcome personal limitations and build new friendships by working in teams.

Mr Chua explained, “The ‘Building Bridges Beyond Boundaries’ is the perfect theme to reflect SST’s vision of being globally connected through our use of technology and partnerships. Our new students are meeting each other for the first time, and it is important to break their personal boundaries to start engaging in the new environment. And with our innovative applied learning approach, we also help the students to break boundaries in terms of their learning experience, stretching them further by making lessons more relevant and



interesting, and allowing them to grasp a better understanding of content from a multiple of perspectives.”

Using Web 2.0 technologies, SST has embraced a ‘new generation of learners’ – adventurous and enthusiastic students who are technology savvy, by creating a digital learning environment. Using blogs created during the pre-school engagement, the students explained the process of bridge building, thus completing the learning experience. These blogs can be viewed at <http://sst-students2009.blogspot.com>.

#### Benefits of Applied Learning

The latest of the four specialised independent schools in Singapore, SST offers a distinctive four-year programme that provides the widest range of new subjects and enrichment programmes. Students will gain a solid academic foundation and immersion into real-world applications, and can opt to enter university either via the junior college or polytechnic route.

SST is a specially funded school that has purpose built infrastructure and facilities. With a class size of between 20 to 25 students, the learning environment is optimised for hands-on learning, facilitating a deeper understanding of subjects and giving students an edge to do well in their studies.

#### Partnerships with premier institutions

SST has also partnered with Singapore’s premier tertiary institutions Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) in curriculum development, facilities design and enrichment programmes, with the aim to develop SST into a top-notch specialised school.

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**About School of Science and Technology, Singapore**

Commencing January 2010, the School of Science and Technology, Singapore (SST) is a Specialised Independent School that offers a distinctive 4-year programme preparing university-bound students for the GCE 'O' Level examinations. Learning in SST is multi-faceted as students gain a strong foundation of key academic concepts in core subjects like Mathematics and Science through applied learning (learning by doing). With focus on innovation and enterprise, students also learn by being daring. The learning experiences at SST aim to produce students not only with excellent 'O' level results, but students who are also thinkers, innovators and entrepreneurs.

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