

8 April 2013

Embargoed until 11am, 13 April 2013

PRESS RELEASE: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FINANCE, MR THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM TO OFFICIATE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SINGAPORE

1. With a full cohort settled at its permanent campus at 1 Technology Drive, The School of Science and Technology, Singapore (SST) will be officially declared opened by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam on **13 April 2013**. The establishment of SST was announced by Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam on 4 March 2008 during his term of office as Minister for Education.
2. As the newest addition to the slate of specialised independent schools, SST adds diversity to the current education landscape and aims to groom the next generation of leaders who would drive a competitive edge for Singapore through technology and innovation in the new economy. The school offers a 4-year programme that focuses on science and technology delivered on an applied learning platform. Apart from a sound broad based academic curriculum, the school offers 4 applied subjects, namely Biotechnology, Fundamentals of Electronics, Media Studies (EL) and Design Studies. These subjects allow students to learn by experimenting, creating and taking projects from concept to implementation. SST also seeks to provide a holistic and balanced education that exposes students to real-world applications, and enables them to acquire key skills and competencies relevant in the 21st century.
3. As a “FutureSchool”, SST leverages Information Communication Technology (ICT) pervasively to enhance the learning environment and provide the extended learning resources and networks. It works with researchers from Learning Sciences Lab, National Institute of Education to explore how an ICT-augmented environment can enhance critical and creative thinking and nurture collaborative skills and mindsets in students. SST has been championing best practices and sharing insights from these studies with counterparts on local and global platforms since its establishment.
4. SST’s strong partnerships with Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) and leading industry players such as Apple Inc and DSO National Laboratories, exposes students to varied and enriching learning opportunities. Current programmes include an exclusive flagship camp at NTU where students are exposed to various fields of engineering, design and applied sciences, and an entrepreneurship camp with Ngee Ann Polytechnic. The school also has a talent development framework that serves to provide students with a wide range of learning experiences to discover and nurture their talents and interests: Physics students on this programme have had the opportunity to attend a space camp; ICT students have started companies to offer services, as well as attended conferences such as Macworld/iWorld to hone their budding talents.

5. Beyond academic pursuits, students at all levels have been involved in various projects to benefit society at large. In tandem with the school's mantra of "Transforming learning, impacting society", students start their school year by initiating day of service to the community. Projects can range from annual food donation drives to benefit the less fortunate in Singapore to assisting in environmental efforts such as The Seashore Life Programme jointly implemented by the National Environment Agency (NEA) and The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC). Beyond the shores of Singapore, a group of students have recently initiated and embarked on a service learning trip to Batam Island, where they installed solar panels at a local school to support the set-up of laptops collected through SST's donation drive.

6. Mr Chua Chor Huat, Principal of SST, explained, "We aim to provide a holistic, values-driven education to nurture promising youths so that they will not only be exemplary leaders in their chosen fields, but will be imbued with the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship for the common good of the community they live in." This is at the heart of the applied learning approach that SST has explicated.

7. The school moved to its permanent campus at 1 Technology Drive on 3 January 2012 and now has a cohort of 800 students and 120 staff.

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 GCE "O" level programme with a difference. 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. 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. For more info, visit www.sst.edu.sg

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