

Headline	Nine teachers receive 'Inspiring Teacher of English' award		
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Nine teachers receive 'Inspiring Teacher of English' award

(Above: Recipients of the Inspiring Teacher of English award 2008. Front Row L: Mrs Nirmala Sharma, Mr. Tan Yin Kiat, Mdm Nordiana bte Sani. Centre from L: Mr. Bernard Chen, Mdm Lim Boon Siang and Back Row From L: Mr. Matthew Ong, Mr. Eddie Tan and Ms Elizabeth Mesenas.)

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

One teacher, Mr Mathew Ong of Anglo-Chinese Junior School, inspired his students through the innovative use of an interactive classroom game he created.

The game, called 'Quest for the Lost Scrolls', engaged his students' love for stories about knights and armies.

Mr Ong motivated them to improve their English by weaving English lessons into the game, and at the same time improved their presentation skills through game discussions.

For his innovative and effective methods, Mr Ong was one of nine teachers who were on-hand to receive the first national award for Inspiring Teachers of English in Singapore schools at a ceremony held tonight at the Plaza of the National Library Building.

RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education, was the Guest-of-Honour for the event.

The award was jointly presented by The Straits Times and the Speak Good English Movement, and supported by the Ministry of Education (MOE).

Its aim is to acknowledge teachers who have been instrumental in igniting a love for the English language in their students and are effective in helping their students speak and write better. It will also help share their teaching practices with fellow teachers.

In total, 163 teachers were nominated by their students, parents and fellow teachers, and endorsed by their principals, for the award. All recipients of the Inspiring Teacher of English award received a cash award in addition to a trophy, while nominees received a certificate of commendation.

On the award, RAdm (NS) Lui said, "We recognise 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."

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."

The organisers hope to make the award ceremony an annual event.