

Publication :	Xinhua News Agency Online
Date :	26 July 2006
Headline:	Singapore launches annual event for promoting "Good English"

Singapore launches annual event for promoting "Good English"

http://english.people.com.cn/200607/25/eng20060725_286502.html

[Singapore](#) on Tuesday launched the annual Speak Good English Movement (SGEM), the sixth in its series this year, urging Singaporeans to speak standard English so as to be understood both locally and internationally.

"As the economy diversifies and as we look towards opportunities outside of Singapore, it is imperative that we take the learning of English and our mother tongue very seriously," Minister of State for Education Lui Tuck Yew said at the launching ceremony.

Stressing that speaking good English is not about accent, Lui said that Singaporeans need to avoid using English with sentence structures directly translated from their respective mother tongues like Chinese, Malay or Tamil.

He urged parents and teachers to be good role models in speaking standard English and to help children develop a love for reading, which is helpful in enhancing the proficiency of language learning.

The [Ministry of Education](#) (MOE) piloted a program called Strategies for Effective and Engaged Development in English in 30 schools from the beginning of this year and is conducting an English Language Review to find ways to help students better learn the language, according to Lui.

The MOE and the SGEM Steering Committee are also partnering local media organizations like newspapers and radio channels on several initiatives to promote correct English.

A survey covering some 3,000 English-speaking Singaporeans showed that about 60 percent of them speak non-standard English in their daily lives, local media reported earlier.

Source: Xinhua