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MOE to start junior debating league in primary schools

By Noor Mohd Aziz, Channel NewsAsia | Posted: 24 August 2006

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SINGAPORE: The Ministry of Education has plans to start a junior debating league in primary schools.

This is among plans unveiled by Minister of State for Education Lui Tuck Yew to encourage students to speak good English.

Speaking at the Plain English Speaking Awards ceremony, Rear-Admiral Lui announced plans to encourage schools to set up Toastmasters' and Gavel Clubs.

As part of the new plans, the newly inaugurated Plain English Speaking Awards alumni will partner the National Library to organise workshops.

A debating culture will also be developed in primary schools.

Said Rear-Admiral Lui, "Debating is something the MOE is particularly interested to encourage. While there is currently a Junior College debating competition, and secondary debating league which involves close to 90 schools annually, the debating culture is not actively developed or promoted at the primary level.

"MOE will start a junior debating league in a few primary schools which are ready to embrace the programme. The schools will host the debating league and training for teachers and act as catalysts for other schools to join in." - CNA /ct



Students at Pasir Ris Primary

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