



22 October 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

**10 TEACHERS RECEIVE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD
THE FIRST NATIONAL AWARD FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS IN SINGAPORE SCHOOLS**

An award ceremony honouring the 10 winning English teachers will be held at the Pod in the National Library Building at 7pm on 22 October 2009. Mr S Iswaran, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Education is the Guest-of-Honour. Award recipients will receive a trophy, a certificate and a cash award.

124 teachers were nominated by their students, parents and fellow teachers, and endorsed by their principals, for the Inspiring Teacher of English award. The Inspiring Teacher of English Award, now in its second year, is jointly presented by The Straits Times and the Speak Good English Movement, and supported by the Ministry of Education (MOE). All award nominees will receive a certificate of commendation.

On the award, Mr S Iswaran said, "The need to inculcate in our students not only a love for, but also fluency and proficiency in English is now more relevant and important than ever. The Inspiring Teacher of English Award recognises the commitment and contributions of our English Language teachers and celebrates English Language teachers who ignite an abiding love for the English language within their students."

Mr Alan Johnson, who is one of the winning English teachers, of St Joseph's Institute, sees teaching as a personal calling, having come from a family of teachers. His passion for music and theatre has found its way into the classroom, where he uses pop and rock songs to teach his students about symbols, and brings his students on excursions to plays and museums to enrich their lessons. Alan has also inculcated a growing culture of debate in his school, starting with class debates where quieter students are encouraged to speak, and culminating with his guidance of a debate team that reached the finals of *The Arena*, a televised inter-schools' debating competition.

Mr Arthur Kok, another winning English teacher, of Nan Hua High School is an evangelist of English whose goal is to make English desirable by igniting a love of the language in his students. He is a role model English speaker who engages his students by tailoring lessons for each class to stimulate learning and response. Under his guidance as Head of Department, student and staff alike have benefited from *Nan Hua Speaks*, a weekly sketch performed by teachers and students on commonly mispronounced English words to the school. Arthur has raised both the standard of English in his school as well the competence of his fellow English and Literature teachers.

Representatives from the Speak Good English Movement, British Council, and English Master Teachers from MOE, observed lessons delivered by these awardees. One of the judges was Laraine Bamrah, Manager Teacher Training and Development at British Council. "In this year's lessons, the levels of energy and interactivity were very significant," she commented.

(Please refer to Annex for a complete list of winners.)

The Inspiring Teacher of English Award acknowledges teachers who have been instrumental in igniting a love for the English language and are effective in helping their students speak and write better. These teachers are passionate about making English interesting and relevant to their students, and are innovative in engaging their students to help them learn English better. The Award salutes these teachers for their continual learning and constant efforts to upgrade themselves to benefit their students and schools.

Annex:

Winners of the Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2009

PRIMARY	
NAME	SCHOOL
Ms Chan May Ling	Clementi Primary School
Mdm K. S. Jaswinder Khosa	Huamin Primary School
SECONDARY	
NAME	SCHOOL
Mrs Cheen-Tay Su-Lin Yvonne	Hong Kah Secondary School
Mr Alan Anand Johnson	St Joseph's Institution
Ms Foo Soo Ling	Nanyang Girls' High School
Mr Arthur Kok Kum Chiew	Nan Hua High School
Ms Toh Ji Rong	Greenridge Secondary School
JUNIOR COLLEGE / INSTITUTE	
NAME	SCHOOL
Mr Adrian Bell	Anderson Junior College
Mr Ong Chin Meng	Anderson Junior College
Mr Kelvin Yew Yeu Keng	Millennia Institute