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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOMINATE YOUR TEACHER FOR *THE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD 2010* NOW

The *Inspiring Teacher of English Award* is a national award for English teachers in Singapore schools. It sets out to acknowledge teachers who have been instrumental in igniting a love for the English language and who are effective in helping their students speak and write more effectively and accurately. The award is jointly presented by *The Straits Times* and the *Speak Good English Movement*, with the support of the *Ministry of Education*.

Nominations are open from today until 24 March 2010. Each winner of the award will be the proud recipient of a cash award and a trophy.

In last year's *Inspiring Teacher of English Award*, 10 inspiring teachers received the award. The 10 teachers were selected from 124 teachers who were nominated by their students, parents, and fellow teachers, and endorsed by their principals.

Mr Goh Eck Kheng, Chairman of the Speak Good English Movement Committee, said, "These teachers have proved to be inspiring outside the classroom as well. They now form a valuable resource group, helping the Speak Good English Movement to reach youth and adults more effectively."

Mr Alan Johnson, one of the 10 inspiring teachers of English in 2009, said, "Being one of the recipients of the award in 2009 has pushed me to demand more from myself to be a better teacher and provide my students with effective and engaging lessons. It has also given me the opportunity to expand the work I have been doing in the classroom. As a result, we will be holding the school's first literature festival, which will offer many creative opportunities for the students." Mr Johnson teaches at St Joseph's Institution.

Winning the *Inspiring Teacher of English Award* has also motivated Ms Chan May Ling, from Clementi Primary School. Ms Chan said, "I feel honoured to be recognised by my colleagues, students and their parents. The discussions I've had with the other winning teachers of the award has enabled me to learn new ways of igniting a stronger interest in English in my students."

Said Mr Han Fook Kwang, Editor of *The Straits Times*, "*The Straits Times* is very happy to be a partner in this. We all have a part to play to encourage Singaporeans to speak good English, the media, parents and especially teachers. We want to recognise the contribution of English teachers and encourage them to do even better."

We are looking for teachers who:

- are **passionate** about making English interesting and relevant to their students;
- use **innovative** methods to engage their students and help them learn English better; and
- are **lifelong learners** and **role models** in their use of English.

All students, their parents, and fellow teachers are invited to submit nominations by filling up a nomination form and briefly describing why they think their nominated teacher deserves the award, and submitting the completed forms to their principals.

Nominations for the award are open to all in-service teachers of English (including Literature and General Paper) from primary and secondary schools, junior colleges and centralized institutes.

Details:

- Nomination forms can be downloaded via:
 - (i) *The Straits Times Interactive* website at **www.straitstimes.com** or
 - (ii) *The Inspiring Teacher of English Award* website at **www.inspiringenglishteacher.sg**.
- Awardees will be announced in October 2010.
- Up to ten deserving teachers will be proud recipients of the award.

About the Speak Good English Movement:

Launched in 2000, the Speak Good English Movement is a nationwide movement to encourage Singaporeans to speak Standard English that is universally understood. Standard English is English with correct grammar and pronunciation, and is not about accent. The Speak Good English Movement and its partners provide programmes to help people learn to speak good English in fun and interesting ways. If you want to learn more, visit www.goodenglish.org.sg.