

## TEN TEACHERS AWARDED THE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD 2015

**14 October 2015** - Ten English teachers across the Primary, Secondary and Junior College levels were awarded the **Inspiring Teacher of English Award** this year. The winners each received a trophy, certificate and cash award of \$2,000 from Guest-of-Honour, Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social and Family Development, at an award ceremony today. Their principals were also presented a plaque in recognition of each school's support for their award-winning teachers.

The Inspiring Teacher of English Award, now in its eighth year, is jointly presented by the Speak Good English Movement and The Straits Times, and supported by the Ministry of Education. There are two types of Award – the **Teaching Award**, which honours outstanding teachers of English Language, English Literature and General Paper, and the **Leadership Award**, introduced last year to recognise Heads of Department, Subject Heads, Level Heads and Level Coordinators, who have led their schools in the development and implementation of an effective English Language programme. Seven teachers were given the Teaching Award and three HODs received the Leadership Award today.

“When teachers help their students acquire a good command of the English language in school, they are also laying a firm foundation for the communication skills which their students need to forge their own careers,” says Mr Goh Eck Kheng, Chairman of the Speak Good English Movement. “Thus, we thank all dedicated English-language teachers for helping to shape the future of our children.”

Since its inauguration in 2008, a total of 60 teachers in Singapore have been recognised for kindling a love for the English language in their students and enabling them to think and communicate more effectively in English.

**Ms Arafah binte Tajudin** is one of the winners of the Inspiring Teacher of English - Teaching Award this year. In Arafah's classroom, students participate in activities such as Show and Tell to develop their skills in listening, presenting and developing ideas. Arafah believes in instilling a love for writing in her students. She also conducts writing workshops which incorporate techniques such as story maps and tableaus to engage students and foster their creativity.

For **Mrs Tian Cheen Ngee**, a winner of the Inspiring Teacher of English - Teaching Award and an educator with more than three decades of experience, teaching is for her, a lifelong journey of learning. An avid reader herself, Cheen Ngee encourages her students to read as much as they can. Being well-read broadens insights and perspectives, and strengthens the ability to think critically and make more informed statements or arguments.

**Ms Suzanna Hashim**, one of the Inspiring Teacher of English - Leadership Award winners this year, believes that teachers must first and foremost be effective communicators of English, before they can expect their students to do the same. As Head of Department, Suzanna believes strongly in developing her teachers through peer-to-peer sharing sessions. She encourages the school's English language teachers to reflect and give one another constructive feedback on their lessons, as this will help them hone their teaching skills.

### **About the Inspiring Teacher of English Award**

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.

### **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](http://www.goodenglish.org.sg).

### **About the Ministry of Education**

The Ministry of Education directs the formulation and implementation of education policies. It has control of the development and administration of the Government and Government-aided primary schools, secondary schools, junior colleges, and a centralised institute. It also registers private schools. More information on the MOE can be found on [www.moe.gov.sg](http://www.moe.gov.sg).

### **About The Straits Times**

The Straits Times, the English flagship daily of SPH, has been serving readers for more than a century. Launched on July 15, 1845, its comprehensive coverage of world news, East Asian news, Southeast Asian news, home news, sports news, financial news and lifestyle updates makes The Straits Times the most-read newspaper in Singapore. The Straits Times also has an online presence at [www.straitstimes.com](http://www.straitstimes.com).