

## SEVEN TEACHERS AWARDED THE INSPIRING TEACHER OF ENGLISH AWARD 2016

**13 October 2016** – Seven teachers were awarded the Inspiring Teacher of English Award this evening. Four were awarded the Teaching Award and three received the Leadership Award. Guest of Honour Dr Janil Puthucheary, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Education, presented the winners with a trophy, certificate and cash award of \$2,000 at the award ceremony today. Their principals were also presented a plaque in recognition of each school's support for their award-winning teachers.

Into its ninth year, the Inspiring Teacher of English award is presented by the Straits Times and the Speak Good English Movement with support from the Ministry of Education. The **Teaching Award** honours outstanding teachers of English Language, English Literature and General Paper. The **Leadership Award**, introduced in 2014, recognises exemplary 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.

To date, a total of 73 teachers in Singapore have been recognised for igniting a love for the English Language in their students and inspiring them to think and communicate more effectively in English.

**Mr Joseph Toh** is one of the winners of the Inspiring Teacher of English - Teaching Award this year. Joseph employs critical thinking, concept attainment, modelling, collaborative work, oral presentations, text analysis and discussions in the classroom to help students improve their English. Joseph believes that the knowledge acquired by students should help them in real life so they can have an enriching and meaningful journey in school.

**Ms Foo Soo Ling** is one of three awarded the Leadership Award this year. She was awarded the Inspiring Teacher of English - Teaching Award in 2009. She runs workshops and professional learning sessions with colleagues on different aspects of the English language, ranging from

phonology to grammar. Being able to work with like-minded colleagues who desire to be better teachers motivates Soo Ling as a leader.

**Mdm Sukhjeet Kaur**, another winner of the Leadership Award, works with her teachers to discover new approaches to improve the standard of English in students. She continues to promote Book and Music Week (BMW) in her school, a tradition that dates back to the 1970s. With the theme 'Of This World and Others' this year, BMW promotes the appreciation of English language, Literature, Drama and the arts.

### **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 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 (MOE) formulates and implements education policies on education, structure, curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment. It oversees the management and development of Government-funded schools, and the Institute of Technical Education, polytechnics and universities. 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-language flagship daily of Singapore Press Holdings, is the most-read newspaper in Singapore and is followed widely in the region for its comprehensive coverage of local, regional and world news, provided by its correspondents in 20 bureaus in major cities worldwide.

Launched on July 15, 1845, The Straits Times underwent a major redesign across all platforms in July 2015, when it celebrated its 170th anniversary. This revamp is part of its continuing efforts to refresh its products, maintain quality and stay relevant to the changing needs of its readers. Its integrated newsroom operates round-the-clock, providing readers with news as it happens on all platforms, from its website at [www.straitstimes.com](http://www.straitstimes.com), Apple and Android apps to social media.

The Straits Times is a member of two media networks - the Asia News Network and the Impact Journalism Day alliance of newspapers - and it has won multiple international media awards, including from the Society of Publishers in Asia, the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers, the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers' Association (Panpa), Society of News Design and Wan-Ifra. Its revamped paper won a gold medal for overall newspaper design by the World Association of Newspaper at the Asian Media Awards in Manila this year.