



Singapore

Dr. Ng Eng Hen
Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence



Dr. Ng Eng Hen was appointed Minister for Education on 1 Apr 2008. He was also re-appointed Second Minister for Defence, a position he has held since July 2005. A Member of Parliament since November 2001, Dr Ng has held previous portfolios in Education and Manpower and is presently Deputy Leader of the House. As Minister of State for Education from 2002, and then as Second Minister for Education from 2004, Dr Ng led the restructuring of Singapore's tertiary education sector, as well as the Polytechnic Sector Review. One of Dr Ng's current focus as the Minister for Education is on developing a professional teaching workforce and grooming future school leaders, given the crucial role that teachers play in the delivery of quality education.

Quality Education for All

In Singapore, we are committed to providing quality education for all our students, regardless of race, gender or social background, to help them develop their talents and interests. Over the years, key education policies like bilingualism, emphasis on Mathematics and Science, focus on teacher quality and a rigorous national curriculum and assessment system, have helped to lay a strong foundation for Singapore education.

In recent years, we have further refined the education system to provide more pathways to cater to students with special talents in areas like sports and arts. Students are also given greater choices in curriculum offerings. More resources have been put into improving the quality of pre-school education as well as education for children with special needs. A fourth publicly funded university will open its doors in 2011, to enable more young people to prepare themselves for exciting new opportunities in the economy.

Maintaining a quality education system that is responsive to the changing needs of the country and the global economy is a never-ending journey. Singapore will continue to focus on improving teacher quality, enhancing educational standards, and imparting the right values to our students. Ultimately, we want to develop our students into confident individuals who are self-sufficient, care for others in society and are able to contribute to Singapore and the world.

On this note, I wish the 48th International Conference on Education every success. Thank you.