

## New Director to head National Institute of Education at NTU Singapore

**Professor Christine Goh**, 60, has been named the new Director of the National Institute of Education (NIE) at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore). Presently NIE's Dean of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning, Prof Goh will assume the position on 1 July 2018.

Current NIE Director, **Professor Tan Oon Seng**, 60, will relinquish his appointment on 30 June 2018 after holding office for the past four years since 1 July 2014. He will remain a Professor of Education at NIE and will take on directorship of the new Centre for Research in Child Development later this year.

**Professor Ling San**, NTU Provost and Vice President (Academic), said, "Prof Christine Goh brings a fine mixture of professionalism, innovative ideas and academic integrity that makes her ideally qualified to lead the NIE on to further and bigger success in the future. I would like to thank Prof Tan Oon Seng for his contributions as Director of NIE over the last four years. Prof Tan has played a significant role in enhancing teacher education and revitalising NIE's training programmes to raise the image and professionalism of teachers."

NIE has strengthened its standing as a leading teacher education institution in the world under Prof Tan's leadership. Focused on revitalising NIE's training programmes to raise the image and professionalism of teachers, one of Prof Tan's many contributions was to initiate the prestigious NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP) that aims to groom top students to become professional leaders in education. The TSP's inaugural cohort will graduate in July this year.

Prof Tan also played a key role to refine the Postgraduate Diploma in Education programme for aspiring teachers. He enhanced teaching practices and international practicum opportunities for NIE student teachers and spearheaded technology-enhanced learning and infrastructural improvements. Prof Tan also brought about leadership development and renewal across both academia and administration at NIE and successfully secured a 25 per cent increase in funding for NIE's educational research for the next five years.

Prof Tan first began his career as a teacher in 1983, and rose to become Vice-Principal in less than a decade (1991). Before joining NIE as an Associate Professor, he lectured at Temasek Polytechnic and was Director of its Temasek Centre for Problem-based Learning (2001). Prof Tan was Dean of Teacher Education (2008 to 2014) before he was appointed NIE Director. In 2014, he received the Public Administration Medal (Silver), in recognition of his contribution to education.

In his message to the NIE and NTU community, Prof Tan said, "NIE stands as one of the world's leading teacher education institutes because of the collective efforts of every member here. This is why the institute enjoys excellent relationships with all our stakeholders and is held in high

regard internationally. Together, we have further raised NIE's profile as a leading institute of education and an exemplar for teacher-education around the world. I am grateful to all who have journeyed with me throughout my four years as NIE Director. Their wonderful support has enabled me to fulfil my stewardship role for NIE and motivate me further on my next directorship. As I often say, the best teacher means remembering that Education is all about the people and what teaching them means; they are the ones who count."

On the new leadership team, Prof Tan says, "I am very thankful to Professor Christine Goh for agreeing to step into the director's role. As I pass the baton on to Prof Goh and her team, I am very confident that they will bring NIE to greater heights of excellence and inspire new teaching professionals to come."

### **New NIE Director aims to achieve greater heights in teaching excellence**

Incoming NIE Director, Prof Goh, is a tenured NTU Professor of Education (Linguistics and Language Education). An English teacher turned teacher-educator and researcher, Prof Goh first joined NIE in 1994. She has taught and managed various undergraduate, pre-service, in-service and higher degree courses as well as supervised research in the English Language and Literature Academic Group.

As Dean of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning, she has been leading NIE's strategic initiatives for teacher continuing education through in-service and graduate programmes in the past nine years at NIE's Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning (GPL). Prof Goh led the establishment of two higher degrees iconic to NIE's reputed suite of Masters by coursework programmes: the Master of Arts in Teaching Chinese as an International Language and Master of Arts in Professional Education (Training and Development).

An applied linguistics expert renowned for her research in bilingual and second language oracy and learner metacognition, Prof Goh has advised Singapore's Ministry of Education on various aspects of English language education and research for many years. Prof Goh is also a member of the NTU Academic Council's Advisory Board that gives the University advice on matters such as faculty appointments and new academic programmes. She has also been a co-editor of Asia Pacific Journal of Education and Pedagogies, and an editorial board member of several influential applied linguistics journals.

On her new appointment, Prof Goh said, "As a University institute, NIE has many strengths drawn from our diverse expertise in teaching and research. My goal is to leverage these unique strengths for NIE to lead the future of teacher and professional education in Singapore and internationally."

### **New NIE team to prepare Future-Ready Teachers for Future-Ready Learners**

Supporting Prof Goh effective 1 July 2018 are: **Professor Low Ee Ling**, 47, who will be Dean, Teacher Education of NIE's Office of Teacher Education (OTE). **Professor David Hung**, 54, current Associate Dean, Education Research at the Office of Education Research (OER) succeeds as Dean, Education Research. **Professor John Wang**, 52, will assume the role of Dean,

Graduate Studies and Professional Learning at Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning (GPL). **Professor Rebecca Ang**, 47, current Associate Dean, Education Research (OER) will be Dean, Academic and Faculty Affairs at NIE's Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs (AFA). **Associate Professor Chang Chew Hung**, 48, will succeed Prof Low's current role as Chief Planning Officer in Director's Office.

Prof Low currently heads the Global Education Innovation Laboratory based at NIE/NTU and is the country representative for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Education 2030 initiative. She received the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) in 2012.

Backed by more than 20 years in teaching and research in the learning sciences at NIE, Prof Hung led an initiative designed to surface and spread ground-up ICT-based pedagogical innovations in collaboration with Singapore's schools and teachers.

Prof Wang is a British Psychological Society Chartered Psychologist and registered with the Health Professions Council of UK as a Sport and Exercise Psychologist. Leader of the Motivation in Educational Research Lab (MERL) in NIE, he has worked with teachers, coaches, national athletes, and school athletes in their mental preparation for peak performance, as well as with schoolchildren in increasing exercise participation.

Prof Ang is a national-certified School Psychologist in the USA and a registered Psychologist in Singapore. A specialist in clinical child psychology, she uses learner-centred pedagogies to engage students to achieve meaningful outcomes in their learning journey.

Assoc Prof Chang led innovations including the first Professional Development (PD) course online, developing a stackable learning modality and a quality assurance framework for PD programmes and developed the first Network for Leaders in Professional Development, programme aimed at improving teachers' practice through evidence-informed school based research.

Together, their important and sizeable scholarly contributions to NIE's learning innovations and technologies, evidence-based pedagogies and strong education research outcomes will further boost the institute's long-standing distinction as a leading teacher education institution in Singapore and the world.

Concurrent with the new appointments, Professor Michael Chia, 55, will relinquish his role as Dean, Faculty Affairs and Associate Professor Liu Woon Chia, 51, as Dean, Teacher Education.

Prof Ling San, NTU Provost and Vice President (Academic), said, "On behalf of NTU and NIE, I would like to congratulate Prof Low Ee Ling, Prof David Hung, Prof John Wang, Prof Rebecca Ang and Assoc Prof Chang Chew Hung on their new appointments and wish them continued success. We also appreciate the contributions of Prof Michael Chia and Assoc Prof Liu Woon Chia to the nation's teacher education and professional development programmes."

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