

## **ADULT LEARNING SYMPOSIUM 2009 OPENS WITH LAUNCH OF PROFESSIONAL NETWORK FOR WSQ PROFESSIONALS**

1. **Singapore 5 November 2009:** The Adult Learning Symposium 2009, a platform for adult educators to exchange insights in Continuing Education and Training (CET), will be held from 5-6 November 2009.
2. Themed “Adult Learning – Emerging Challenges and Opportunities”, the event will be attended by over 450 participants including trainers, curriculum designers, training managers and specialists from CET Centres, the Polytechnics and ITE, along with Singapore’s over 300 Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) training providers. They will hear from experts sharing experiences, research and practices from the United Kingdom, Korea, Malaysia, Australia, the United States and Singapore.

### **AEN: A Professional Body for WSQ Trainers and Adult Educators**

3. The Symposium will also see the official launch of the Adult Educators’ Network Singapore (AEN) by Madam Halimah Yacob, Deputy Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and Guest-of-Honour at the event.
4. Serving primarily trainers and adult educators working in the WSQ system, the AEN is a voluntary professional network which provides members with professional development opportunities and peer support and mentoring. AEN will also facilitate the setting up of interest groups to further the development of specific areas in adult education.
5. Dr Gary Willmott, the Executive Director of Singapore’s Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) which is staging the symposium, said “As CET gains importance in Singapore and the Workforce Skills Qualifications system expands, it is important that we invest in the development of trainers and adult educators. The formation of the Adult Educators’ Network is part of the Institute for Adult Learning’s effort to help practitioners and managers in the WSQ system enhance their professional development, relevance and currency.”

### **Symposium Programme**

6. The two day Symposium includes 4 keynote presentations, 2 panel discussions and 32 workshops.
7. Some of the notable speakers include: Professor Chan Lee from Seoul National

University; Professor Martyn Sloman who is a Visiting Professor at Kingston Business School, United Kingdom; Professor Roger Harris from the University of South Australia; Professor Maznah Muhamad from the Universiti Putra Malaysia; and Ms Lean Jie Xin from Republic Polytechnic, Singapore.

8. Professor Emeritus Sharan B. Merriam, Professor Emeritus of Adult Education, The University of Georgia, United States of America and Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Social Science Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia will give the opening keynote address, speaking on Globalisation's impact on adult education.

9. Research papers being presented at the symposium include:

- From Korea: *The Challenges and Performance Orientated Human Resource Development in Large Corporate Organisations in Korea* by Professor Chan Lee, Seoul National University
- From the United Kingdom: *Implications for Continuing Vocational Training and Adult Development of Changing Patterns of Career Development in Europe* by Professor Alan Brown, Warwick University
- From Australia: *Sustaining Older Workers Workplace Competence: An Australian Perspective* by Professor Stephen Billett, Griffith University
- From Singapore: *Learning in and for the 21st Century Workplace* by Professor Erica McWilliam, National Institute of Education, Singapore.

10. A joint paper on new approaches to worker competency which stresses adaptability and problem-solving will be presented by Mr Samuel Ho from ITE College West and Mr Wilfrid Lammers of Siemens Technical Academy in Berlin, Germany.

For more information on the Symposium, please visit <http://www.ialsymposium.com.sg>. For more details on AEN, please refer to the factsheet at [Annex A](#). The full Symposium programme can be found at [Annex B](#).

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**For further information and media interviews, please contact:**

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**About Singapore Workforce Development Agency**

The Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) enhances the competitiveness of our workforce by encouraging workers to learn for life and advance with skills. In today's economy, most jobs require not just knowledge, but also skills. WDA collaborates with employers, industry associations, the Union and training organisations, to develop and strengthen the Continuing Education and Training system that is skills-based, open and accessible, as a mainstream pathway for all workers - young and older, from rank and file to professionals and executives - to upgrade and advance in their careers and lives.

For more information, please visit <http://www.wda.gov.sg>

**About Institute for Adult Learning**

The Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) is at the forefront of building capabilities and continuing professional development for an effective, innovative and responsive Continuing Education and Training (CET) sector. We work closely and support adult educators, businesses, human resource developers and policy makers through our comprehensive suite of programmes and services on raising capabilities and catalysing innovations in CET. IAL also champions research in the key areas of sustaining economic performance through skills, shaping employment and CET decisions, as well as developing innovations through learning technology and pedagogy for informed policies and practices.

For more information, please visit [www.ial.edu.sg](http://www.ial.edu.sg) .