

## **WDA UNVEILS NEW INITIATIVES TO DEVELOP ADULT EDUCATORS FOR A WORLD CLASS NATIONAL CET SYSTEM**

**Singapore 28 October 2010:** The Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) is launching a series of new initiatives to enhance the continuous professional development of adult educators involved in Singapore's Continuing Education and Training (CET) system. Aimed at raising standards and professionalism, these initiatives include:

- Two new WSQ programmes to equip adult educators with the skills to be WSQ trainers, assessors and curriculum developers;
- New upgrading opportunities. Besides the Master of Arts in Lifelong Learning (MALLL) offered jointly with the University of London that was introduced earlier this year, the Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) will collaborate with the Australian Griffith University to offer the Master of Arts in Training and Development in early 2011. Executive development programmes, workshops and seminars will also be introduced and delivered through IAL's Adult Educators' Network;
- A new \$3 million CET Innovation Fund to support the development of innovative practices; which complements
- A \$4.5 million research grant for IAL to build research capability within the CET Sector.

### **New Programmes and Upgrading Opportunities**

2. To ensure that the standards of WSQ training are maintained even as the CET system continues to grow, WDA will be rolling out the following new programmes to enhance the skills as well as capabilities of our adult educators:

- **WSQ Workplace Trainer Programme (WTP):** Specially designed for workplace supervisors, line-leaders and managers who are also trainers, it offers two specialised areas of facilitated learning or on-the-job training. WTP comprises training delivery, assessment and a practicum component for participants to demonstrate their effectiveness in the work environment.
- **WSQ Diploma in Adult and Continuing Education (DACE):** This diploma aims to enhance the skills and effectiveness of WSQ curriculum developers, adult educators and specialist assessors within the WSQ system.
- **Master of Training and Development (MTD):** Offered by IAL jointly with the Australian Griffith University. This programme complements the MALLL which was introduced jointly with the University of London earlier this year. The MTD will cover areas such as delivery of adult learning, curriculum

development and instructional design, as well as the development and conduct of vocational assessments.

3. To help adult educators take full advantage of the upgrading opportunities, Nanyang Polytechnic and Singapore Polytechnic will be coming on board as additional training providers for the new WSQ DACE programme, while the Institute for Technical Education will offer the WTP programme alongside IAL. To help defray course fees, WDA will offer funding support to eligible individuals.

More information on these programmes can be found at [Annex A](#).

### **Importance of Innovation and Research**

4. Aimed at kick-starting a culture of innovation in learning and training in the CET sector, WDA has set up a \$3 million CET Innovation Fund. The fund will offer CET professionals the opportunity to develop innovative, creative pedagogical design to enhance workforce learning, in areas such as:

- Learning and Technology in CET
- Enhancement of learning in WSQ Workplace Literacy
- Workplace and Organisational Learning

5. The first batch of four recipients of the CET Innovation Fund includes the Singapore Institute for Retail Studies, Kaplan Professional, Health Management Institute Pte Ltd and the New Business Development Academy Asia Pte Ltd.

More information on these recipients can be found at [Annex B](#).

6. A \$4.5 million research grant has also been committed to IAL to support its efforts in developing strong research capability, a community of researcher- practitioners and an international network of partner institutions and networks. Informed research can help shape policy and the CET system going forward.

7. These initiatives are intended to raise the standards of the adult educators in Singapore, encourage more innovation in the CET sector and build research capability in IAL. With the programmes in place, WDA hopes to strengthen the CET system to better serve the needs of the employers and the workers.

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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) .