

NEWS RELEASE

United World College of South East Asia Groundbreaking at Tampines Campus

Singapore (17 June 2009) United World College of South East Asia (UWCSEA) celebrated the groundbreaking at the site of its second campus today. Located in Tampines, the purpose-built campus, set to open in August 2010, will cater to 2,500 students from Kindergarten 1 - Grade 12 by 2015.

Guest of honour was Mr S. Iswaran Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Education, who spoke of the importance of environmental initiatives in ensuring a clean and green Singapore. SMS Iswaran said, "Singapore has always been concerned with our environment, and the need to be a lively and liveable city with sustainable growth. In April this year, the Government unveiled a blueprint of new targets and initiatives to improve our resource efficiency and enhance Singapore's urban environment...I am, therefore, heartened to learn that the design for this new campus includes comprehensive and innovative measures aimed at achieving the Greenmark Platinum award, which is the highest green building rating available from Singapore's Building and Construction Authority (BCA)... I understand that UWCSEA intends to use the new campus itself as a hands-on teaching tool for environmental education...Efforts such as this, together with initiatives and programmes in Singapore schools to raise environmental awareness among our students, will contribute significantly to Singapore's clean and green efforts."

The SMS concluded his speech saying, "I look forward to the continued success of UWCSEA as one of the region's leading international schools, and as a nucleus for the development of the next generation of global citizens."

Charles Ormiston, a member of the UWCSEA Board of Governors spoke of the commitment to core values that being a member of the UWCSEA community entails. He outlined the core commitments of the College – to UWCSEA values, to achieving and maintaining a world-class benchmark in education standards, and to Singapore's long term development.

Over 250 people witnessed a time capsule being dropped into the foundations at the signal of SMS Iswaran. Guests included Mr. Ong Kian Min, Member of Parliament (Tampines), six diplomatic representatives and parents of current and future UWCSEA students.

The contents of the time capsule were nominated by the students and staff at the current UWCSEA East Campus in the transitional campus at Ang Mo Kio. The capsule included items representative of the school and its students, and the community in which they live and learn. At the ceremony, students from both campuses also spoke about their UWCSEA experience.

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About UWCSEA

The United World College of South East Asia (UWCSEA) is a member of the United World College (UWC) movement. The emphasis in a UWC education is on service, cultural and political sensitivity and all-round achievement in both the academic and activity areas.

UWCSEA Dover Campus has over 2,900 students from more than 60 nationalities and educates students from Kindergarten 1 to Grade 12 (ages 4 to 18). The five schools are the Infant School (K1 to Grade 1), Junior School (Grade 2 to Grade 5), Middle School (Grades 6 to 8), High School (Grades 9 to 10) and Upper School (Grades 11 to 12).

The Infant and Junior Schools follow the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP), whilst the UWCSEA-designed Middle School programme follows the IB Learner Profile while delivering a curriculum designed for the needs of students of that age. Grade 9 and 10 take the two-year IGCSE course, and the IB Diploma is offered in Grades 11 and 12. UWCSEA is one of the world's largest IB Diploma schools and for over 25 years its students have achieved superb exam results. In May 2008 98% of the candidates achieved the IB diploma, with an average diploma point score an excellent 34 points.

The East Campus opened as a Primary School with 400 places (Kindergarten 1 – Grade 4) in Ang Mo Kio in September 2008. The school will expand into new premises, catering to over 2,500 students by 2015.

UWCSEA provides a challenging, holistic education with an emphasis on academic achievement, service to others, teamwork and leadership. Students are encouraged to participate in extra curricular activities which include sports, music, drama and social service options. The global concerns programme creates an awareness of international development and environmental issues and is supported by all students at every level. All students undertake age-appropriate expeditions and service projects, both within Singapore and internationally.

Dover Campus is set on 11 hectares (27 acres) in a central area of Singapore and has extensive new facilities. There are 265 full- and part- time teachers from 25 nationalities. UWCSEA offers boarding facilities for over 190 students aged 11 to 18.

A new, purpose-designed facility being built in Tampines for the East Campus will accommodate over 2,500 students from Kindergarten 1 to Grade 12, including 120 boarders, by 2015.