

S'PORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

# SIT-ting on six campuses

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**SINGAPORE** — The upcoming Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) will have a total of six campuses across the island by 2014 — five located within local polytechnics, and a headquarters at a yet-to-be identified location.

A master agreement was signed yesterday between the five polytechnics and SIT, which has been touted as a more convenient and cheaper pathway for polytechnic graduates seeking a university degree.

Students will be able to get their degrees in just two years, and the school fees of about \$9,000 a year are much lower than if they were to head overseas. The first intake of 500 students will take place this year.

Aside from infrastructure, the polytechnics will provide teaching resources and other necessary facilities.

SIT president, Professor Tan Chin Tiong, said: "I would say they are world class so there's

no reason not to leverage on what they already have."

So far, five overseas varsities have agreed to offer their degree programmes through the SIT. They are the Technical University of Munich, DigiPen Institute of Technology, Newcastle University, University of Nevada and the Culinary Institute of America. The long-term plan is to link up with up to 15 overseas varsities.

Eventually, about half of the faculty will come from the overseas varsities. SIT and the polytechnics will also identify polytechnic staff who have the potential to teach at SIT as Adjunct Lecturers.

Principal of Singapore Polytechnic Tan Hang Cheong said: "The majority of polytechnic lecturers have at least a post-graduate degree, so it's wrong to think they are all basic degree holders. That was in the past."

SIT's first eight degree programmes will be rolled out in August. Some eight companies have signed on to provide 50 scholarship places.