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TODAY IN PARLIAMENT

Government mulling over new university model

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By Tessa Wong

There is scope for Singapore to develop a new university model - one that is teaching-focused and practice-oriented with close industry ties, said Minister of State for Education Lawrence Wong in Parliament on Thursday.

Mr Wong chairs a committee exploring possible directions for Singapore's university sector. It was set up after Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced in August that additional degree opportunities will be provided for Singaporeans to meet demand for more graduates.

Said Mr Wong: 'We want something distinctive and valuable for our students, so that their university education is rich and meaningful, with real-world industry experiences that help them achieve their full potential.'

This model could see academic studies fully integrated with practical, hands-on work experience, with students alternating between semesters of full-time study and relevant paid work.

Mr Wong said the committee will study how best to implement such a model. One possibility is to leverage on the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), which is already pioneering some elements of this model.

Together with overseas partners, SIT offers a number of applied degrees in disciplines which need hands-on practice, such as occupational therapy and digital animation. It has also built close links with industry, receiving strong endorsement from industry partners, he said.



There is scope for Singapore to develop a new university model - one that is teaching-focused and practice-oriented with close industry ties, said Minister of State for Education Lawrence Wong in Parliament on Thursday. Mr Wong said the committee will study how best to implement such a model. One possibility is to leverage on the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), which is already pioneering some elements of this model. -- ST PHOTO: DESMOND LIM

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Jack William Ryan 9 hours ago

Didnt they say the same of NTU in 1983? This minister must have been a baby then.

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Hardtruth1 9 hours ago in reply to Jack William Ryan

Well said bro - I had the same thought when I read this article. The then NTI was touted to be industry-oriented and more practical skills emphasised over academic knowledge.

Those who graduated from the then NTI were awarded degree from NUS. The first graduate then was an indian MP (can't remember his name). Then when NTI was changed to NTU, the graduates at that instance could choose whether to have their degree conferred by NUS or the new NTU. Now all graduates from NTU are conferred degree from NTU.

Happy that another University will be set up and I hope that more places will be given to both local JC and Poly students.

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