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SINGAPORE NEWS

Govt committed to invest in practice-oriented universities: Lawrence Wong

By Sharon See | Posted: 11 April 2012 13:22 hrs

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SINGAPORE: The government is committed to invest in practice-oriented universities with strong industry links, such as the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT).

Speaking at the unveiling of SIT's new campus design, Minister of State for Education Lawrence Wong said the expansion of the university sector should be done by creating innovative models with a strong teaching focus and applied orientation, rather than by expanding existing research-intensive universities.

The institute is adopting a new model of campus design by siting its distributed campuses at the five polytechnics. The campuses will carry distinctive design features characteristic of SIT on their facades while blending into the polytechnic campus grounds.

SIT said it's not too concerned that the distributed campus model will dilute student bonding.

"We're optimistic that we probably should be able to put in place enough activities to bond them together as a group. At the end of the day, we will still have a HQ campus, and some of the value-add courses, the SIT programmes... eventually, we will bring them back to SIT Campus," said SIT president Prof Tan Chin Tiong.

Professor Tan added the HQ Campus will be sited at Dover.

The five campuses, which will be completed by 2014, will house different facilities depending on the courses offered.

"With such a design concept, SIT can leverage on the resources in the polytechnics, such as laboratory facilities or training equipment, as well as the existing industry links developed by the polytechnics and their faculty. The new buildings that are being developed will add to SIT's capacity and will allow SIT to expand even further," said Mr Wong.

By 2015, SIT will offer some 2,000 places every year, mainly to polytechnic graduates.

Mr Wong said SIT's practice-oriented education will stand its students in good stead, especially in an increasingly sophisticated global economy.

-CNA/cc



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