

SIT to get new facilities at local polys by 2014

■ BY KEZIA TOH

IN TWO years, students from the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) will have new facilities at the five polytechnics here to call their own.

Minister of State for Education Lawrence Wong, who was at an unveiling ceremony yesterday at the Arts House to showcase the new facilities' design, said that the move will allow SIT to play a bigger role in the Government's push to add university places for Singaporeans.

Expanding the university sector, he said, should be done by creating university models with a "strong teaching focus and applied orientation", rather than ex-

panding existing research-intensive universities.

The new facilities at SIT are an example of this, Mr Wong said. "SIT's distinctive model of education will continue to provide greater diversity and choice, and more opportunities for Singaporeans."

SIT students now attend classes at the various polytechnics, depending on their course of study.

Students pursuing a degree in hotel administration, for instance, go to school at the National Library Building, while those taking courses linked to the DigiPen Institute of Technology travel to the school's premises at the Pixel Building in Buona Vista for their classes.

The new student grounds for SIT students within the polytechnics will feature unique SIT colours. For example, each area will have a main atrium designed in black, white and red.

There will also be student-centric spaces such as elevated activity decks and large courtyards, and new studios for animation and game development.

SIT president Tan Chin Tiong said that the new facilities will help its students forge a common school identity.

"Part and parcel of university education is that you need to have spaces for kids to hang out and do things, to bond them together," he said.

"The common experience is very important," he added.

Founded in 2009, SIT is an Education Ministry initiative offering undergraduate degree programmes primarily for polytechnic graduates.

It now has 1,300 students. The school hopes to grow its student population to 2,000 by 2015.