

SIT campus coming up in S'pore Poly

By MELODY ZACCHEUS

THE ground was broken yesterday for the building of the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) in Singapore Polytechnic (SP).

The SIT will eventually have its own buildings on the campuses of the five polytechnics here, although its students will continue to share some laboratory facilities with the polytechnics as they do now.

SIT at SP is the third of SIT's buildings for which groundbreaking has been done; work is already underway at Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic.

SIT's buildings are expected to be completed by 2014.

Set up by the Education Minister in 2009, SIT partners 10 over-

seas universities to offer 24 degree programmes for polytechnic graduates.

Speaking at the groundbreaking yesterday, SIT president Tan Chin Tiong said the institute is working towards become Singapore's fifth university, one that is practice-oriented.

He said: "At this juncture, we're doing our job to get ready and have all the pieces in place. In the event we're part of the game plan, we'll be ready to do so."

His comments were in response to Minister of State for Education Lawrence Wong's statement in June that SIT could be a "possible platform" for the "applied university" model.

Mr Bill Chang, the chairman of SP's board of governors, said SIT provides an alternative pathway for aspiring polytechnic grad-



An artist's impression of the exterior of the SIT building at Singapore Polytechnic. SIT's buildings are expected to be completed by 2014.

PHOTO: SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

uates to obtain industry-specific degrees from prestigious universities around the world.

He added: "As Singaporeans get more affluent, there's a need for us to upgrade. It's important that we create these opportunities and avenues and address the

need for more programmes for polytechnic graduates."

SIT at SP, the largest of SIT's campus buildings at 20,000 sq m, will accommodate about 900 students. The building will house acting and animation studios.

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