

# Glasgow School of Art opens campus here

By **LESLIE KAY LIM**

THE Glasgow School of Art (GSA) opened its first overseas campus yesterday, in collaboration with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT).

Located in Temasek Polytechnic, the Glasgow School of Art Singapore welcomed its inaugural batch of 104 students and formally opened its studios and facilities.

It offers two Bachelor of Arts degree programmes – in communication design (graphic design, illustration and photography) and interior design.

Professor Seona Reid, director of the original GSA, explained that it had expansion plans via “distributed academies” when SIT came knocking on its door in 2010.

“Singapore is becoming a real creative hub in South-east Asia,” she said of its decision to first set up a presence here.

The SIT was established in 2009 by the Ministry of Education to offer undergraduate degree programmes primarily for polytechnic graduates.

The tie-up with the GSA is one

of 10 partnerships with overseas universities.

The president-designate of the SIT, Professor Tan Thiam Soon, described the joint effort as a “marriage that would last”.

Programme director of the GSA Singapore campus Frazer Macdonald Hay explained that the curriculum would be very similar to the one taught in Scotland.

Students would also engage with Glasgow faculty members on their periodic visits here as well as during the students’ month-long visit to Scotland in their second year.

Mr Hay said the Glasgow philosophy was very ideas-led and that he hoped the students in the new programme would focus on what they “want” to do rather than what they “need” to do in a class.

For incoming communication

design student Christine Neo, flexible thinking is the appeal of the GSA.

Said the 24-year-old: “They say they teach us how to think. It’s about the process.”

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## IDEAS-LED CLASSES

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Aspiring interior designer Sherman Lee, 21, said that while financial limitations prevented her from studying overseas, being able to take part in the GSA’s local programme, with its global perspective, would let her “experience something different”.

The Glasgow School of Art Singapore will move into a standalone SIT@TP building at the end of 2014, and its administrators hope to increase class size to about 200 by 2015.

Eventual plans for a GSA campus in India are also being considered.

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