

# SIT eyes bigger sites for main campus

**SINGAPORE** – The country's fifth publicly-funded university is experiencing growing pains, but the institute is not complaining.

Overbooked courses and plans to expand student intake have the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) looking into possible alternative sites for the university's main campus. It is currently set to take over the Institute of Technical Education's headquarters at Dover Drive by 2015.

While the Dover Drive site was conceptualised for 2,000 students, the university plans to increase its cohort size to 3,500 by the end of the decade.

Speaking at a ground-breaking ceremony yesterday at Nanyang Polytechnic, SIT's President-Designate, Professor Tan Thiam Soon, said the Dover Drive site would be able to cope for the "next four to six years".

Beyond that, more space would be needed. A combination of issues — mostly traffic-related and centred around the Dover Drive site — is what worries the university. But Prof Tan was quick to say there were no concrete plans to move the university from its initial site for now. "These are just options," he said, "We still have some time to think about it."

Yesterday's ground-breaking ceremony was the fourth of five. The SIT is building a satellite campus at each polytechnic to offer courses that complement those by the polytechnic it shares space with. The Nanyang campus is slated to be completed by the third quarter of next year.

Prof Tan said interest continues to be strong for the university. At its open house last weekend at Orchard Road's \*Scape Youth Park, there were more than 400 enquiries for its new course in Electrical Power Engineering, which begins this August in partnership with Newcastle University.

Pointing out that demand for manpower from the energy and energy management sectors is not being met by other universities here, Prof Tan said the resulting jobs for its graduates will demonstrate the viability of the SIT's course.

Prof Tan also reiterated that the university is committed to starting its own degree courses by 2015 and has already begun hiring staff with this in mind. But it will not be neglecting its tie-ups with foreign universities and will continue to "strengthen" its bonds with its foreign partners, he added.

**EUGENE NEUBRONNER**



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**Prof Tan Thiam Soon**  
PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE  
OF SIT ON THE  
INSTITUTE'S  
PLANS TO MOVE