TITLE: SIT officially Singapore’s fifth autonomous university

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SINGAPORE: The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) is now officially Singapore's fifth autonomous university.

The SIT Act has been gazetted and will grant the university the right to confer and award degrees, diplomas and certificates.

The university launched applied degree programmes last year after consultations with the industry, and will begin taking in students this year.

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

At the 2012 National Day Rally, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced plans to grant SIT 'autonomous' status amid plans to expand publicly-funded degree places.

The government plans to increase the university participation rate to 40 per cent by 2020.

- CNA/nd

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