

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Private Education Institutions Must Register with the Council for Private Education under the New Regulatory Regime with Effect from 21 December 2009**

Singapore, 17 December 2009 – Private education institutions (PEIs) must register with the Council for Private Education (CPE) to operate in or from Singapore under the new regulatory regime, which will commence on 21 December 2009.

The new regulatory regime, as set out under the Private Education Act and its subsidiary legislation, comprises the mandatory Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF) and the voluntary EduTrust Certification Scheme. Both the ERF and EduTrust will be administered by the CPE.

#### **Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF)**

The following categories of private education institutions (PEIs) will be required to register with the CPE under the ERF:

- PEIs offering degree or diploma programmes;
- PEIs offering full-time certification programmes at the post-secondary level;
- PEIs offering full-time preparatory courses for the purpose of preparing students for entrance/placement tests for joining the Ministry of Education's mainstream schools, or for external examinations;
- Foreign System Schools (FSS) offering full-time primary or secondary education wholly or substantially in accordance with an international curriculum; and
- PEIs offering full-time special education for pupils with physical or intellectual disabilities which do not receive any subventions from the government.

To prevent the proliferation of online degree mills or other similar virtual setups in Singapore, online and virtual PEIs offering the types of courses described above,

whether operating in or from Singapore, will also have to be registered with the CPE.

### **Transitional Arrangements**

Upon the commencement of the Private Education Act, PEIs will be provided with a transitional period to attain registration under the ERF:

- PEIs currently registered under the Education Act will be accorded “deemed registered” status for a period of 18 months. These PEIs will have to comply fully with the requirements of the Private Education Act, and attain registration by 20 June 2011 if they wish to continue to operate beyond the “deemed registered” period. PEIs are advised to submit their application at least three months before the end of the 18-month period.
- PEIs\* which are currently not registered under the Education Act but now fall under the scope of the Private Education Act, and PEIs offering external degree programmes, are required to submit their applications for registration by 20 February 2010 if they wish to continue to operate. A PEI which has submitted its application within this period can continue to operate until it is registered under ERF or its application has been refused.

\* These PEIs include associations, societies and vocational schools which are currently not registered under the Education Act.

### **How to Apply for Registration**

Private education institutions can register with the CPE online with effect from 21 December 2009 via the Online Business Licensing Service (OBLs) at <https://licences.business.gov.sg>. They are encouraged to submit their applications for registration as soon as possible and not wait until the last minute to avoid any delays in obtaining their registration status.

For enquiries on registration, please contact the CPE on Tel: 6592 2108 or E-mail: [CPE\\_CONTACT@cpe.gov.sg](mailto:CPE_CONTACT@cpe.gov.sg).

More information on the ERF and EduTrust certification scheme is available at CPE’s website: [www.cpe.gov.sg](http://www.cpe.gov.sg).

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### **The Council for Private Education**

Established under the Private Education Act, the Council for Private Education is a statutory body empowered with the legislative power to regulate the private education sector. In addition to its role as the sectoral regulator of private education institutions, the Council facilitates capability development efforts to uplift standards in the local private education industry.

### **Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF)**

The Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF), as set out under the Private Education Act and the Private Education Regulations, spells out the mandatory registration requirements and legislative obligations which all private education institutions, operating in and from Singapore, must meet. Administered by the CPE, the ERF aims to ensure that private education institutions in Singapore are of a certain standard in order to protect the interests of the students enrolled in their schools.

### **EduTrust Certification Scheme**

The EduTrust certification scheme is a voluntary certification scheme administered by the Council for Private Education for private education institutions in Singapore.

While the EduTrust certification scheme is voluntary, it is one of the prerequisites which private education institutions that enrol international students must meet to qualify for the issue of Student Passes, as stipulated by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA). The scheme provides a means for better private education institutions to differentiate themselves as having achieved higher standards in key areas of management and provision of educational services.

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