

PRESS RELEASE

22 November 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

92 Students Affected by School Closure Received Confirmed Placement to Continue Their Studies

1. 92 students affected by the closure of the School of Applied Studies (SAS) have received confirmed offers to continue their studies with the 12 participating private education institutions (PEIs) which had come forward to provide assistance. These students are among the 130 students who attended the placement session held by the Council for Private Education (CPE) on 28 October 2010. The placement process for another 25 students is still ongoing while 12 of the students had subsequently informed the CPE that they no longer required placement assistance. The remaining one student has not been contactable since the event.

2. The CPE has been working closely with the participating PEIs to assist the affected students. The participating PEIs appreciate the difficult situation faced by the affected students and have been willing to help the students where possible. For students who had received offers and were able to substantiate their fee payments with supporting documents such as receipts, the participating PEIs have committed to the following:

- a. For students whose fees were protected (in full or partial) and will be receiving an insurance payout, the students will pay to the receiving PEIs the amount of insurance payout;
- b. For students who had not fully paid up their fees to SAS, they will have to pay the remaining fees to the receiving PEIs; and
- c. For students who have fully paid up course fees, but are without fee protection, the receiving PEIs will not charge additional fees.

3. These 12 participating PEIs have all attained EduTrust or EduTrust Provisional certification. They are (*in alphabetical order*):

- Academies Australasia College
- AEC College
- East Asia Institute of Management
- ERC Institute
- Kaplan Higher Education Academy

- Marketing Institute of Singapore Training Centre
- PSB Academy
- Singapore Institute of Management
- Singapore Institute of Materials Management
- SMA Institute of Higher Learning
- SSTC School for Further Education
- TMC Academy

4. Said Mr Henry Heng, Chief Executive of the CPE, "The CPE appreciates the support shown by the PEIs which have come forth to render assistance to affected students, given the short turnaround time. We are heartened by such assistance and initiative by the PE industry, which augurs well for the positive development of the sector as a whole."

5. The CPE reminds all students to exercise due diligence when applying to PEIs. From the closure of SAS, it was found that many of the affected students did not check their Student Contracts for the inclusion and accuracy of key information, such as course details and fee refund policy. Neither did they verify the amount of fees protected on their Certificates of Insurance. While the CPE conducts regular checks on the PEIs, it is important that students take an active role in protecting their own interests.

6. The CPE will be stepping up its public education to students in the private education sector to heighten consumer awareness. Students may also refer to the CPE guides and brochures, or access online resources at www.cpe.gov.sg, which provides advice to students on what to look out for before they enrol in a PEI. Students who require assistance may visit the CPE Student Services Centre located at 1 Orchard Road, YMCA Building, Level 1 or contact the CPE via telephone at 65922108 or e-mail CPE_CONTACT@cpe.gov.sg.

7. Following the placement session held on 28 October, another eight affected students have approached the CPE Student Service Centre. The CPE is working with the participating PEIs to render assistance to them. The placement arrangement will come to an end a week from today and the CPE will stop accepting new cases from 29 November 2010.

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