

MEDIA RELEASE

6 July 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Building Greater Public Confidence in the Private Education Sector

1. A total of 302 private education institutions (PEIs) have been registered with the Council for Private Education (CPE) under the Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF) as of 20 June 2011. Of these, 66 have acquired EduTrust Certification. Since December 2009, PEIs are required to meet a set of academic, student protection, and governance standards before they can be registered under the ERF. This is to ensure the PEIs will be able to provide students with a quality private education. The EduTrust is a voluntary certification scheme with more stringent requirements than the ERF.

2. The CPE is currently processing the ERF applications of another 68 PEIs that were only submitted in May and June 2011. Extension has been granted to the PEIs to continue operations for another three months while the CPE processes their applications. The extension should not be taken with any prejudice. The status of ERF registration and EduTrust certification of PEIs, as of 20 June 2011, is as follows:

ERF Registration Status	Number of PEIs
PEIs with six-year registration	9
PEIs with four-year registration	89
PEIs with one-year registration	204

EduTrust Certification Status	Number of PEIs
PEIs with EduTrust Award (four years)	21
PEIs with EduTrust Provisional Award (one year)	45

3. The full list of ERF-registered and EduTrust PEIs is on the CPE website at www.cpe.gov.sg.

Landscape of the Private Education Sector

4. When the Private Education Act was introduced in December 2009, it had been estimated that the private education sector comprised 1,000 PEIs¹. The updated number of PEIs, as of 20 June 2011, is shown in the table below.

¹ The estimate of 1,000 PEIs was derived from the list of 800 private schools and external degree programme providers on MOE's register at the time. The remaining 200 was an estimate of the number of private vocational schools in the market, which were previously not required to be registered.

Type	Number
Start - Estimated Number of PEIs as at December 2009	≈1,000
Registered PEIs	302
Registration Applications Being Processed	68
Not within scope of the Private Education Act	223
Subsumed under merged PEIs	179
Ceased operations/will cease operations	171

Assistance During the Transition Period

5. During the transition period², the CPE conducted a total of 21 workshops to help familiarise more than 530 PEIs with the requirements for the ERF and EduTrust. The EduTrust Support Scheme (ESS) was also launched, together with SPRING Singapore and IE Singapore, to assist PEIs in strengthening their capabilities to attain EduTrust certification. The ESS benefited a total of 36 PEIs.

6. The CPE cancelled the registration of three PEIs³ during the transition period. In these cases, the CPE stepped in to assist affected students (numbering over 200), allowing them to continue with their studies in other PEIs.

Plans for the Sector

7. The CPE will continue to actively facilitate PEIs in achieving registration under the ERF and EduTrust certification. In addition, the CPE is working with members of the private education industry to improve the capabilities of PEIs. Following feedback from PEIs, the CPE is planning to refine administrative requirements under the EduTrust Certification scheme to reduce the load on PEIs, without compromising student protection.

8. The CPE has launched a Fee Protection Query tool on its website to allow students to check online on whether the fees they have paid are protected under the Fee Protection Scheme⁴.

9. The CPE will also introduce guidelines on PEIs' advertisements and promotional materials to protect existing and prospective students from being misled.

~The End~

About the Council for Private Education

The Council for Private Education (CPE) is a statutory board established in December 2009 to regulate the private education industry. The Council has implemented two schemes – the mandatory Enhanced Registration Framework and the EduTrust Certification scheme – to uplift and maintain standards in the private education sector. Besides its role as a sectoral regulator, the Council also provides student services and public education through its Student Services

² The 18-month transition period, from 21 Dec 2009 to 20 Jun 2011, has been smooth, with the end result of a pool of PEIs that have met the minimum standards of operation required.

³ ALG Education Centre, The School of Applied Studies and The Turning Point Education Institute.

⁴ The Fee Protection Scheme serves to protect students' fees in the event a PEI is unable to continue operating due to insolvency, and/or regulatory closure. It also protects students if the PEI fails to pay penalties or return fees to the students arising from judgement made against it by the Singapore courts. EduTrust-certified PEIs are required to adopt the scheme to provide full protection to all fees paid by their students.

Centre, and promotes the development of the private education industry. For more information, please visit the CPE website at <http://www.cpe.gov.sg/>.

Issued by the Council for Private Education

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