

# MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

## **Better compliance with regulatory standards by private education institutions**

1. More private education institutions (PEIs) in Singapore have met baseline standards set out in the Council for Private Education's (CPE) regulatory framework, which was introduced in late 2009. The framework comprises the mandatory Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF) and the voluntary EduTrust Certification Scheme, both administered by the CPE.

2. Statistics published in the CPE's latest annual report reveal greater compliance with regulatory requirements by PEIs. By December 2011, almost half of all registered PEIs had attained longer (four- or six-year) registration periods, as opposed to just 32% in June the same year. The percentage of PEIs that achieved EduTrust certification also increased from 22% to 28% in the same period. The majority (68%) of students studying in PEI courses in 2011 were enrolled in these EduTrust-certified PEIs.

3. The sector, comprising 338 PEIs as at 31 December 2011, offers 5,700 courses in four main segments – commercial post-secondary, vocational, preparatory and foreign system school. Excluding foreign system schools, 187,000 students were enrolled in the sector in 2011. About half took up part-time programmes, and more than 60% were locals.

4. Said Mr Henry Heng, Chief Executive Officer, CPE, "The 2011 figures show that more private education institutions are complying with baseline requirements. What this means in real terms is that we are assuring higher quality in the private education sector as a whole, which is a positive development. While the sector has made good progress in the past three years, there remains much scope for improvement. The Council will continue to review and strengthen the quality assurance and regulatory framework for the PE sector, and encourage PEIs to raise their quality to deliver better student outcomes."

5. The attached factsheet includes statistics on the private education sector as at 31 December 2011. The latest annual report is available at [www.cpe.gov.sg/publications](http://www.cpe.gov.sg/publications)

## **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. Its mission is to raise standards in the private education sector through effective regulation, industry development and consumer education. To achieve this, 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 Centre, and seeks to enhance the capabilities and quality of the private education sector through industry development. 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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# FACTSHEET

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## SECTOR LANDSCAPE (as at 31 December 2011)

### a) Number of Registered PEIs

Period of Registration	No of PEIs
Six Years	21
Four Years	135
One Year	182
<b>Total</b>	<b>338</b>

### b) Number of EduTrust-certified PEIs

Type of Award	No of PEIs
EduTrust Award (Four Years)	34
EduTrust Provisional (One Year)	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>

### c) Types of PEIs (classified by predominant type of course)

	Total	Type of PEIs			
		Commercial <sup>1</sup>	Vocational <sup>2</sup>	Preparatory <sup>3</sup>	Foreign <sup>4</sup>
No. of PEIs	<b>338</b>	174	82	52	30
Enrolment	<b>232,000</b>	63%	7%	11%	19%

<sup>1</sup> Commercial Post-Secondary PEIs offer a wide variety of programmes from language courses to external degree programmes.

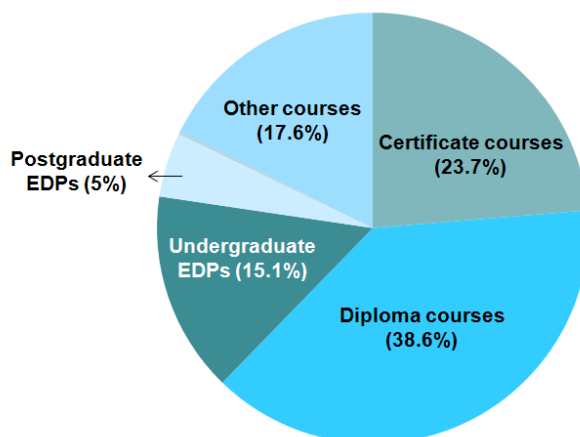
<sup>2</sup> Vocational PEIs focus on courses in specialised/niche areas: Beauty and Spa; Hairdressing; Culinary and Hospitality; Nursing, Healthcare and Social Services; Electronics and Mechanics; Art and Design; and Performance Arts.

<sup>3</sup> Preparatory PEIs prepare students for professional qualifications, particularly accountancy, as well as GCE 'O' and 'A' level examinations.

<sup>4</sup> Foreign System Schools provide primary and secondary education in accordance with international curricula, primarily to children of expatriates residing in Singapore.

#### d) Types of Courses Offered by PEIs

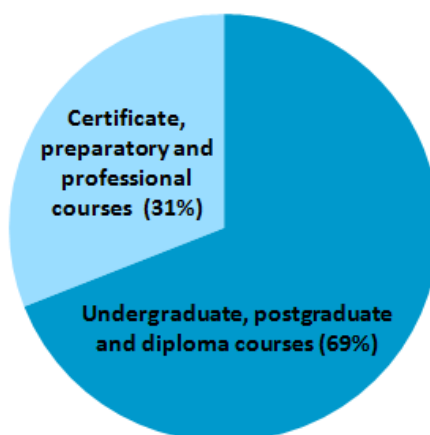
In 2011, there were 5,700 different course offerings<sup>5</sup> by PEIs. The breakdown by course type is shown in the following pie chart.



#### e) Student Enrolment

- Total cumulative<sup>6</sup> student enrolment in 2011 excluding Foreign System Schools (FSS): 187,000
- Of these:
  - ✓ 62% are Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents
  - ✓ 50% are part-time students
  - ✓ 68% of students are in EduTrust-certified PEIs

#### f) Enrolment by Type of Course (excluding FSS)



<sup>5</sup> “Other courses” include preparatory courses and bridging programmes, as well as courses offered by foreign system schools and Special Education schools. Most EDPs offered are from universities in the UK, Australia and USA.

<sup>6</sup> As PEIs do not have common enrolment periods or similar course durations, the use of cumulative figures, rather than snapshot figures in say December 2011, allow for better reflection of the level of activity and market share of PEIs. The cumulative figures represent the number of unique students enrolled with the PEIs for the year 2011, regardless of whether the students were still with the PEIs at the point of data collation.

**g) PEI Staff**

- Number of teachers: 12,000
- 33% teach on a full-time basis
- More than 80% have a bachelor's degree or higher
- Non-teaching staff: 5,500