

Entrepreneurship project targets youths

ACE and Spring unveil guidelines for school programmes

By **CHAN SWEE KHUAN**

THE Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) and Spring Singapore have come up with guidelines to encourage more structured entrepreneurship learning programmes in schools.

ACE has been working with Spring to identify key entrepreneurial attributes, and specify learning outcomes for different age groups, to provide a targeted and age-appropriate approach to entrepreneurship education.

According to a recent motivation survey conducted by ACE, youths below 26 years of age have less fear of losing their job or income.

The survey also found that youths are more likely to be inspired by successful entrepreneurs.

These findings affirm ACE's belief in focusing on youths in its effort to promote an entrepreneurial culture in Singapore.

The new entrepreneurship learning outcomes were announced yesterday morning at the opening ceremony of Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2010 at the HDB Hub Auditorium.

In his welcome address, Prakash Somosundram, co-chair of ACE's Culture Action Crucible and director of Yolk Pte Ltd, said he hoped that through this set of learning outcomes, "efforts by schools to inspire and help students learn entrepreneurship can be more effective in nurturing a new generation of innovative entrepreneurs".

Schools and their training vendors now have a guide to progressively expose students to entrepreneurship, according to their age and aptitude.

Three age groups have been identified: 9-12, 13-16 and 17 and above. Across all age groups, the life skills and attributes of entrepreneurs to be developed are similar, but the corresponding learning outcomes and proposed activities differ by age.

"It's important for us to start grooming Singapore's next generation of entrepreneurs when they are young," said Mr Somosundram.

According to Leslie Sim, senior manager of entrepreneurship at Republic Polytechnic, "the new learning objectives align individual entrepreneurship programmes to a national framework".

"The new recommended learning objectives are a good guideline for educators to craft unique innovation and entrepreneurship programmes for their students," said Donnie Seet, chief trainer at the Youth Enterprise Academy.

ACE and Spring will brief schools and training vendors on these guidelines over the next few months.

GEW 2010 was declared open by Lee Yi Shyan, Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Manpower, Minister in charge of Entrepreneurship and chairman of ACE.

Mr Lee later toured a showcase of innovative products and services that were developed with the support of Spring's Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES!) for schools and start-ups.