

## Session 7

### THE CHANGING NATURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SINGAPORE

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With the Singapore Economic Development Board's idea of a global schoolhouse in 2002, we have been seeing the transformation of Singapore into an international education hub offering a diverse, distinct mix of quality education.

The question, how did we get involved in this ever changing educational landscape?

The University of Newcastle has been part of the higher education landscape in Singapore since 2001, offering its degrees through a partnership with a private educational institution (PEI), PSB Academy. During this period, the partnership has expanded with a greater range of degrees being offered, to its current position with 2000 students studying our degrees through PSB. The University has recently entered into a partnership with another PEI, Singapore Accountancy Academy (SAA) and the first intake of students will be shortly.

A number of changes in the Singapore private education industry have arisen over the past decade, most recently, the establishment of the Council for Private Education (CPE) in December 2009, which has been empowered to regulate the private education sector in Singapore. This industry shakeup has created opportunities for quality institutions such as the University of Newcastle, to cement its position and further expand its operations.

The higher education sector in Singapore has also seen the introduction of a different model to provide an industry-focused university education, named the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). The establishment of SIT was announced in May 2009 and it represents a unique tripartite collaborative model, responsible for planning and implementing degree programs offered by reputable overseas universities in partnership with the five polytechnics.

Other changes in the higher education landscape include the establishment of Singapore's fourth public University, Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), which will open in April 2012. Another venture is a new medical school that will be established at NTU in partnership with Imperial College London. And recently, came the announcement of Singapore's first liberal arts college, a collaboration between Yale University and NUS.

The Republic's national policy to import education will remain at least over the next few years but the question for the future is, will we ever see a satellite NUS campus in the Dubai's Academic City, an ANU- NTU collaboration in Australia or a LSE-SMU partnership in the UK? In other words, will we see Singapore getting to the point where it may export education?

#### Presenters Biography

**Vicki Drewe** is currently Academic Registrar at the University of Newcastle's operation in Singapore where she has been based for 3.5 years. Vicki has over 8 years of experience working in senior administrative positions including those of Faculty Manager and Director, Student Administration at the University of Newcastle campus in Australia.

**Daniel Lim** is currently the Marketing Manager at the University of Newcastle subsidiary in Singapore. Having joined the University about a year ago, Daniel has spent half a decade working in a Visual and Performing Arts School in the areas of global marketing and recruitment. Daniel was recently published in Today's Manager Feb-Mar 2011, a bimonthly business magazine.