

QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

19 TO 23 SEPTEMBER 2016

Sponsored by the

SINGAPORE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

under the

**SINGAPORE COOPERATION PROGRAMME TRAINING AWARD/
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES TECHNICAL COOPERATION
PROGRAMME**

to be conducted by the

SEED INSTITUTE

Singapore Cooperation Programme

Singapore has provided technical assistance to other developing countries since the 1960s. As a country whose only resource is its people, Singapore believes that human resource development is vital for economic and social progress. Singapore itself has benefited from training provided by other countries and international organisations.

In 1992, the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) was established to bring together under one framework the various technical assistance programmes offered by Singapore. Through the SCP, the range and number of training programmes were increased to share Singapore's development experience with other developing countries.

To date, Singapore has sponsored training courses and study visits for over 100,000 officials from more than 170 countries. The SCP is managed by the Technical Cooperation Directorate of the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SEED Institute

SEED Institute is recognised as the pioneer in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) training in Singapore and the first institution to develop and deliver Singapore's Diploma in Preschool teaching. It is also the first Continuing Education Training (CET) Centre for ECCE sector to be conferred the National CET Institute status by the Singapore Workforce Development Agency.

SEED Institute aims to advocate early childhood care and education, raise the quality of early childhood education, and assist early childhood centre operators in recruitment, retention and professional development. The Institute has trained over 10,000 graduates since its establishment in 1989. The Institute also positions itself as a total solution provider advocating for the early childhood care and education sector.

Course Objectives

This course aims to equip participants with practical knowledge and skills to improve the quality of care and education in children's early years.

Participants will also be able to acquire a better understanding on Singapore's measures to raise quality standards of early childhood programmes and achieve the desired outcomes in children's learning.

Synopsis

Improving the quality of early childhood education is becoming a priority in many countries. Research has shown that high quality early childhood education provides a wide range of benefits, including social and economic benefits, better child well-being and learning outcomes as a foundation for lifelong learning, and more equitable outcomes.

In this 5-days course, participants will gain a better understanding on the dimensions of quality in early childhood education and how it is being translated and implemented in Singapore's early childhood context. Participants will be able to apply the knowledge and skills acquired to improve or enhance the quality of care and education in the early years in their own country's context.

Topics to be covered include:

- Regulation and quality assurance of early childhood programmes;
- Training of early childhood professionals;
- Resource-planning to support the early childhood sector; and
- Role of Early Childhood Development Agency.

Methodology

A variety of teaching methodologies will be used throughout the course to ensure active learning and participation including lectures, small group discussions and presentations, project work, journal writing, simulations and role plays and hands-on activities. Relevant site visits to childcare centres will also be included.

Duration

The course will be held from **19 to 23 September 2016**.

Application Information

Applicants should be:

- Mid to senior level government officials involved in policy-making processes in early childhood education.
- Nominated by their respective Governments.
- Proficient in spoken and written English.
- In good health.

Terms of Award

The course is sponsored by the Government of Singapore under the Singapore Cooperation Programme Training Award and the Small Island Developing States Technical Cooperation Programme.

Under this programme arrangement, the Government of Singapore will bear the following expenses for the successful applicants (thereafter known as participants) during their training in Singapore. These expenses include:

- A daily training allowance of One Hundred and Twenty Singapore Dollars (S\$120) from first day to last day of the course to cover meals and daily expenses. [Complimentary breakfast is provided in the hotel from the first day to one day after the course.];
- Transportation to course venue and site visits;
- Medical insurance for participants to cover accident and hospitalisation during their stay in Singapore in accordance with the policy of a local insurance company; and
- Accommodation for the entire duration of the course.

Note:

- (i) The recipient government will be responsible for their participants' round-trip airfares.

- (ii) Participants are to bear their personal miscellaneous expenses that might be incurred prior to receiving the allowance.
- (iii) Any expenses for out-patient medical/dental treatment will be borne by the participants themselves.

Regulations

Participants are required to comply with the following:

- (a) Strictly observe course schedules and not miss training sessions.
- (b) Not bring any member of their family and/or aide for the duration of the course.
- (c) Carry out instructions and abide by conditions as may be stipulated by the nominating Government or the Government of Singapore with respect to the course.
- (d) Refrain from engaging in political activities, or any form of employment for profit or gain while in Singapore.
- (e) Discontinue the course, in the event they fall seriously ill and are considered unable to continue the training or have committed an improper act.
- (f) Return to their respective home countries upon completion of the course.

Application Procedure

(Closing date for nomination: **8 Aug 2016**)

The Government of Singapore is pleased to invite the respective National Focal Points for Technical Assistance to nominate **one (1)** suitable applicant.

Selection of candidates will be based on merit. Should there be more applicants than training places, the Government of Singapore seeks the understanding of the respective National Focal Points for Technical Assistance in the event that its nominee(s) is not selected.

All nominations are to be submitted by the respective Government Institutions, using the official application form. The application forms are to be submitted and should reach the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore** through the National Focal Point and the Singapore Embassy in the nominating country not later than **Monday, 8 Aug 2016**.

Please address the forms to:

**Director-General
Technical Cooperation Directorate
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
Tanglin
Singapore 248163**

**Attn: Mr Lee Ban Sing
Tel: (65) 6379 8476
Fax: (65) 6479 3357
E-mail: LEE_Ban_Sing@mfa.gov.sg**

- To expedite the process, a copy of the completed application forms can be scanned and sent via e-mail/fax to the **email address/fax number stated above**. The original application forms can be mailed through diplomatic or normal channels.
- All application forms should be completed in full and **must** bear the endorsement of the respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs or National Focal Point responsible for technical assistance.
- Incomplete application forms or forms which are not endorsed will not be accepted.
- Applicants should refrain from making telephone, fax and email inquiries on the status of their applications.
- The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore** will inform all applicants of the outcome of their applications. Their National Focal Point will also be informed directly or through our diplomatic representations in the nominating country.
- Flight arrangements are only to be made upon receipt of the Letter of Acceptance to the course.

Information on Singapore

For more information about Singapore, you may wish to visit the Singapore Tourism Board website at www.yoursingapore.com



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