Presentation Overview

1. Overview of the Higher Education Sector
2. Autonomous Universities – Governance & Funding
3. New Developments in the University Landscape
4. Singapore’s New University – Concept, Vision & Implementation
Overview

Singapore’s Higher Education Landscape
Aims

- Higher Education in Singapore aims to
  - Provide quality education for students, and prepare them for their careers;
  - Meet the strategic manpower needs of our economy; and
  - Produce best-in-class institutions.
Institutions

- Universities
  - Autonomous Universities
    - National University of Singapore
    - Nanyang Technological University
    - Singapore Management University
  - Private Universities
    - SIM University
    - High-quality foreign institutions brought in through EDB’s Global Schoolhouse Programme
Institutions

• Other post-secondary educational institutions
  ◦ Polytechnics
    • Offer diploma courses with a strong emphasis on practice-based learning
  ◦ Institute of Technical Education
    • Provides pre-employment training to secondary school leavers
  ◦ Private Arts Institutions
    • Offers diploma courses in the arts
The Singapore education journey

Primary School (6 years)

Primary School Leaving Exam

Secondary School (4 to 5 years)

Vocational School (2 to 4 years)

GCE ‘N’ Level

GCE ‘O’ Level

Polytechnic (3 years)

Institute of Technical Education (1 to 2 years)

Certificate

Diploma

Integrated Programme / Specialised programmes / customised special education curriculum (4 – 6 years)

Junior Colleges / Centralised Institute (2 - 3 years)

GCE ‘A’ Level / Other Qualifications

University
Higher Education Division

- HED’s mission is to
  - Steer and support the development and provision of quality post-secondary education that meets our national economic and social objectives, through policy formulation and oversight, planning and funding
Autonomous Universities

Governance and Funding
# Overview of the AUs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Institution</th>
<th>Enrolment (2008)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUS Comprehensive</td>
<td>24,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTU Emphasis on Science &amp; Tech</td>
<td>21,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMU Emphasis on Business &amp; Social Sciences</td>
<td>5,721</td>
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</tbody>
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(Enrolment figures comprise only full-time subsidised & non-subsidised students.)
Funding

- Government is the main source of funding for the AUs
  - Total amount of funding for the AUs was S$2.064 billion in 2008
  - Funding includes
    - Funding for undergraduate programmes
    - Funding for postgraduate programmes
    - Research funding
    - Development funding
    - Endowment Fund matching
Governance of the AUs

- NUS, NTU and SMU are autonomous universities
  - Corporate entities with their own board of trustees and management
    - Decide on their own strategic direction
    - Autonomy over finances and human resources
  - Government’s role
    - Set the overall strategic direction and policies for the university sector
    - Provide funding for the AUs and ensure accountability for the use of public funds
Accountability Framework

- **Policy Agreement**
  - Broad strategic directions for the overall university sector
- **Performance Agreement**
  - Universities’ strategic goals and desired outcomes
  - Key performance indicators and targets
  - Agreed undergraduate output targets
- **Quality Assurance Framework for Universities**
  - Self-assessment report
  - External validation
University Landscape

New Developments
New Initiatives

• Expansion & diversification of the university sector

  ◦ In 2007, Government raised the target university cohort participation rate to 30% to be achieved by 2015

  ◦ University sector review launched in 2007 to study the best approach to expanding the university sector in order to

    • Provide additional university places broadly aligned with Singapore’s long-term manpower needs; and

    • Allow for a diversity of university-level paths to meet the needs of the market and aspirations of parents and students
New Initiatives

- Committee released its recommendations in 2008.

1. Establish a new publicly-funded university
2. Enhance the existing universities
   - Expand SMU into a mid-sized university
   - Continue support for NUS and NTU’s aspirations to develop into world-class research intensive universities
3. Study the feasibility of liberal arts education in Singapore
4. Develop more niche degree programmes that would support strategic sectors of the economy
Singapore’s New University
Concept, Vision & Implementation
Concept

- New University was established to
  - Provide bulk of additional university places required to meet the new target CPR
  - Offer alternative option for university education with a focus on
    - Interdisciplinary education
    - Learning in a real-world context
    - Entrepreneurship
    - Solutions-directed research
Concept

• Focused mid-sized university
  ◦ Enrolment of between 10,000 to 12,000 undergraduates and postgraduates
  ◦ Offer programmes in the disciplinary areas of
    • Engineering and Applied Sciences
    • Design and Architecture
    • Business and Information Technology

• Internationalisation
  ◦ Trans-pacific Singapore-US-China partnership
Implementation Plans

- Phase I – Plan (current stage)
  - Clarify vision and goals for the New University and its academic programmes
  - Recruit key personnel and faculty
  - Plan physical infrastructure (permanent and interim campus)
  - Secure partnerships for the New University
Implementation Plans

- **Phase II – Develop (late 2009)**
  - Develop academic programmes and curriculum in collaboration with partner
  - Recruit personnel and faculty
  - Build physical infrastructure (permanent and interim campus)

- **Phase III – Launch (2011)**
  - Recruit students
  - University begins operations