

**Welcome Remarks by Mr Lin Cheng Ton, Chairman, CPE Board, at the Official Opening of the Council for Private Education (CPE) Student Services Centre, on Thursday, 22 April 2010, at 3:30pm, at the Auditorium, YMCA Singapore Building**

Dr Ng Eng Hen  
Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence

Your Excellencies

Mrs Tan Ching Yee  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

1. Good afternoon. On behalf of the Council for Private Education, I thank you for setting aside time today to join the CPE for the official opening of its Student Services Centre.

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CPE STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE

2. The Student Services Centre has a number of functions. It attends to students' queries about studying in Singapore's private education institutions. It will also reach out to prospective students, both local and international, providing them with objective information to help them make considered study decisions. The Centre will do this through its website and print collaterals, which are student-centric in their design.

3. Additionally, the Student Services Centre will provide support services such as education counselling, and organise periodic advisory talks, seminars and dialogue sessions to inform and educate students. We believe that such public education initiatives will greatly enhance students' awareness about the private education sector.

4. Besides consumer education and handling student enquiries, the Centre will serve as a contact point for students to mediate their disagreement with their private schools through a new Scheme which will be launched this afternoon.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

5. Today's opening of the Student Services Centre is an important initial step taken by the CPE to help make the study experience of private school students an

enriching and fulfilling one. But CPE's efforts alone are not sufficient; it requires the contributions of all stakeholders, including the students. Students themselves need to play their part in exercising discretion and be more discerning with regards to their study choices and decisions. Together with the efforts of the other agencies in promoting and developing the private education sector, the CPE is confident that private education can only get better and better.

6. It leaves me to once again, thank Minister for kindly consenting to officially open the CPE Student Services Centre, and to all our guests, for gracing this occasion.

7. Thank you.