

MEDIA RELEASE

20 April 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council for Private Education to cancel registration of errant private education institution

1. The Council for Private Education (CPE) will be cancelling the registration of Kings International Business School (KIBS), a private education institution (PEI), with effect from 5 May 2015, on the following grounds:
 - a. Under section 38(1)(h): that the continued registration of KIBS is not in the interests of the public, its students, intending students or prospective students;
 - b. Under section 38(1)(m): that KIBS is being administered in a manner that is contrary to the interests of the public; or detrimental or likely to be detrimental to its students, intending students or prospective students;
 - c. Under section 38(1)(f)(i): that KIBS or its managers is contravening or has contravened the Private Education Act.
2. Following feedback in April 2014, CPE investigated and obtained evidence that KIBS had offered and awarded some students with diplomas in maritime studies without requiring class attendance or assessment. This is the first time a PEI will have its registration cancelled for issuing diplomas without ensuring that students had received proper instruction and assessment, since the establishment of CPE in December 2009.
3. KIBS is not permitted to offer and conduct private education courses¹ with immediate effect. CPE has directed KIBS to place-out² or refund existing students³ on their records for full course fees, which KIBS needs to comply with by 5 May 2015.
4. CPE advises members of the public to be cautious of offers for a certification without having to attend classes and/or take examinations, tests or other forms of assessment. Members of the public are strongly advised not to take up such offers. It also advises members of the

¹ KIBS will not be permitted to offer and conduct private education courses, which include degree and diploma programmes, as well as full-time certification and preparatory courses among others. Currently, KIBS registers only advanced diploma, diploma, certification and preparatory courses with CPE.

² Place-out means that KIBS has to arrange for its students to continue their course at another suitable PEI, subject to that PEI's agreement.

³ Based on available records, there are 10 existing students taking Diploma courses at KIBS, as of 11 February 2015. The final figure is being determined.

public to come forward to report such activities to CPE at 6592 2108 or CPE_CONTACT@cpe.gov.sg.

5. “While the vast majority of PEIs are bona fide education providers, we must continue to be vigilant to guard against such egregious players as what they do cast doubt on the integrity of the qualifications of PEI graduates. It also is unfortunate that some of the students chose to take up KIBS’s offer, instead of reporting them to CPE, implicating genuine students who took lessons in the process,” said CPE Chief Executive, Mr Brandon Lee.
6. CPE will not hesitate to take errant operators to task should they contravene the Private Education Act and its Regulations, and will continue to monitor the industry closely through unannounced inspections to ensure compliance.

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About Council for Private Education

Council for Private Education (CPE) is a statutory board established in December 2009 to regulate the private education industry. The council has implemented two schemes – the mandatory Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF) and the EduTrust Certification Scheme – to uplift and maintain standards in the private education sector. Besides its role as a sectoral regulator, the council also provides student services and public education through its Student Services Centre, and promotes the development of the private education industry. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.cpe.gov.sg>