

Report presented by the Minister for Education
Mr. Ong Pang Boon, for the Conference of Education
Ministers of Asian Member States of UNESCO in
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PART III

Progress on other items of education and
targets in the Second Singapore Development
Plan 1966 - 1970

This part of the Report deals with the progress achieved in those areas of education not mentioned in Parts I and II, and with the targets arrived at in the Second Singapore Development Plan 1966 - 1970.

As mentioned in Part I of this Report, Singapore has already achieved most of the major objectives of the Karachi Plan. The provision of universal and free primary education is no longer a problem. The emphasis in educational policy in the next five years will be -

- (1) the improvement of the quality of education at all levels;
- (2) the expansion of educational facilities in the secondary, college, and university levels;
- (3) the attainment of the necessary diversification and specialised development of education essential for the development of an industrial society;
- (4) the extension or enlargement of existing facilities; and
- (5) the further development of education for national unity and tolerance in a multi-racial, multi-lingual, and multi-cultural society.

SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHING

On 9th August this year, Singapore became an independent and sovereign state. The necessity to use education as an instrument to weld national unity and to build a nation out of its heterogeneous population has become urgent and unavoidable. For some years, it has been compulsory for students in primary schools to learn a second language. It is now decided that from 1966 onwards a second language will be made compulsory in all secondary schools. By 1969, all students sitting the School Certificate Examination will be in a position to offer a second language as an examination subject. In this manner, all school leavers will at least be proficient in two languages. This policy is aimed at breaking down the language barrier in Singapore, and will enable students of one language stream to appreciate the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of those in another language stream.

Malay will continue as the National Language of the State, and is studied in the schools.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In 1965, there are 13,000 pupils in youth organisations, with 760 teachers as officers of these organisations.

Sporting and other approved forms of youth activities in secondary schools will be actively fostered by the introduction of a scheme, whereby participation and achievements in such activities will be taken into account for -

- (a) admission to pre-university classes;
- (b) scholarship awards; and
- (c) entry into Government service and promotions.

A Physical Education Centre-music Studio .. will be set up in a special building; this will serve as the co-ordinating centre for all extra-curricular activities. The aim of encouraging sporting and other youth activities is not only to foster development of the physical well-being and the personality of each individual, but also to provide opportunities for pupils of different language and cultural backgrounds to come together, and thereby help to promote mutual understanding, and, ultimately, the creation of a united multi-racial society.

SECOND SINGAPORE FIVE YEAR PLAN 1966-1970

Provisions have already been made in the Second Singapore Five Year Plan 1966-1970 for the next phase in the development of education in Singapore. This plan provides for \$120 million or 7.85% of the total estimated development expenditure of \$1,520 million or 24.6% of the total estimated expenditure of \$485 on social development.

EXPANSION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

In this Plan, the emphasis is on the building of more secondary schools. Provision is being made for the construction of 25 secondary schools and only 2 primary schools. In 1966, 20 new schools and 7 extensions are expected to be completed. Furthermore, 4 old primary school buildings will be demolished and rebuilt to meet the latest standard of requirements. This programme will provide more than 110,000 additional places.

More places will be made available in post-secondary pre-university classes (i.e. the 11th and 12th year of education) in the Chinese and English media. For the first time this year pre-university classes for students in the Malay medium have been organised. Next year, they will take the Higher School Certificate Examination in Malay. This year, the enrolment in pre-university classes in all language streams amounts to 6,800 or about 900 more than last year, and forms about 25% of all those who complete their secondary education at the School Certificate level or its equivalent in the other language streams.

Major increases in the number of students qualified to enter pre-university classes are expected in the near future. To meet the problem, it is proposed to build under the Plan four Junior Colleges devoted solely to instruction at pre-university level. These Colleges will be able to accommodate all eligible candidates for pre-university classes. The establishment of four centres for university education will ensure the maximum use of available teacher and teaching resources. The Junior Colleges will admit pre-university students from all the four language streams, thereby bringing integration one stage nearer.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Under the Plan, two new vocational institutes at the cost of \$5.7 million, with an enrolment capacity of 2,000 students each will be built. One of these will be for the instruction of engineering and building, and the other will be for manual and applied arts.

In order to promote vocational training and to help students, a Vocational Guidance Unit was set up in early 1964. When fully equipped ^{and} / staffed, this Unit will be responsible for guiding and channelling pupils of different aptitudes, ability, and educational attainment to employment for which they are best suited.

TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE

In the field of teacher-training, steps have been taken to improve the supply as well as the quality of teachers. Extension works worth \$2.8 million are now in progress in the present Teachers' Training College, and will be completed by next year.

In the Second Development Plan, provision has been made for another Teachers' Training College. With the additional facilities made available by the extension works and the new College, it will be possible to switch over from the present

system of part-time trainees to full-time training, and more attention can be devoted to in-service courses for qualified teachers. In the meantime, a teacher-trainer's course has been planned to start next year in order to create a reserve pool of teachers for the future staff of the two Colleges.

HIGHER TECHNICAL TRAINING

As a positive measure to meet the needs of industrialisation, the Singapore Polytechnic has successfully arranged that its graduates in Engineering, Building and Accountancy will be awarded degrees by the University of Singapore. Eventually, the Polytechnic will be re-sited, with two separate units, one for training students at Technician Diploma level, and the other will be an Institute of Advanced Technology awarding degrees of its own. With these facilities, it is envisaged that Singapore will become a centre for technical and technological education in South-east Asia.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE EDUCATION

The growth in the student population in the pre-university level has necessitated the enlargement of the facilities for university education. The University of Singapore has already made plans to take in 4,000 students by 1970, an increase of about 50% of the present enrolment capacity. The development plan will include a Faculty of Technology, a Faculty of Social Sciences, an Institute of Medical Specialities, extension of present teaching and research facilities in science, medicine, and new buildings to house all these.

Established in 1954 as a private institution, Nanyang University employs Chinese as the medium of instruction. Its present enrolment is about 2,000. At the moment, the University is being re-organised in accordance with an agreement concluded between the University authorities and Government in 1963. Its syllabus is re-orientated on the basis of the Wang Gang-Wu Report.

Provisions have been made for greater state grants to Nanyang University as its re-organisation proceeds further apace. Up to date, the Government has already provided \$860,000 to the University to meet the deficits in its recurrent expenditure, and has donated \$1,000,000 for a new library, and \$1,000,000 for scientific equipment and library books.

Hgee Ann College was founded in 1963 as a private institution by the Hgee Ann Kongsi, a Chinese clan association, to provide technical, domestic science and language instruction at post-secondary level for Chinese medium school-leavers. The Kongsi recently announced that a Committee of Inquiry will be appointed to make recommendations for the future development of the College. The enrolment of the College this year is 870. The Government watches with interest the development of Hgee Ann College.

ADULT EDUCATION

Under the Second Development Plan, provisions have been made for an Adult Education Centre. At the moment, the headquarters of the Adult Education Board is in the Cultural Centre.

MINISTRY HEADQUARTERS

Finally, a new 12-storey modern building costing \$1.5 million will be constructed to house the Ministry of Education administrative headquarters.

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