

# Teacher Education: The Past, The Present and Envisioning the Future

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## Universitising Teacher Education (2000 – 2003)

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- 1) Education / Teacher Education's position in Singapore's transition from Third World to First World.
- 2) 1980 – 2000 : rapid and diversified economic growth - policy makers envisioned a future post-industrial economy, driven by innovation and entrepreneurship. Thus, need to rethink human capital strategies.



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- 1) TTC (1950- 1972), IE (1973-1990), NIE (1991- ...)
- 2) Early history of 'universitising' teacher education. School of Education, University of Singapore, IE's relationship with University of Singapore

“The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers.”

- How the World's Best Performing Systems Come Out on Top, McKinsey



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- **Report on the Ministry of Education** (Goh Report (1978))
- Lord Dainton 2 reports: Report on university education in Singapore (1979, 1989)
- **Towards Excellence in Schools** (1987)
- Dr. Seet Ai Mee: **Teacher training in the 1990s: Issues and Strategies** (1990)
- **Improving Primary School Education** (1991)
- **Thinking Schools Learning Nation** (1997)





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- Key concerns dealt with in reports was about educational quality. Teacher prep. for elementary school teaching seen as especially problematic
- Upgrading of teacher ed programmes via universitisation...positioning teaching as a profession
- NIE established in 1991



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## Strengthening Education Research Capacity and Dissemination

- Dr. Ruth Wong's and Sim Wong Kooi's legacy in positioning teaching as an evidence-based profession
- Centre for Research in Education (1991)
- NIE Centre for Education Research (1995)
- Centre for Research in Pedagogy and Practice (2003) (Profs A. Luke, P. Freebody, and S. Gopinathan)
  - Office for Education Research (2008) Prof David Hogan
  - Revamped APJE (2005) A SS citation Index Journal. SingTech. NIE Research Briefs



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## New Programmes

- Intro of BA (Ed.) B.Sc (Ed) (1991)
- Post-graduate Diploma in Education
- Further Professional Development in Education
- Diploma in Education Administration (Leaders in Education Programme (2001))



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- Governance Challenges
  - Could different academic cultures co-exist?
  - NIE Council, chaired by PS, MOE
  - Universitisation succeeded because of full commitment of NTU, NUS, MoE leadership





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- Outcomes of ‘universitisation’
  - High quality entrants into the teaching profession
  - Achieved balance between academic rigour and professional capabilities
  - Valuable education research base
  - Significant upgrading of faculty qualifications
  - QS Ranking (2021) NIE is 9<sup>th</sup> globally.

An Institution of Distinction?  
Most certainly!

