

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



FY2014-2015 was marked by the taking over of Ms June Siew as Head of DAS Academy from Dr Thomas Sim in January 2015. June has more than a decade of practical experience in the field of Specific Learning Differences (SpLD). She is a Fellow with the Register of Educational Therapists (Asia) and is a qualified trainer with a WSQ Advanced Certificate in Training and Assessment (ACTA). Her experiences as an educational therapist, lecturer and Director of Postgraduate Programmes augments her current role as Head of DAS Academy. She has written a paper on "Educational Therapy in Singapore: Towards Professionalisation and Professionalism" which has been published in the Asia Pacific Journal of Developmental Differences. Her postgraduate academic achievements include a Master of Arts in Specific Learning Differences and a Post Graduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, London Metropolitan University, UK. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore and the University College London, Institute of Education (IoE) with a special interest in cool and hot executive function in children with reading difficulties. We are confident that DAS Academy will rise to greater heights under the leadership of June.

Since taking over, June has implemented several new initiatives including the start of multiple intakes for the University of South Wales Masters in Special Educational Needs from the March 2015 intake. Previously, there was only one intake a year in September. Similarly, to encourage more enrolment for the DAS Academy Specialist Diploma in SpLD, multiple intakes were initiated in 2015. Professional Certificate Courses for various DAS programmes such as Preschool, Maths, Exam Skills, etc were also conducted.

A significant development from 2015 for DAS Academy has been the influx of requests from MOE and other schools and agencies for DAS Academy training

and workshops. In the first three months of 2015, CHIJ Toa Payoh PriNaval Base Secondary Sch, Hollandse School and the Chinese Development Assistance Council all engaged DAS Academy to deliver workshops at their premises. The workshops were also marked by the variance in subject matter including "Managing Student Behaviour in a Differentiated Classroom", "Building Self-Esteem & Behavioural Management", "Introduction to Dyslexia and Dyscalculia '- Learners' Profiles & Needs" and "Introduction to Dyslexia and Coping With Spelling". there have been 10 more workshops since March 2015 and reflects the good reputation of DAS Academy and the demand for their expertise.

Going forward, the inaugural UNITE SpLD conference was held in June 2015 and represents our effort towards closer collaboration with three distinct groups of stakeholders - special needs educators, mainstream educators and parents.

Lee Siang
Director