SIT unveils designs for campuses at polytechnics

SUMITA SREEDHARAN
sumitas@mediacorp.com.sg

SINGAPORE — The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) — the Republic's first university to cater primarily to polytechnic graduates — yesterday unveiled the designs for its new campuses to be built on the grounds of the five polytechnics.

Construction at all the sites will start by August and are expected to be completed by the middle of 2014.

Speaking at the unveiling of the designs, SIT president Tan Chin Tiong noted that, although he wanted the five campuses to "blend in" with their host polytechnics, he also wanted each to have its own "individual characteristics".

SIT is currently temporarily operating from the polytechnics' premises.

Apart from the five campuses, the three-year-old SIT will have its headquarters in Dover. On its distributed campus model, Professor Tan said: "We're optimistic that we probably should be able to put in place enough activities to bond them together as a group."

Some of the common features of all five SIT campuses include elevated activity decks and large courtyards.

The largest campus will be at Singapore Polytechnic, as it offers the most degree courses. These courses, including degrees in engineering in aerospace systems, also require more space for students.

The campuses — which will feature, among other things, a kitchen with the latest culinary equipment and a state-of-the-art animation studio — will be ready in time to accommodate the 2,000 places that SIT will offer in 2015. It now has about 1,300 students.

Minister of State for Education Lawrence Wong noted that SIT had gone through "a very rapid development". When it was started in 2009, SIT offered only 500 places.

Mr Wong also pledged the Government's commitment to invest in SIT and "develop it as one of the peaks in our tertiary education system". He said "creating new innovative university models with a strong teaching focus and applied orientation", rather than expanding the existing research-intensive universities, was the way forward for the university sector here.

SIT campus at Temasek Polytechnic. ARTIST'S IMPRESSION COURTESY SIT