

**PRESS RELEASE**



**Thur, 2 December 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MORE THAN 100 PRIVATE EDUCATION ORGANISATIONS SIGN UP FOR STUDENT PROTECTION SCHEME (SPS)**

*Positive response augurs well for Singapore's private education sector, giving a significant boost to Singapore's Global Schoolhouse programme.*

Student Protection Scheme (SPS)

1. The Student Protection Scheme (SPS) has received positive response from Private Education Organisations (PEOs) since its launch on 9 September 2004. To date, 102 PEOs have signed up under the scheme which will allow them to offer placement for international students from 1 December 2004. Students can visit the STB website at [www.singaporeedu.gov.sg](http://www.singaporeedu.gov.sg) for the full list of PEOs with SPS.
2. Schools that have yet to attain SPS by the deadline of 30 November 2004 will not be able to enrol international students from 1 December 2004 but they can continue to work with the various SPS providers to sign up for the scheme. Once they have successfully applied for the SPS, they will be able to start enrolling international students.
3. The SPS is endorsed by CaseTrust and administered by CASE (Consumers Association of Singapore). It serves to protect the international student's fees in the event a PEO is unable to continue operations due to insolvency and/or regulatory closure. It also protects the student if the PEO fails to pay penalties or to return fees to students arising from judgements made against it by the Singapore courts.

### CaseTrust for Education Scheme

4. From 1 September 2005, PEOs who intend to bring in international students must also achieve all requirements of CaseTrust for Education. Specially customised by CASE for the education industry in Singapore, the CaseTrust for Education scheme will give students and their parents the added assurance that the PEOs have in place proper systems and practices to safeguard the welfare and interest of students in Singapore.
5. A PEO that achieves CaseTrust for Education will be certified as an organisation that has adopted the good practices for student protection and welfare practices and standards. PEOs that are already on SPS are encouraged to sign up early for CaseTrust for Education.
6. CASE has put in place a panel of CaseTrust consultants to provide consultancy services to help PEOs achieve the CaseTrust for Education certification. PEOs that engage an approved CaseTrust consultant will be eligible for support from SPRING Singapore for up to 50% of consultancy fees and 30% of certification fees. The qualifying period for the support is from now to 8 Sep 2005 and is available for the first 200 PEOs only. (See Annex A for application procedures.)

### Education Excellence Framework

7. The SPS and CaseTrust for Education scheme are part of the overall Education Excellence Framework which focuses on three key components: academic excellence, organisational excellence and good student protection and welfare practices. To ensure academic excellence, an accreditation programme will be put in place next year. For organisational excellence, the Singapore Quality Class for the PEOs Scheme is in place to benchmark and certify PEOs in business and management excellence. The CaseTrust for Education Scheme, which includes the Student Protection Scheme, ensures that PEOs adopt good practices in student protection and welfare.

8. Commented Mr Kenneth Tan, Director, Services, Singapore Economic Development Board said, “The strong support from the PEO industry for these schemes under the Education Excellence Framework will boost Singapore’s efforts to set itself apart in the education sector. By protecting student interests and developing high quality education providers, we will enhance the Global Schoolhouse programme and make Singapore a more attractive location for international students, thereby increasing the opportunity for education providers to develop and grow their businesses.”

*For media enquiries, please call Ms Tracy Won, Marketing Communications at Tel: 6832 6890 (DID) 9856 9719 (HP) or email: [tracy\\_won@edb.gov.sg](mailto:tracy_won@edb.gov.sg).*

**MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS  
CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION**

## ANNEX A

### CaseTrust for Education Scheme Consultancy Programme

1. PEOs can obtain more information on the CaseTrust panel of consultants and the consultancy fee structure can be found in the CASE website at [www.case.org.sg](http://www.case.org.sg). This support is administered by the SPRING Singapore's Domestic Sector Productivity Fund. The support level is up to 50% of consultancy fee and 30% of certification fee. Support for certification fee applies only for PEOs that take up the consultancy services. The grant will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis upon successful attainment of the CaseTrust for Education certification.
2. Enquiries/Application Procedure

Interested PEOs can apply through the following three associations :

Association of Private Schools  
C/O East Asia School of Business  
98 Henderson Road  
Singapore 238856  
Telephone: 6738 9007

Association of Small and Medium Enterprises  
199B Thomson Road  
Goldhill Centre  
Singapore 307636  
Telephone: 6224 0868

Singapore Education International  
C/O First Link Investment Corp Ltd  
6 Battery Road, #19-02  
Singapore 049909  
Tel: 6535 5516

All applications should be made on the prescribed form, fully completed and received by the Association at least one working day before the commencement of the project.