

The Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
presents

Dr. Tan Oon Seng

Dean, Teacher Education,
National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore

NIE's Teacher Education Model for the 21st Century: From Conceptualization to Implementation

a free public lecture



Friday, April 20 4 pm

Room 1217, Education Building, UC Santa Barbara



Dr. Tan Oon Seng's address will highlight the key features of teacher education in Singapore and the "teacher factor" in steering educational transformations there. Singapore's education system received much international attention after continuous strong performance in internationally benchmarked tests like the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Out of 65 countries and economies that took part in PISA 2009, Singapore students ranked fifth in Reading, second in Mathematics, and fourth in Science. The teacher factor is a major determinant of effective education in Singapore. For the National Institute of Education (NIE) the underpinning philosophy of teacher education is that teaching is a calling and effective teachers have a unity of purpose in their personal aspirations, beliefs, interests, and competencies with a view of impacting the next generation. The teacher is not just a teacher of the subject but more importantly a teacher of the learner and a preserver and custodian of the values of society. The thinking teacher model at NIE is about thinking in context and involves the elements of (i) skillful teaching with problem-based learning, (ii) reflective teaching, and (iii) innovative teaching.

Professor Tan Oon Seng is Dean of Teacher Education, overseeing the administration and development of all Initial Teacher Preparation (ITP) programmes at the National Institute of Education. Prof Tan is the Immediate Past President of the Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association (APERA). He is Editor-in-Chief of *Educational Research for Policy and Practice* (ERPP) and Vice-President (Asia & Pacific), International Association for Cognitive Education & Psychology (IACEP).