

## Message from Our New Advisor

My serious involvement in Science CBLC started since December 1998 when I evaluated two certified IT courses proposed by students, and in July 1999 I took over the advisory task from the previous Sub-Dean A/Prof Ling San. Nonetheless, CBLC was not alien to me for the past ten years because many of my students had used the computer facility to complete their programming assignments. It was common to see the Centre packed with students trying out new ideas for bonus, or trying hard to solve the problems in their programs especially when the assignment dateline was close.

The 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Management Committees and their members have impressed me in many aspects. First, I want to commend their initiative and effort to conduct two Comprehensive and Certified Courses on Web Design and Multimedia respectively. I can testify that the course contents have gone through a stringent quality control process, and the standard is above that offered by many first-rate commercial schools. I am also very happy to see the scaled-down versions of these courses to be conducted for the JC principals and teachers during the December holidays.

For the past few years, the CBLC provided excellent support to the Faculty for the routine On-Line Registration and Teaching Evaluation. In the near future, the CBLC will also be entrusted with a few new tasks, and one of them is to assist the Faculty to achieve 100% IT literacy among the students. This will be a highly prioritized task as more web-based courses will be introduced in the Science Faculty, and all our students must be IT competent to survive the new trend. In this aspect, the Centre will have to train more instructors to teach the computer illiterates, more experts to provide technical supports, and more competent supervisors to attend to student needs. With the capability and enthusiasm of the current management committee and members, I have full confidence that they will deliver a job very well done again.

I also like to inform you that a handful of our ex-CBLC members has joint the rank of young technopreneurs. They have either set up their own company that provides web services or become a free-lance IT consultant. In fact I was not surprised when I met them in the last convocation. The CBLC has been a place for students to learn from peers, to harness their IT capabilities, to explore and experiment new ideas, and also to nurture their technopreneurship. Students are involved in business when they liaise with the commercial and industrial partners for the IT -Month project, when they negotiate for sponsorships, when they bargain for discounts, etc. As such, I want to invite all of you to participate in these activities and I am sure your involvement will be a valuable experience.

Last but not least, I am always ready to meet you when you need help or want to explore new ideas. Cheers.

Dr Tay Seng Chuan  
Head for Education  
Centre for Information Technology and Applications, and  
Advisor to Science CBLC