

ERIC KOO PENG KUAN

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Eric Koo has over a decade of experience as an educationist in Asia. He has held school leadership positions including **Vice Principal, School Co-ordinator and Head of Department** at international schools in China and Indonesia. **He has much experience in management, administration, training, research & writing experience, and was involved in marketing efforts.** His key contributions include directing academic programs for English and Humanities subjects using Cambridge GCE "A" Levels/IGCSE syllabus, managing academic operations and curriculum development for new courses. **In addition, he has also conducted professional development training and consultancy work and has much interest in these areas.** Trained as a defence Research Analyst (specialising in Counter-terrorism) and engineer, Eric is also a published Writer with more than 150 publications to date, having contributed articles on national security, business, management, history and educational topics, to mainstream Asian newspapers, websites and journals.

EDUCATION

2003 **NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY** (Singapore)

Master of Science (Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies)

- Granted Study Award when Political Violence and Terrorism Program was established.
- Thesis: Understanding NBC Weapons in the Context of Contemporary Terrorism
- Read two MBA modules in Strategic Management

2001 **NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY** (Singapore)

Bachelor of Applied Science (Materials Engineering)

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATIONS

- Cambridge International Diploma for Teachers and Trainers (University of Cambridge International Examinations, UK)
- Graduate Diploma in Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) (London Teachers Training College, UK)
- Specialist Diploma in the Teaching of the English Language (Singapore Polytechnic, Singapore)
- Certificate in Teaching Observation (The TESOL College, Singapore)
- Accredited Examiner for English Language (Cambridge International Examinations Syndicate, UK)

WORK EXPERIENCE

2012 - 2013 **VICE PRINCIPAL (PROFESSIONAL MATTERS)**

Singapore Cambridge International Education Centre, Zhengzhou No. 9 High School, (Zhengzhou, China)

Responsible for all academic matters and management of school's operations. Involved in leadership-level decisions on setting school's strategic direction and policies.

- *Oversaw academic operations* including timetable scheduling, examination administration, actions plans for academic programs, formulation / translation of policy documents
- *Established new academic programs:* Cambridge IGCSE Academic program for Middle School, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- *Managed staff and teachers:* Conducted professional development training for school staff
- *Communicated with external stakeholders* including Cambridge International Examination authorities

- *Directed and organized school activities / events* e.g., Edited school newsletter

2010 - 2011 **LECTURER / COURSE LEADER**

Building & Construction Authority Academy (Singapore)

- Developed curriculum for English Preparatory Course, Management Skills & Statistics for Management
- Lecturer for English to adult learners at the Diploma level
- Supervisor for Industrial Attachment Program

2008 - 2010 **HEAD OF DEPARTMENT (ENGLISH & HUMANITIES)**

Raffles International Christian School (Jakarta, Indonesia)

- Oversaw Cambridge GCE "AS" level (General Paper) & IGCSE level (English, History & Geography)
- Established English as First Language Program at Cambridge IGCSE level for school
- Led General Assessment Certificate Program to prepare students for university entry

2006 - 2008 **HEAD OF DEPARTMENT / SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR (HUMANITIES)**

Singapore International School (Jakarta, Indonesia)

- Oversaw and taught Cambridge IGCSE level (Economics, Business Studies, Geography, History)
- Represented school as IGCSE liaison with Cambridge examination authorities
- Organized school activities / events e.g., Humanities Day, English Festival, UN Day

2005 **LECTURER** (Effective Communication)

Literacy Plus Pte. Ltd. (Singapore)

2003 - 2004 **LECTURER** (English as Foreign Language)

Nanyang Institute of Management (Singapore)

2002 – 2003 **RESEARCH ANALYST**

Nanyang Technological University (Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies)

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS:

Eric has written over 150 articles for think-tanks, newspapers and magazines on the following topics. Key contributions are highlighted below. (See appendix for full listing)

A. NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & TERRORISM

- *The Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)*: Premier South Asian think-tank for defence, foreign policy and security studies, associated with India's Ministries of Defence & External Affairs
 - Two publications in their *IPCS Program on Suicide Terrorism Quarterly* (Suicide terrorism in Indonesia; The coming of age of suicide bombing as a modern tactic) & articles on suicide bombing, Al Qaeda and Iraq
- *Other South Asian think-tanks and databases*
 - India's projection of naval power a necessary one - *South Asia Analysis Group, No. 1517* (2005)
- *Newspapers and online news channels*: e.g.,
 - Fight against terror: The economic realities - *The Straits Times*
 - Where will the Jemaah Islamiyah strike this year? - *The Jakarta Post*

B. SOCIAL ISSUES & LIFESTYLE

- Frequent publications to the following mainstream Asian newspapers on wide range of topics
 - *Asia Times Online*: Prominent Asian English - Chinese, internet - based newspaper covering geopolitics, politics, economics and business
 - *The Straits Times*: Singapore's top-selling English-language daily broadcast newspaper

- *TODAY Online*: Singapore's second most-read English-language newspaper
- *Jakarta Post* and *Jakarta Globe*: Top two English-language broadcast newspapers in Indonesia
- Wrote three-part series special for *Asia Times Online* on "Future implications for South East Asian Maritime Security Policies"

C. EDUCATIONAL

- Published academic article "Guiding the Young to make the right choices" in the *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Review Vol. 12 No. 3 (2005)*
- Regular columnist to *VITA and MONTAGE Editions*, Asian's educational digests for teenagers. Topics include history / culture of Asia and other youth relevant topics. Key contribution includes a six-part series special on the history of Singapore entitled "Children of the Lion"

LANGUAGES:

Fluent: English, Mandarin, Cantonese

Elementary: Bahasa Indonesia, Malay, Japanese

APPENDIX: LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

A. NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & TERRORISM

- i) *The Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)*: Premier South Asian think tank for defence, foreign policy and security studies (associated with India's Ministries of Defence & External Affairs)
- Suicide terrorism in Indonesia – *IPCS Program on Suicide Terrorism Quarterly Vol. 2 No. 1 (2005)*
 - The coming of age of suicide bombing as a modern tactic – *IPCS Program on Suicide Terrorism Quarterly Vol. 4 No.2 (2007)*
 - How to combat car suicide bombings in Iraq – *IPCS Article 1532 (2004)*
 - Air power no solution to Iraqi insurgency – *IPCS Article 1554 (2004)*
 - The bizarre and seductive allure of suicide terrorism – *IPCS Article 1642 (2005)*
 - Why nuclear diplomacy has failed in US foreign policy for North Korea – *IPCS Article 1646 (2005)*
 - Al Qaedaism: An anarchic philosophy – *IPCS Article 1798 (2005)*
- ii) *What is India News Service*: Online news and opinion database for Indian political and business news
- The saga of the Jemaah Islamiah
 - India's look east policy - Analytical perspectives from the political, economic & military lenses
 - Death from Satara temple stampede was avoidable
 - Indian style democracy in Iraq
 - Nepal coup exposes double standards in democracy
 - The logic in having a nuclear missile
 - F-16 sale to Pakistan in US national interest
 - Will Kashmir go the way of Aceh?
 - The communist threat is forgotten, but not gone
- iii) *Arabesques Review*: International literary and cultural print journal and publisher
- The history of globalisation
 - The changing face of warfare in the Post-Cold War world
 - Change needed to maintain relevance for NATO
 - Lessons learnt from the Israeli-Hizbollah conflict
 - Will history vindicate Bush?
- iv) *Newspapers / Online news channels*
- Fight against terror: The economic realities - *The Straits Times*
 - Bombers fail to drive wedge this time - *TODAY Online*
 - How to end the Najaf stand-off - *TODAY Online*
 - Plan Z: Abandon Baghdad to save Iraq - *TODAY Online*
 - The big US gamble in Najaf - *TODAY Online*
 - The Fallujah fallacy - *TODAY Online*
 - Time for the US, UN to join forces on Iraq - *TODAY Online*
 - When the UN is found wanting - *TODAY Online*
 - Arafat's dream, a year on - *TODAY Online*
 - Where will the Jemaah Islamiyah strike this year? - *The Jakarta Post*
 - Why the world needs Iraq - *Gulf Daily News: The Voice of Bahrain*
 - Globalisation helps fuel terror threat - *Japan Today*
 - Fight against maritime terrorism is beyond protecting country's waters - *The Manila Times*
 - Archbishop's kidnapping: an end to religious tolerance? - *Assyrian International News Agency*

- v) *Other selected publications*
- India's projection of naval power a necessary one - *South Asia Analysis Group, No. 1517 (2005)*
 - The Navy - an instrument of policy in China-Taiwan cross strait relations - *China Defense.com*
 - The Jemaah Islamiah as a secret society - *The Muslim Reader*
 - The peril of the Al Qaeda - *The Global Press*
 - Al Qaeda – Five years from Sept 11 - *The Global Press*
 - Globalisation and its impact on South East Asia - *Indian Defence*
 - Bargaining with North Korea may not work - *India Defence*
 - Chinese naval power: Implications for the future - *The Agonist*
 - Nuclear issues and revolution in defence policies - *The Agonist*

B. SOCIAL ISSUES & LIFESTYLE

- i) *Asia Times Online*: Prominent Asian English - Chinese, internet newspaper covering geopolitics, politics, economics and business
- Future implications for South East Asian Maritime Security Policies (Three-part special series)
 - Part 1 --- "Southeast Asia's modern-day pirates"
 - Part 2 --- "Tides of terror hit Southeast Asia"
 - Part 3 --- "Strategies for maritime security"
 - Ba'asyir trial and the future of the Jemaah Islamiah
 - Submarines: Obsolete symbols of national pride
 - Chinese martial arts hit home
 - The US as benevolent hegemon
 - Warning: There will be no tsunami warning
 - Singapore speaks the language of the dragon
- ii) *The Straits Times*: Singapore's top-selling English-language daily broadcast newspaper
- Never say never
 - Handle your subordinates with care
 - Bigger network, better sales
 - Don't have the gift of the gab?
 - For a few dollars more
 - Shop to save
 - Spread your wings
 - Divided about e-mail
 - Parents move mountains
- iii) *TODAY Online*: Singapore's second most-read English-language newspaper
- Against the tide
 - What if Chin Peng had succeeded?
 - Spare the rod, foil the fire
 - Bus fare hike is a social concern
- iv) *Jakarta Post*: One of the top English-language newspapers in Indonesia
- The survivability of small firms
 - Playing the blame game -- a negative management style to be avoided
 - Entrepreneurship is all about balancing profit and cost

- Marketing strategy counts in the property rental business
- The art of selling effectively
- The internet revolution
- Dilemma of language use in international schools
- Distance learning – a new dimension in international education
- Adopting international curricula for the Indonesian context
- Who will save the Earth?
- Ocean Park - A whimsical wonderland

v) *Jakarta Globe*: One of the top English-language newspapers in Indonesia

- Is world recession inevitable?
- The Thinker: Why Singaporeans find Indonesia hard
- Foreign goods decree a backward step
- Why the past has a part to play in the present

C. EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

ii) *Academic Journal*

- Guiding the Young to make the right choices - *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Review Vol. 12 No. 3 (2005)*

iii) *Articles on history and culture of Singapore / Asia for VITA and Montage Edition* (Asian educational digests for teenagers)

- Children of the Lion (Six-part special series on the History of Singapore)
 - The history of Singapore (I): The rise of a port city in the Malay Archipelago and the Japanese occupation
 - The history of Singapore (II): Sir Stamford Raffles' quest
 - The history of Singapore (III): Changing winds - the end of the British era
 - The history of Singapore (IV): The parting of ways - Malaysia and Singapore
 - The history of Singapore (V): Birth of a new nation - Mass industrialisation, international trade and high rise housing
 - The history of Singapore (VI): National service & nation building
- British surrender of Singapore in 1942
- The many faces of Singapore
- The legacy of Tan Tock Seng
- The trials and tribulations of Samsui women
- The history of Sentosa
- Remembering life in the HDB estate
- "Xinyao": Songs of Singapore
- Chinese "Wayang" in Singapore
- History of Singapore: Getai
- Bukit Batok, the "Hill of Coughs"
- Two street names with a history: Bencoolen Street & Bishan
- Discovering Serangoon Road
- A walk down memory lane: Bukit Ho Swee
- A walk to remember: Telok Ayer Street
- "Batik": Traditional fashion from Southeast Asia
- Penang: A glimpse of Singapore oldies

- “Xiangsheng”: A traditional Chinese entertainment
- Taiwan: A new perspective
- Pop music and Chinese culture

iv) *Other selected contributions to VITA and Montage Edition*

- Anger management for teens
- Handling criticism with grace
- Tips on essay writing
- Sun Tzu’s art of war and mathematical problems
- Doing your level best: A capable and courageous Israeli army general
- Walking: The best form of exercise
- Combating Lunch Fatigue
- Bringing Narnia to life