



Philip Anthony McConnell A teacher of teachers

Philip Anthony McConnell recalls taking two years to adapt to Singapore's climate. Close to two decades later he is still here and the humidity doesn't dampen his enthusiasm one bit. Based at the MOE Headquarters, he now serves as a Master Teacher in English equipping other teachers in both Primary and Secondary schools.

"In a nutshell, my job is to support teachers. I've spent years in research and application and now teach what I've learned in a range of schools. I try to develop talent, build expertise, promote new pedagogies."

Philip admits to challenges faced when learning the ropes but he finds what keeps him going is that he enjoys dealing with people. "It's quite an easy thing to do in Singapore because people are very open and there's a lot of passion in education which keeps you motivated as well," he adds.

And in his years of teaching experience, he recalls some quite remarkable people, among them, his students. "One group raised \$10,000 for an old people's centre just busking on Orchard Road! Another student set up the most successful donation drive ever for bone marrow that it's become an annual event.."

Mr McConnell's appreciation of the people he serves as a teacher in Singapore is clear:

"There is a strong belief that if you do your best in school, you will improve your chances in life - parents, students everybody seems to think it is valuable and this is something good."