

HPB wants firms to educate about Aids, sex diseases

SEXUALLY-transmitted infections (STI), mental wellness and chronic diseases ranked fairly low in workplace health programmes (WHP), a survey has revealed.

Less than 8 per cent of companies had education programmes on STI/Aids, while just 16 per cent addressed mental health, the National Workplace Health Promotion Survey 2006 showed. Chronic illnesses such as diabetes received attention in only 19.8 per cent of workplaces surveyed by the Health

Promotion Board (HPB).

Most firms focused on exercise and nutrition, with 42.4 per cent having exercise/fitness and 38.7 per cent nutrition-related programmes.

The HPB urged firms to organise health screening for their employees to detect chronic conditions early and to introduce STI and HIV/Aids education as well as mental well-being programmes.

The survey of 688 private companies with more than 50 employees indicated that more were imple-

menting WHP (58.7 per cent compared with 45.1 per cent in 2003).

Some of the hurdles that workplaces cited in organising WHP included limited experience in planning programmes, lack of demand and inadequate budgets.

The HPB said it has a range of programmes to help companies overcome these barriers. Companies can also apply for co-funding of up to \$10,000 to kick-start and sustain their health and sports promotion programmes.



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Career Preview Seminar

Please register with Nanyang Polytechnic at www.nyp.edu.sg/pdc or email karen_siew@nyp.edu.sg for the Career Preview and selection exercise.

Venue: Suntec Convention Centre
Level 3, Room 303
Date: 24 November 2007 (Sat)
Time: 10:00am & 1:30pm

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LATERAL THINKING: School children in front of the world's largest mind map, made at the Singapore Institute of Management campus in Clementi. The map was unveiled as part of the ongoing two-day Brand's SIM Mind Map Festival and Global Mind Map Conference.

A mind map is an image-centred diagram that represents connections between portions of information, and is used to organise ideas and as a problem-solving and decision-making tool. This is also the world's first mind map festival.

No man's land? No way: M'sia

M'sia says Pedra Branca was fully used and frequented

THE HAGUE – Malaysia has dismissed Singapore's claim that Pedra Branca was *terra nullius* (no man's land) when the British built the Horsburgh Lighthouse on the island in 1847.

Malaysia's international legal counsel James Crawford told the International Court of Justice that reference to Pedra Branca could be found in historical records. The earliest map, dated 1595, marked it between Bintan and the Malayan Peninsula – “within the domains of Johor”, he said, as quoted by *Bernama* news agency.

The island was labelled by its Portuguese name of Pedra Branca, which “is not surprising as it is a Portuguese map”, he said on day two of Malaysia's oral arguments in the territorial dispute.

He said the island was “fully used and frequented by tribes

or peoples”, either socially, as a landmark and aid for navigation or as a place for fishing.

He added that a 1655 Dutch diplomatic note referred to it as being within Johor's territory, reported *Bernama*.

He also said that Pedra Branca was not *terra nullius* because maps and texts show that the pre-1824 Sultanate of Johor extended north and south of the Straits of Singapore as well as to the east and west.

Although the 1824 Anglo-Dutch Agreement divided the Sultanate, and Britain and the Netherlands disagreed as to who was the continuator of the old Kingdom of Johor, Mr Crawford argued that “they disagreed not at all” on the territorial consequences of the division, reported *Bernama*.

“It was Johor, the state which outlived the East India Company and the Straits Settlements, that had the original title to the lands, seas and islands it did not cede to Britain,” he said.