SEAB-link



A newsletter produced by Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board

Issue 18 · December 2014

Forging ahead, Remaining rooted

s 2014 comes to an end, we are delighted to present the year-end issue of the SEAB-Link newsletter. This is a special issue, as it vividly captures the heart of the action for the events that happened in this year.

2014, the lunar year of the horse, was indeed a busy year for SEAB. In the first half of the year, all hands were on deck as we

eagerly made preparations to organise and host the International for Educational Association Assessment (IAEA) Conference. The event successfully took place in May with about 600 delegates coming together for professional exchange and development. For the second half of 2014, SEAB welcomed a number of fellow educators and delegates from around the globe, sharing with them our experience and journey in the area of assessment.

In terms of organisation excellence, SEAB was accredited with the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) certification for Business Continuity Management, and received the appreciation accolade in support of the Excellent Service Award, amongst other exciting events.

2014 also holds special significance for SEAB as we celebrated our 10th birthday on 1 April 2014. As we took time to reflect on our journey for the past decade and honour the solid foundations that had been laid, it was also opportune for us to look forward to forging new grounds and fulfilling future aspirations while remaining firmly rooted in our shared values. The next ten years will be a fresh era filled with new challenges but with the dedicated hearts and minds of all staff, SEAB looks forward to scaling new heights for the years ahead.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue, as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Happy reading!

The SEAB-link Editorial Team SEAB_SEABlink@seab.gov.sg



ommitment



E SEAB turns IO!

st April 2014 was a notable day in SEAB's history it marked the 10th anniversary of our inception as a Statutory Board, and also kicked-off the year-long series of celebrations to commemorate our 10th anniversary. The theme for the celebration chosen "Celebrating Our Past. was Our Future". Creating as SEABlings cherish what has been achieved these past ten years, because that has made us what we are, and that is what we build on to create our future.

The day's celebrations commenced with opening remarks by our Chief Executive. Ms Tan Lay Choo, on the history and significance of PS21 to the public service, and also to SEAB. This was followed by a PS21 Ceremony to recognise and appreciate outgoing members of the PS21 Committees for their contributions to SEAB during their term of office, as well as to appoint the incoming members. As a significant portion of SEABlings serve in the PS21 Committees at any one time, and most SEABlings have been involved in PS21 Committees in different capacities at various stages of their career, the Ceremony was an apt reminder of the importance of PS21 to sustain SEAB's journey towards organisational development and excellence, as well as for staff development. Subsequently, SEABlings adjourned outdoors for a group photo. It was definitely a memorable moment captured as

had the chance to experience a hands-on session on how to create and maintain our own terrarium. Creating our very own terrarium was a very significant component during the event, as it not only allowed everyone to bring back a momento on this special day, but the terrarium also highlighted the importance of planning and building well to create a good future for SEAB, just as plants needed the right balance of soil, water and sunlight to grow well.



SEABlings organised ourselves to form the word "SEAB". The word formation signified the importance of every single SEABling coming together to bring out the best of SEAB as an organisation.

During the event, SEABlings also



For the afternoon programme, the celebrations were graced by our Chairman who is also the Director-General of Education, Ms Ho Peng. In her speech, Ms Ho acknowledged the hard work, professionalism, and commitment SEABlings in tirelessly upholding the integrity of the national examinations, and paid tribute to those who helped build up SEAB into what it is today. She also noted that SEAB would need a combination of courage, discipline, strategy, creativity and boldness for the future.

Our Chief Executive, Ms Tan Lay Choo, also fondly recalled SEAB's

achievements in the last 10 years and thanked SEABlings for their contributions to SEAB's success. She reminded everyone that SEAB must always uphold the integrity and public confidence in the national examinations, delivering robust and rigorous examinations that are fair, accurate, timely and secure.

After a sumptuous lunch, the afternoon programme kicked off with the first series of lucky draw, a perennial favourite. This was followed by a segment on Dedication, Personal where artefacts created by SEABlings to commemorate SEAB's 10th Anniversary were put on display. SEABlings were invited to talk about the artefacts that they had created and how these expressed their thoughts and feelings about this special occasion. The Awards Ceremony for Promotions and Service Excellence followed where the audience rejoiced those who received with recognitions from their our Chairman and Chief Executive.

Ms Ho and Ms Tan were then invited to view and seal a time capsule specially prepared to mark SEAB's milestone







anniversary. Items of significance to SEABlings had been placed in the time capsule and these included SEAB's newly published book Assessment in Singapore:

Perspectives for Classroom Practice, the summary report on our 2013 Singapore Quality Class and People Developer's certification journey, the info pack on our Specialist Diploma in Educational Assessment course and even the very first issue of our SEAB-Link newsletter. The time capsule would be preserved and opened in 2024.

The celebrations continued with the final series of Lucky Draws, with all the prizes generously contributed by SEAB Senior Management.

The day's celebrations ended with a family photo, which captured the happy faces of SEABlings on this special day!



The SEAB Journey - 2004 to 2014

May 2014

Our Vision: A trusted authority in examinations and assessment, recognised locally and internationally

Statistics on our national examinations (2004 to 2013)

Over 275 Subjects

5.609 **Papers**

Mar 2009

18.762.775 **Scripts**

1,618,081

Candidates



Nov 2009

Celebrating our Inniversary 2004 - 2014 ~

> Celebrating Our Past **Creating Our Future**

Apr 2014

ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION BODY Cert No: BC-2010-01

Conferred ISO 22301:2012 for **Business Continuity Management**

Our efforts in raising

assessment literacy

Celebration of SEAB's 10th **Anniversary**

Conferred Singapore Quality Class



Organised the 40th (IAEA) Conference

Jul 2009



Launch of the Specialist **Diploma in Educational**

SINGAPORE QUALITY CLASS

Conferred ISO 27001:2005 for Information Security Management

SDEA

Organised the SEAB conference targeted at promoting the assessment literacy of education officers

Assessment (SDEA)

May 2013

May 2006



iPSLE

PEOPLE DE WHILLIAM

Dec 2004

- Organised the 32nd International Association for **Educational Assessment (IAEA) Conference**
- Conferred the People Developer Standard

1 Apr 2004

SEAB

Introduction of iPSLE

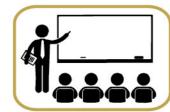
Inauguration of SEAB.



Organised 2 IAEA **Conferences** (2006 and 2014)



Established 17 iPSLE Centres in 7 countries



Conducted over 500 workshops and trained more than 19,000 teachers



Published 3 Books on **Examinations and Assessment**

IAEA Conference Highlights . 05

IAEA 2014 Singapore

International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA) 2014 Conference

Assessment Innovations for the 21st Century

SEAB successfully hosted the IAEA Conference from 25 to 30 May 2014 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat, graced the Opening Ceremony on 26 May 2014 as the Guest-of-Honour.

the primary to secondary level. The topics of these research papers were also diverse, covering areas of assessment for learning, formative assessments, holistic assessment to online learning and assessment of character development.

The response from both local and the international fraternity was very encouraging about 600 delegates from countries 40 attended the conference - a befitting record for the IAEA and SEAB as the organisations celebrated their 40th and 10th Anniversaries in 2014 respectively.

The two keynote addresses were delivered by Professor Pellegrino from the University of Illinois at Chicago and Professor Stobart from Oxford University. Professor Pellegrino's opening address on "Assessment as a positive influence on 21st century teaching and learning: a systems approach to progress",



The conference theme was 'Assessment Innovations for the 21st Century'. The response to the call for papers was overwhelming. 150 papers were presented at the ten concurrent sessions and two off-site sessions in the conference. SEAB presented a total of eight research papers e-examinations. covering project work and language assessment at this conference. A total of 25 papers were also presented by teachers from various schools, ranging from

shed light on how an integrated system could fulfil multiple roles and needs of assessment.

For Professor Stobart, he shared with the audience on what is "21st century learning and how assessment can help" during his closing keynote address. In his speech, he provided the context to learning in the 21st century insights on sustainable and assessment. Both speeches were well received and generated much thought-provoking conversations throughout the Conference.



International delegates also had a first-hand experience of the vibrancy and buzz of Singapore schools and better appreciated how our schools rebalance assessment of learning with assessment for learning during the off-site sessions. About 150 delegates visited six primary, three secondary schools and one polytechnic over two mornings. Many were impressed with what they saw, heard and learnt during the classroom observations and interactions with the students and staff. They were particularly warmed by the generous enthusiastic hospitality and provided schools. by the

Overall, very good feedback was received from the conference local delegates, both and international. Through the conference, by presenting our research papers as well as by facilitating the sharing of assessment innovations and practices. SEAB has taken another step in positioning herself as a trusted authority in examinations and assessment.



Excellent Service Award (EXSA) 20th Anniversary Commemorative Event

his year marks the 20th anniversary of the Excellent Service Award (EXSA) movement and a celebratory event was held on 21 November 2014 at the Stamford Ballroom, Raffles City Convention Centre, to commemorate the occasion.

The Guest-Of-Honour for the event was Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister, Prime Minister's Office. EXSA is a national award, launched in 1994, to recognise individuals who have delivered outstanding service. Its objectives are to:

- 1. Inspire service staff to scale new heights
- 2. Identify service role models
- 3. Encourage service champions
- 4. Recognise the efforts of service staff



Mrs Cheah Mei Ling, Director, Research & Development, represented SEAB to receive the award.

EXSA is conferred at three levels, Silver, Gold and Star. Since 2010, 29 EXSAs have been conferred on SEABlings, of which 1 was the Star Award, 15 were the Gold Award and 13 were the Silver Award. For 2014, our colleague, Mdm Sharifah Mufidah Bte Syed Mohamed

Aljunied, Assessment Specialist (Humanities), was conferred with the Gold Award. This is her third consecutive Gold Award since 2012. Well done, Sharifah! In conjunction with the celebratory event, commemorative awards were presented to organisations which had supported EXSA movement in the last 5 or more years. SEAB was one of the recipients. Mrs Cheah Mei Ling, Director, Research Development, represented SEAB to receive the award.



Mdm Sharifah Mufidah Bte Syed Mohamed Aljunied, winner of the EXSA Gold Award



Building Assessment Literacy through Professional Development Specialist Diploma in Educational (Assessment)

The Specialist Diploma in Educational Assessment (SDEA), SEAB's flagship programme, is a professional qualification in educational assessment designed to equip teachers with knowledge and skills in assessment to function as effective facilitators, coaches or mentors in assessment in schools.

SEAB extends our heartiest congratulations to these 12 teachers who have graduated from the 2013 SDEA course and received their diploma from Ms Tan Lay Choo, Chief Executive, SEAB, in July 2014:

Khalidah Abdullah St. Andrew's Junior College

Ang Ghim Phong *Assumption Pathway School*

Ang Kar Bee *Ai Tong School*

Chandrasegaran s/o Palaniswamy Presbyterian High School

Choo Huiping *Ai Tong School*

Chua Lim Peng Lakeside Primary School

Chung Sin Le *Griffiths Primary School*

Goh Shih Hui *Ai Tong School*

Hoe Quee Hiang Belinda Telok Kurau Primary School

Low Chee Kong Ai Tong School

Ng Gek Yin Theresa *Ai Tong School*

Ong Sir Yan Canberra Primary School



The SDEA course has affirmed most of the assessment practices I have undergone and initiated in the schools I have been to. More importantly, it has armed me with the necessary competencies to address the gaps that I have and those that I encounter in my work.

- Khalidah Abdullah

The SDEA course has allowed me to go deeper into the world of educational assessment; I definitely have been enlightened professionally.

- Ang Ghim Phong

I have gained insights to the various aspects of assessment, from theoretical aspects like the role of assessment in the education system, the purpose and principles of assessment, to the practical aspects of developing a balance test paper, reviewing test items and interpretation and use of assessment results data.

- Ang Kar Bee

The activities are purposefully designed to help us relook and reflect on our own assessment practices in school.

- Chandrasegaran s/o Palaniswamy

Having knowledge and skills in assessment would definitely enable me to carry out effective formative and summative assessments in class as a teacher and select and develop appropriate assessment methods, interpret and use assessment results more effectively as key personnel.

- Choo Huiping

The SDEA course has given me a view of what assessment encompasses in all levels, from primary to tertiary. I have better understanding of the role of assessment in our Singapore education system.

- Chua Lim Peng

I enjoyed the learning journey with the course presenters from SEAB and the intellectual discourse with my course-mates.

- Chung Sin Le



Building As

Building Assessment Literacy through Professional Development Specialist Diploma in Educational (Assessment)

Every one of us, educators, has a role to play in bringing out the success of good assessments in our schools. In order for schools

to be fully geared towards good assessments, teachers have to step out to upgrade themselves professionally in this area.

I would thus recommend this course to my colleagues. Not only can they gain knowledge and skills professionally, they can also hear from other course mates the different forms of assessments that have already taken place in their schools and what good practices can be emulated and what can be improved. In this way, we will have a whole-school culture of assessment literacy.

- Goh Shih Hui

Questions from the participants provoked deep thoughts and generated rich discussions. We were able to view and analyse issues on assessments from different perspectives.

- Hoe Quee Hiang Belinda

The SDEA course has reminded me to be more conscious about the alignment needed for the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. I also read up more on Assessment Literacy to leverage up my understanding and make reference to what I can do as an effective classroom teacher.

- Low Chee Kong

would recommend the course to colleagues who are keen to get a comprehensive overview of various aspects of educational assessment with a practical focus on assessment issues our Singapore education system. It would certainly put them in a better position to facilitate the initiation of assessment innovation in schools.

- Ng Gek Yin Theresa

I have started providing guidance to IP heads and teachers in school by designing relevant approaches to improve the item construction process. It marked the start of my journey as an assessment mentor in my school.

- Ong Sir Yan



If you are interested to know more about the SDEA course, please refer to the following website link: https://www.seab.gov.sg/pages/services/SpecialistDiplomaProgramme/SDEA.asp

Meeting of minds 2014 Corporate Visits · 09 in Jalan Bukit Ho Swee

2014 also proved fruitful as along the course of the year, SEAB forged friendships with numerous agencies and counterparts from various parts of the world.

We had the pleasure and honour of extending our hospitality to a number of local and overseas visitors, including delegates spanning from halfway across the globe, such as Oman, Finland and Pakistan, right down to our closest ASEAN neighbor from Thailand.

SEAB was more than happy to also receive fellow teachers from the Management and Leadership in Schools Programme under the National Institute of Education, who joined SEAB's Senior Management for an exchange session on a September afternoon.

The visitors and delegates were interested in learning more about SEAB's work in the area of assessment and our role in the education landscape in Singapore. In all of the visits, our management team, including our Chief Executive, Ms Tan Lay Choo, shared openly on SEAB's experience and journey in the domain of assessment and our plans moving forward.

The delegates also provided insights on the education and assessment system within their countries which widened our knowledge, and facilitated the learning and exchange of best practices from each other.

Let's hear what the visitors had to say about us, and not forgetting the snapshots that bear testament to the memorable visits!



Omani delegation posing for a group photo with our Chief Executive, Ms Tan Lay Choo (4th from left) and SEAB Management during their visit on 21 August 2014.

"A very interesting and inspiring presentation by the staff of SEAB. We wish them all the success in their mission."

 Mrs Janaito Al Lamki, Advisor of Her Excellency the Minister and Head of the Working Supervising Team for the Specialised Center for Professional Training of Teachers



2014 Corporate Visits · 10



appy faces gathered for a group shot as SEAB hosted teachers who were course participants from the Management and Leadership in Schools (MLS) Programme under the National Institute of Education on 2 September 2014.



"Thank you to CE Ms Tan, directors for providing this opportunity to learn about SEAB and its various processes and practices. It has been an enlightening experience to hear and learn from the organisation. A big Thank You! And may SEAB grows strength to strength as a premier centre of assessment in Asia"

- Mr Ng Wei Kwang, on behalf of the MLS July 2014 cohort

hief Executive of SEAB, Ms Tan Lay Choo, SEAB Management and the Thai delegation taking a group photo during the visit on 10 September 2014.





"We have learned a lot from you, and we are really appreciative of your hospitality. Thank you so much."

- Professor Siracha Charoenpanji, Thai Ombudsman





SEAB welcomed delegates from the Finnish Matriculation Examination Board and Ministry of Education on 2 December 2014.



"Thank you for a pleasant and useful occasion you gave to us; Best wishes and regards"

Finnish delegates, Ms Eeva-Riitta Pirhonen, Director General, Ministry of Education and Culture,
 Ms Kaisa Vähähyyppä, Secretary General, Matriculation Examination Board
 and Ms Najat Ouakrim-Soivo, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Education



total of 13 delegates from education agencies within Pakistani visited SEAB for a friendly exchange on 4 December 2014.



"Thanks to the SEAB team. It was a pleasure to visit this esteemed organisation of Singapore, which provided us a lot of information about the examination system of Singapore.

They are doing tremendous work. I wish them all the best and looking forward for collaboration with them in coming days."

Celebrating in style: New look for SEAB's Corporate Website

2014 marks SEAB's 10th Anniversary. To commemorate this milestone and in line with our aspirations as a dynamic and forward-looking organisation, the SEAB's Corporate Website was given a makeover to enhance user experience and thus, better serve our customers and stakeholders.

A key part of the makeover was redesigning the layout and organisation of the webpages so that users would find it more intuitive and easy to navigate the website and locate the information and services that they need.

In comparison to the previous website design, the new

design makes better use of colour and shading to give depth to webpages, delineate functional features and draw attention to key services.

To see the changes first-hand, visit our website at www.seab.gov.sg!



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Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board

Home About Us National Examinations Assessment Services Public Communications





Private Candidate

I want to check out:

- · Syllabuses for School Candidates
- Syllabuses for Private Candidates
- Examination Calendar 2015
- Important Dates for Candidates
- Approved Calculator List
- · Approved Dictionary List
- Publishers of Past Year Papers
- · Purchase of Statement of Results

Announcements

News

Events

Results of the 2014 Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) have been released.

21 November 2014

Read More >

Re-Sitting The 2014 Singapore-Cambridge GCE O/A-Level Year-End Mother Tongue Written Examination for Private Candidates

13 October 2014

SEAB has sent out the Entry Proof / Timetable to private candidat ...

Read More >

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- Send us a query

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SEAB Corporate Website









SEAB is now BCM:ISO22301 certified!

nderstanding how unforeseen circumstances incidents can develop into potential crises, it is imperative for an organisation in place proper procedures and systems to enable effective responses for business survival. In the case of National Examinations, it is necessary for SEAB to ensure it has proper procedures and systems in place to address all possible disruptions that can affect and impact the successful execution of the National Examinations. To be caught unprepared in averting and managing potential disruptions to the National Examinations would not only result in the loss of confidence from SEAB's stakeholders such as the parents, students, teachers, but could also affect the reputation Singapore's education system which has been lauded as one of the world's best.

SEAB embarked on our Business Continuity Management journey in March 2011. Working together with external consultants. SEAB established processes to identify potential risks and response developed plans to manage disruptions which adversely affect can critical business functions.

The ISO 22301 was adopted as the standards for the Business Continuity Management, and an audit certification was held in April 2014. External auditors conducted site visits at our three premises located at Jalan Bukit Ho Swee, Tiong Bahru and Pandan, and interviewed officers coordinating the business continuity management their respective departments or divisions. With the coordinated efforts of various departments working as one SEAB, SEAB was awarded the BCM: ISO22301 standard on 30 April 2014, which renders further assurance to the public that SEAB has robust processes in place to ensure the successful implementation National Examinations.



CERTIFICATION
INTERNATIONAL
ISO 22301:2012
Cert No: CIS/9356B

ACCREDITED
CERTIFICATION
BODY

Cert No: BC-2010-01



Training Calendar January to July

nterested in widening your knowledge about assessment literacy? Find out more about our courses available and the training time table for January to July 2015 here.

For Primary School Teachers:

WORKSHOP TITLE	DURATION (DAYS)	DATE OF TRAINING
Introduction to Assessment for Beginning Teachers – English Language	1	Class 1 : 27 Feb 2015 Class 2 : 06 Mar 2015
Introduction to Assessment for Beginning Teachers – Chinese Language	1	Class 1 : 07 Apr 2015
Introduction to Assessment for Beginning Teachers - Science	1	Class 1 : 20 May 2015
P4 Assessment Literacy – English Language	1	Class 1 : 10 Apr 2015
P4 Assessment Literacy – Chinese Language	1	Class 1 : 03 Mar 2015

For Secondary School Teachers:

WORKSHOP TITLE	DURATION (DAYS)	DATE OF TRAINING
Assessment – English Language	1.5	Class 1 : 12 Mar 2015 (Full Day) 26 Mar 2015 (Half Day)
Assessment – Science	1.5	Class 1 : 02 Apr 2015 (Full Day) 22 Apr 2015 (Half Day)
Assessment – Physics	1.5	Class 1 : 14 May 2015 (Full Day) 27 May 2015 (Half Day)
Assessment – Literature	1.5	Class 1 : 26 Feb 2015 (Full Day) 12 Mar 2015 (Half Day) Class 2 : 26 Mar 2015 (Full Day) 09 Apr 2015 (Half Day)
Assessment – Malay Language	1.5	Class 1 : 06 Apr 2015 (Full Day) 13 Apr 2015 (Half Day)

Training Calendar Sanuary to Suly

For School Teachers (Secondary/Junior College):

WORKSHOP T	ITLE	DURATION (DAYS)	DATE OF TRAINING
Assessment Literacy 2.2+ Implementing Assessmen		2	Class 1 : 28 Jan 2015 (Half Day) 29 Jan 2015 (Full Day) 26 Feb 2015 (Half Day)
Assessment Literacy 2.7 S Assessment and Assessin		2	Class 1 : 27 May 2015 (Half Day) 28 May 2015 (Full Day) 02 Jul 2015 (Half Day)

For more information about the above courses, please refer to TRAISI.

IDEAS TO ITEMS WORKSHOP (i2i)

The Ideas to Items Workshop (i2i Workshop) is designed to help Primary Science teachers design good test items in Primary Science. While it is relatively easy to design test items that assess pupils' recall of facts, test items that assess understanding and higher order thinking skills are more difficult to design. This workshop is intended for Primary Science teachers who have prior basic assessment literacy knowledge (e.g. ability to check a test item accuracy).

Specifically, the workshop seeks to:

- provide a better understanding of the linkage between curriculum ("syllabus"), instruction and assessment;
- introduce the revised Bloom's taxonomy as a framework for designing test items that assess various levels of cognitive skill;
- provide a methodology for participants to source for ideas that could be used to design test items, translate these ideas into test items and generate new ideas for test items.

The training schedule for the i2i Workshop in 2015 is as follows:

WORKSHOP TITLE	DURATION (DAYS)	DATE OF TRAINING
Ideas to Items Workshop for Primary Science Teachers (i2i)	2	Class 1: 16 Feb 2015 (Full Day) 17 Feb 2015 (Full Day Class 2: 07 Jul 2015 (Full Day) 08 Jul 2015 (Full Day)



Training Calendar · 16

Training Calendar January to July

ASSESSING ORAL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION IN HIGHER CHINESE LANGUAGE

This workshop is designed to equip participants with the knowledge, understanding and skills to assess oral presentation and oral discussion skills in Higher Chinese Language. This workshop is intended for Secondary School teachers who are currently teaching O-Level Higher Chinese Language.

Specifically, the workshop seeks to:

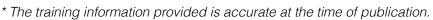
- gain deeper understanding of what constitute a good oral presentation and discussion;
- design an oral presentation task;
- conduct discussion based on oral presentation; and
- acquire basic knowledge on production of video stimulus.

The training schedule in 2015 is as follows:

WORKSHOP TITLE	DURATION (DAYS)	DATE OF TRAINING
Assessing Oral Presentation and	1	Class 1 : 27 Jan 2015
Discussion in Higher Chinese Language		Class 2 : 29 Jan 2015
		Class 3 : 03 Feb 2015
		Class 4 : 05 Feb 2015
		Class 5 : 10 Feb 2015
		Class 6: 12 Feb 2015

To register, please visit https://www.seab.gov.sg/pages/services/training/workshops.asp to download the registration form. Thereafter, you may fax the completed form to us at (65) 6377 4229.

If you require more information on the courses, please contact us at <u>SEAB_CATS@seab.gov.sq</u>.









Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board

