



LOTUS BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL

Profile of Dr. Harjinder Kaur, PBS

1. Tertiary Education

- Bachelor of Arts and Social Science, National University of Singapore (1990)
- Master of Arts (English Language), National University of Singapore (1997)
- Doctor of Education, University of Western Australia (2011)

2. Expertise in and Contribution to Teaching with the Ministry of Education (MOE)

Joined the Singapore Education Service, under the Ministry of Education, in 1979 and by 1985 developed a reputation as an outstanding Teacher for the teaching of English, Mathematics and Science.

3. Leadership Role in Singapore Education Service

- Coordinator for Information Communication Technology (ICT), in Boon Lay Secondary School (1982-1984)
- Coordinator for English Language, in Jagoh Primary School (1985-1987)
- Level Head of English Language and Literature, Yishun Town Secondary School (1994-1996)
- Head of Department for English Language and Literature, in Yishun Town Secondary School, (January 1997 – June 1999)
- Assistant Director, Curriculum Planning and Development Division (July 1999 to June 2002):
 - (i) In charge of Malay and Tamil as Mother Tongues; French, German and Japanese, as Foreign Languages; and Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu as Non-Tamil Indian Languages;
 - (ii) In charge of the Malay Language, Tamil Language and the Foreign Language Centres
 - (iii) Editor for Malay and Tamil Curriculum for Singapore Schools; and
 - (iv) Trainer for Malay and Tamil Mother Tongue Teachers
- Vice-Principal, Pioneer Junior College (July 2002 to December 2003)
- Vice-Principal, Park View Primary School (January 2004 to February 2005)
- Curriculum Specialist and Trainer for Singapore School English Language Teachers (2009-2010)

4. Participation in and Contribution to Curriculum Development Projects

- Project Director for the development of an International Punjabi Curriculum, comprising 110 Text Books and Activity Books, for 11 levels (Primary One to

Junior College levels) for the Singapore Sikh Education Foundation (1998 to 2004)

- Project Coordinator and Consultant for 35 Books, for the Singapore Sikh Education Foundations, on the teaching of Universal Values (2005-2006);
- Create the first CD Roms for the Teaching of Punjabi as a Mother Tongue, in the Singapore context, for years One to Four
- Edited a 35 Book series, on the Total Student Development Programme, from Year One to Ten Students, based on Creativity, Knowledge of the World, Public Speaking Skills, Leadership for life and Value Education Programme

5. Contribution in Areas of Assessment and Examination

- Trained Examiner, by MOE, PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment for Reading, Mathematics and Science)
- Contributed to the development of the world's first Common Examination System for the Five Non-Tamil Indian languages, approved by the MOE, from 2002 to 2004
- Deputy Chief Examiner, Board for the Teaching and Testing of South Asian Languages, 2005 -2015

6. Experience in International Education

- Carried out 7-hour Workshop on *Assessment for Learning* (Formative Assessment) and *Assessment of Learning* (Summative Assessment) – (Jan 2013)
- Half-day workshop on “*Literacy Breakthrough Approach for Accelerated English Language Learning for Lower Primary Students*”- 4 August 2012

7. Research and Publication

- Research on *Sikh Migration and Contribution to Malaysia and Singapore*, for Brill Encyclopedia (Sikh Diaspora)
- Research on *Sikh Migration and Contribution to Thailand*, for Brill Encyclopedia (Sikh Diaspora)
- Writer of the Teachers' Resource and Guide Book for Mathematics Series for the Caribbean

8. Honors and Awards

- PSB Scholarship for Bachelor's Degree at National University of Singapore (1987-1990)
- Honoured by President SR Nathan with the PBS Medal for contribution to the Singapore Education System
- Professional Development Scholarship (Research) for the Doctorate of Education by Government of Australia



Photo of Dr Kaur with Ms Indraneel Rajah, Minister of State, MOE



Photo of Dr Kaur with BTTTSAL and Ms Indraneel Rajah, Minister of State, MOE

Achieving international excellence

The diversity of doctoral research in the Graduate School of Education (GSE) was reinforced in the work of the five international doctoral students who graduated recently.

Wahiza Wahli – an award-winner for her publications and conference presentations – investigated the influence of English language academic literacy on employability of Malaysian undergraduate students. Rozita Dass developed a theory of how teachers and students in Singapore secondary schools deal with literature in English studies.

Three international students graduated with Doctor of Education degrees. Shanmugam Kadakara analysed the Tamil language in Singapore, while Harjinder Kaur studied third-generation migrant children learning their heritage language in Singapore. Gurdish Kaur Gill focused on policy and empowerment in a study which theorised Singaporean junior college teachers' responses to the 'Teach Less, Learn More' policy.



Gurdish and Shanmugam participated in the successful transnational Doctor of Education program offered by the GSE in Hong Kong (2001) and Singapore (2003). Eighty five transnational students have graduated successfully, 39 students are writing their theses and 24 new students have enrolled in Singapore.

The international students have returned to positions of influence in their own countries. Shanmugam is Head of Tamil Program at Singapore Institute of

Management University and is also involved in teacher training at the National Institute of Education in Singapore.

Wahiza is teaching at the National University of Malaysia and continuing her research in academic literacy, English language literacy, TESL and higher education. Rozita is an education consultant with Avastar Education and Director of Learning at Dian Kindergarten in Selangor, Malaysia. Gurdish is an acquisitions editor with Pearson Australia Group.