NTU helps to clean lake in Sri Lanka

By SARA PU

Photo: NTU

KANDY (Sri Lanka) – As a teenager, Ms Raudha Sharif, 26, couldn’t see much of the Kandy Lake or the Mid-Canal, and so did not know the lake’s history. Then, while teaching at the University of Peradeniya in Kandy in 2010, she thought that it’s not good for her students to come from the Capital and not know about the heritage. She told Singapore reporters at a press conference yesterday that non-engineering students – such as those from humanities and media studies – will have a chance to participate in the tie-up.

Graffiti on the school wall in Sri Lanka’s capital point to the many environmental challenges that the students at the University of Peradeniya face in keeping the Lake clean. Mr Wun Jern, executive director of NEWRI, said that the plants in the three pilot plots look extremely healthy. He also revealed that he is thinking of setting up similar projects in Myanmar to set up clean water initiatives there. Three plots of “floating wetlands” were installed to filter out pollutants and silt at an inlet to Kandy Lake in central Sri Lanka. Eventually, 200 of these will be installed. Such wetlands are also used elsewhere in the world, including Singapore and the United States.

The project is funded to be run by the New Environment Research Institute (NEWRI) in collaboration with the University of Peradeniya and the local government. Ms Raudha, an ITE College East (Simei) student, is studying a module in Fashion Modelling. Her project is aimed at preparing aspiring models to the class, she said. Another advantage is that students in other classes can learn from each other, as well as spot their mistakes more easily. "By trying out the walk on their own, the students can use the feedback from the teacher to correct their movements. So the teacher can focus on giving feedback to other students," she said.

ITE elective a runway for aspiring models

By SARA PU

MOST students carry books and papers in their school bag – but not Ms Raudha Hani. In her backpack are a pair of six-inch heels and a runway-worthy outfit. It all started when she was an ITE College East (Simei) student, studying a new course offered by the school: Fashion Modelling.

It was always interesting to model, and when she heard about the module, she grabbed the opportunity and signed up. Fifty students have signed up so far for the four-day training course conducted at Carrie Models. By the end of the school year, the ITE lecturers had to first undergo training there. Ms Linda Teo, managing director of Carrie Models, said the module was an opportunity for the students to learn both the theoretical and practical aspects of modelling – from understanding the industry, and have environmental start-ups.

Ms Raudha, 25, is the only student from Singapore among 20 others from other countries. She said: "This module acts as a training ground for the students, to prepare them for the real world!" For ITE College East student Tharun Kirthikumar, 16, the modelling classes are an opportunity to pursue her ambition. She has been parading for private modelling classes, but this module means she can "perform in front of industry professionals".

Dr Shameen Jinadasa (left) and Ms Linda Teo, managing director of Carrie Models.

"Women's Hair Problems Can Begin From Late 20s"