

**SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE
ARTS AND MINISTER-IN-CHARGE OF MUSLIM AFFAIRS,
DR YAACOB IBRAHIM,
AT THE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF
aLIVE TEACHING CERTIFICATE (ATC) &
FOUNDATION IN ISLAM & ITS VALUES FOR EDUCATORS (5IVE)
SINGAPORE ISLAMIC HUB, 25TH JUNE 2011, SATURDAY, 3PM**

President MUIS, Haji Alami Musa

Sahibus Samaha Mufti of Singapore, Dr Fatris Bakaram

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wa barakatuh,

Let me begin by congratulating all the 153 aL.I.V.E. teachers who have successfully completed the aL.I.V.E. Teaching Certificate (ATC) & the Foundation in Islam and its Values for Educators (FIVE) who will be receiving their certificates today.

2 MUIS introduced the aL.I.V.E. programme as the curriculum for part-time madrasahs in mosques in Singapore 7 years ago after a study in 2003 on the changing needs and profile of young Singaporean Muslims. The aL.I.V.E. program was designed to be age-appropriate and relevant in today's context. New pedagogies were also selected to ensure teachers can teach effectively.

aLIVE Achievements

3 aL.I.V.E. is now taught in 36 part-time madrasahs based at the mosques. The Kids, Tweens, Teens and Youth aL.I.V.E. programs are able to cater to the specific needs of different age groups. Two aL.I.V.E. centres have also been recognized for their excellent performance and have been identified as aL.I.V.E. Centres of Excellence or in short, ACE. A total of 648 teachers have been trained and are currently teaching the aL.I.V.E. curriculum.

4 There has been an increasing participation in aL.I.V.E. programs. The total student enrolment currently stands at 11,500. Last year, MUIS launched a \$2.5 million Progress Fund to ensure that no child is deprived of Islamic Education due to lack of means. One of the objectives of the Fund is to subsidise fees to enable children from underprivileged families to participate in aL.I.V.E. So far, \$208,000 has been used to subsidise the fees of 787 children in the programs.

5 In 2009, MUIS conducted a validation exercise to determine the effectiveness of the aL.I.V.E. programme. We sought expert opinions from several renowned Islamic scholars and educationists. We asked the experts to assess the appropriateness of the content of the aL.I.V.E. curriculum, the effectiveness of pedagogies applied and the impact of the program on the students.

6 I am pleased to announce that the experts have given a resounding endorsement of the aL.I.V.E. programme. The religious content was assessed to be sufficient to meet the basic Islamic learning needs of our students. The interactive approach used in teaching and learning aL.I.V.E. was also effective to develop the two-way communication between teachers and students. I am also pleased to say that our Teens aL.I.V.E. programme was found to be effective in guiding our teens to deal with the challenges they face as Muslims. These positive comments along with the good feedback from parents, students and teachers attest to the community's acceptance of aL.I.V.E. as a crucial start to their child's Islamic education.

Areas of improvement

7 The aL.I.V.E. programme must also evolve to meet the needs of our young in an ever changing world. We need to ensure that the content is relevant to prepare our young to deal with the emergence of new trends and issues today. Teachers need to be equipped with teaching skills, values and

knowledge on contemporary issues through training and development courses. We should also harness the latest technology, so that we are able to provide our young with learning that stretches beyond the classroom. MUIS will look into these areas to further enhance the aLIVE programme.

8 This journey to touch our young Muslims with Islamic Education is a continuing journey and remains a high priority for the community. The spirit showed by our asatizahs here today is proof that they are highly committed to improve themselves to engage our students more effectively. An example is 50-year-old Ustaz Yaakob Saleh. He is the Mudir of Sallim Mattar Mosque Madrasah. Ustaz Yaakob is a great inspiration to many of us. Having experience in teaching Islam for more than 11 years, he makes it a priority to attend the aL.I.V.E. Certificate in Teaching Course. The course benefitted him and he sees the importance of customising his teaching methods to suit different student profiles. He is also comfortable using new media and technology as a teaching tool in the classroom. His example, and there are many more examples amongst you today, convince us that the future of Islamic Education in Singapore is on the right track.

9 In closing, I would once again like to congratulate all teachers for their achievement today. I wish them well in their tasks of educating our future generation in Islamic Education with the knowledge and skills that they have reaped from their training. May they be guided and be given the ease to continue contributing to the community through the knowledge that they have gained. Thank you. Wabillahi taufik wassalamu alaikum wr wb.