

Board set up for Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism

By **LIM WEI SHENG**

A 16-MEMBER board has been set up by the Ministry of Education to administer the Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism and spearhead initiatives to support English and mother tongue teaching, especially at the pre-school level.

The board, chaired by Minister for Education Heng Swee Keat, comprises community representatives, academics, experienced practitioners, media repre-

sentatives and public service officers. It includes Alan Chan, CEO of Singapore Press Holdings, and professor Eddie Kuo, director of the UniSIM Centre for Chinese Studies at SIM University.

The board will also be supported by four sub-committees to manage areas such as research, proposal evaluation, funds investment and outreach efforts.

The establishment of the board follows on the launch of the Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingual-

ism in November 2011, which has received \$113 million in pledges to date. The government has pledged to match funds raised, on a one-to-one basis, up to \$50 million.

Top donors to the fund include Lee Kuan Yew himself, Hong Kong business magnates Li Ka-shing and Robert Ng as well as organisations such as the Singapore Tote Board and Kwam Im Thong Hood Cho Temple.

Thanking the public for its sup-

port of the fund, Mr Heng said: “I am very heartened by the generous donations received . . . I am confident that we can raise the quality of teaching and learning of mother tongue languages in pre-school and help our children develop a love for bilingual learning.”

Those interested in donating to the fund can do so via cheque or cash. Details on donation procedures can be found on the MOE website.