**SCOLAR's Study on English Language Competencies expected of
Local University Graduates Employees**

In June 2003, the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) released its Final Report of Language Education Review after months of public consultation and deliberations. It has recommended, inter alias, that "expected English competencies should (also) be specified for university graduates and entry-level professionals to give them a better idea of employers' expectations." (Paragraph 2.6.6 (b) of the Final Report refers.) Against this background, a study was launched in September 2003 with results recently concluded and summarised in this report.

2. Invitation to participate in this study was sent to employers of a wide range, including local SMEs and non-SMEs, multinational companies and the Government, to nominate graduate employees for a pilot testing. In the end, a total of 200 graduate employees from various employers (123 of these employees were from employers in the private sector) had been nominated to take the IELTS test between late April and July 2004. A summary of the test results are as follows (apply to the employees from the private sector participating in the pilot test)–

IELTS Score	Distribution (%)
5.5	18 (14.6%)
6.0	28 (22.8%)
6.5	32 (26.0%)
7.0	26 (21.1%)
7.5	11 (8.94%)
8.0	4 (3.25%)
8.5	3 (2.44%)
9.0	1 (0.81%)
Total	123 (100%)