

SINGAPORE

President Tony Tan visits world of Shaun the Sheep, Wallace and Gromit

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POSTED: 24 Oct 2014 15:30

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On the fourth day of his state visit to the UK, Dr Tan visited the city of Bristol, where he toured the studios of Aardman Animations and the University of Bristol.

PHOTOS



President Tony Tan Keng Yam and Mrs Mary Tan at the studios of Aardman Animations. (Photo: Dr Tony Tan/Facebook)

CAPTION

BRISTOL: Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam made a day trip to the city of Bristol on Thursday (Oct 23), the fourth day of his state visit to the United Kingdom, where he visited the studios of Aardman Animations – the people behind popular animated TV shows Shaun the Sheep and Timmy Time, as well as the Wallace and Gromit films.

The British Council and Aardman Animations have announced a partnership to open a new type of preschool English learning centre, with children in Singapore being among the first to benefit.

At these centres, children will be transported into the world of Shaun and Timmy through themed classrooms and learning based on the TV shows. The Singapore centre will be the first in Asia.

“The idea behind the partnership is to get children immersed and learning through play,” said Anna Searie, the British Council’s Director of English Language, adding that the first centre will open in Singapore next January and is expected to take in about 3,000 students each year between the ages of two and six.

Earlier in the day, Dr Tan also visited the University of Bristol, where he witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the varsity and Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

Under the agreement, both universities will collaborate on healthcare technology research.

The rising number of elderly in Singapore and the rest of the world

is putting pressure on the healthcare and social systems, said Professor Bertil Andersson, President of NTU. "It's important that technology is used to solve those problems of tomorrow – how to make it easier for old people to lead a normal life when they get old," he said.

Dr Tan also met about 80 Singaporean students who are currently studying at the university. Earlier in the morning, he also toured the M Shed museum in Bristol, and was hosted to a lunch by the city's Mayor, George Ferguson.

The President's six-day long state visit to the United Kingdom ends on Saturday.

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