Hands up if you like it hands-on

Stop the stereotyping ...

Letter from TAN BOON HAN

IT IS sad to know there are still people who perceive JCs as being "better" than polytechnics. More disheartening is the fact that such a comment comes from a leader of an educational institution, someone who should objectively advise pupils about their academic and career path based on interest and aptitude.

Polytechnic is an important route for most students after their O-levels if they intend to study specialised courses, such as accountancy or various fields of engineering, not available at JCs. If a student is clear about his or her academic and career goals, then the polytechnic is a better choice.

I have studied in both a JC and a polytechnic. The latter exposed me to more relevant industrial practices, through the industrial attachment programme and the experiences of my lecturers and tutors.

I am now an undergraduate at the Singapore Management University. I was offered a place based on my polytechnic results. In terms of academic performance at varsity, I am in no way inferior to those who came through the JC system. In fact, courses I took in polytechnic helped me a lot in university, especially during my first year.