

# US\$2m joint IT initiative for non-profit preschools

US-BASED Salesforce.com Foundation and Singapore's Lien Foundation yesterday announced a US\$2 million joint initiative that will equip preschools here with state-of-the-art cloud computing capabilities.

The initiative has the Salesforce.com Foundation – the charity arm of Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) pioneers Salesforce.com – putting up US\$1 million worth of licences for 600 teachers and administrators across 60 non-profit preschools. These licences are valid for life.

The other US\$1 million will come from the family-based Lien Foundation.

Fifty per cent of their contribution will go towards funding IT hardware costs for these selected preschools, Lien Foundation chief executive Lee Poh Wah said. The remaining amount will be spent on training and customisation.

According to recipients such as Presbyterian Com-

munity Services (PCS) and Persatuan Pemuda Islam Singapura (PPIS) – or the Singapore Muslim Women's Association – cloud computing will allow preschools to manage data such as student records, as well as information from outbreaks such as as H1N1 or Hand, Foot and Mouth disease, among other matters, more effectively.

Mr Lee added that he wanted non-profit preschools to benefit from the power of cloud computing not only because they "won't turn children away" but because of their "dismal state of IT adoption".

The project will begin implementation in June with five major non-profit preschool operators.

In a press conference held yesterday at Salesforce 2 Singapore, Salesforce.com also announced that the Asia-Pacific region continues to be its fastest growth engine, 55 per cent year-on-year growth in terms of quarterly revenue.