PRESS RELEASE

12 March 2015
For immediate reporting

RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINGAPORE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR (SSEF)

10 Teachers Recognised for Their Mentorship to Students in STEM Research

1. Over 1,200 students in secondary (upper) schools and JCs submitted research projects in various science and engineering fields for the Singapore Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) 2015. Held on 11 and 12 March 2015, a total of 595 projects from 36 schools were submitted – the highest in the history of SSEF, with over a hundred projects awarded the Gold, Silver, Bronze and Merit awards this year.

2. Currently in its 15th year, the SSEF is organised by MOE, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and Science Centre Singapore with the aim to help spark and sustain our students’ passion and interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Please refer to Annex for more details on SSEF 2015.

Outstanding Science Educator (Research Mentor) Award

3. In celebration of SSEF’s 15th anniversary, an Outstanding Science Educator (Research Mentor) Award will also be presented to recognise teacher mentors who have been making sustained impact in mentoring students in their research projects over the past years. These awardees have initiated and sustained school-based STEM-related research. Six teachers will be receiving the Outstanding Award while four teachers will be receiving the Commendation Award.

Participation at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair

4. As an affiliate of Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) – a prestigious international science fair often regarded as the “Olympics” of science competitions - outstanding winners of SSEF will be chosen to represent Singapore in
the Intel ISEF. This year, up to six SSEF projects would be chosen to participate in Intel ISEF which will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA in May 2015.

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Background Information about SSEF (2015)

1. The Singapore Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) is regarded as the most established of all science competitions in Singapore. The competition is open to students between the ages of 15 and 20 as of 1 May 2015. Students submit projects that range from science research to engineering solutions that solve real-world problems. Projects must be completed between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding year and may be submitted as Individual or Team (2 or 3 students) entries in one of the following research categories:

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<th>Animal Sciences</th>
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<th>Engineering: Materials &amp; Bioengineering</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Environmental Management</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Environmental Sciences</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mathematical Sciences</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Medicine &amp; Health Sciences</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Earth &amp; Planetary Science</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Energy &amp; Transportation</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Physics &amp; Astronomy</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Engineering: Electrical &amp; Mechanical</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Plant Sciences</td>
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2. Every year since 2013, Broadcom would sponsor an outstanding SSEF finalist (between 12 and 15 years old) to attend Intel ISEF as an observer through the Broadcom MASTERS programme. The remaining awards comprising Gold, Silver, Bronze and Merit awards would then be presented by the Fair Director, A/P Lim Tit Meng and SSEF Working Committee Chairperson Sin Kim Ho. Special Awards will also be given to recognise and reward students who demonstrate an outstanding level of initiative, resourcefulness, independent thinking and resilience over the course of their projects. This award is independent of their project achievements.

3. Talks by scientists have been organised for SSEF finalists and the public in the afternoon on 12 March. Concurrently, a workshop on mentoring students for science research will be conducted by CRADLE lab for teachers.

4. The ATS (A*STAR Talent Search) is part of the A*STAR Graduate Academy’s Youth Science outreach to schools with the aim to inspire and sustain a passion in science in the young in Singapore. Students who showcase their research projects in SSEF can take part in ATS. Winners of SSEF will undergo further rounds of selection by a panel of judges from A*STAR research institutes and universities. The final round of interviews will be chaired by a Nobel Laureate. The joint SSEF and ATS award presentation ceremony will be held on 22 April 2015. At this ceremony, awards will also be given to research mentors from Regulated Research Institutes (RRI) who have had sustained impact in the mentoring of our budding scientists and engineers over the years.