

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENT AT A*STAR GRADUATE ACADEMY

1. From 1 November 2006, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) will appoint Professor Miranda Yap as Executive Director of the A*STAR Graduate Academy (A*GA). Professor Yap, who is on secondment from the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, NUS will hold this new appointment concurrently with her existing appointment as the Executive Director of the A*STAR Bioprocessing Technology Institute (BTI).

2. Professor Yap will lead A*GA in its next phase of talent management and development. From the inaugural A*STAR Scholarship award in 2001 to date, 722 scholarships have been awarded to promising students with a passion and flair for science and research. A*STAR scholars are studying in 35 universities, both locally and overseas, and the vast majority have performed with great distinction. 25 have completed their PhD studies and have returned to serve in the Research Institutions. Over time, they will grow to be leaders in the scientific and research community. They will be able to serve Singapore well, and make valuable contributions to society at large.

3. Professor Yap will succeed Professor Lam Khin Yong, who has been key in setting up the A*GA in 2002, and guiding it through its formative years. A*GA has made significant strides because of the excellent leadership and unstinting commitment of Professor Lam. During this period, many new programmes have been initiated and launched successfully. Today, besides the prestigious National Science Scholarship, other premier scholarship programmes such as the A*STAR Graduate Scholarships have been put in place to support local undergraduates to pursue PhD studies at A*STAR Research Institutes, in conjunction with NUS, NTU and top overseas

universities. In addition, new initiatives to support young local and foreign talent have been set up. These include the JC Science Awards and the Young Researchers Attachment Programme.

4. Since January 2006, Professor Lam has held concurrent appointments as Executive Director of A*GA and Chair of the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at NTU. Professor Lam will be relinquishing his Executive Director appointment to return full-time to NTU as Chair of the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. A*STAR thanks Professor Lam for his service to A*GA and wishes him every success in his NTU appointment.

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About A*STAR (www.a-star.edu.sg)

A*STAR's mission is to foster world-class scientific research and talent for a vibrant knowledge-based Singapore. The Agency comprises the Biomedical Research Council (BMRC), Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), A*STAR Graduate Academy (A*GA), a commercialization arm, Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd (ETPL), and planning and corporate support functions.

A*STAR Graduate Academy (A*GA) supports A*STAR's key thrust of human capital development through the promotion of science scholarships and other manpower development programmes and initiatives. A*GA administers the two key scholarship schemes offered by A*STAR, the National Science Scholarships (NSS) and the A*STAR Graduate Scholarships (AGS).

Annex 1 – Brief Bio-data

Professor Miranda Yap

Prof Miranda Yap is the Executive Director of the Bioprocessing Technology Institute which she has progressively built from its nascent days as the Bioprocessing Technology Unit in 1990. Her other accomplishments include the formation of two other organizations, the Centre for Natural Product Research now called Merlion Pharmaceuticals Pte Ltd and the Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre now known as A-Bio Pharma Pte Ltd.

In February 2006, Prof Miranda Yap was named a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Engineering for 2006, due to her achievements in education, research and management in the field of mammalian cell culture.

Prof Yap has played a pivotal role in building core capabilities to support a vibrant biologics manufacturing industry in Singapore. She is actively involved in research, and continues to supervise PhD candidates.

Professor Lam Khin Yong

Prior to Professor Lam's appointment as the founding director of A*STAR Graduate Academy, he served as SERC's Director of Graduate Studies. Professor Lam was also the founding director of the Centre for Computational Mechanics and was instrumental in the establishment of the Institute of High Performance Computing. He was the Institute's first Executive Director from 1998 to 2003. He has previously held the appointments of Director (Managing Director's Office) and Technical Adviser to ETPL at A*STAR. He has also served as Adjunct Scientific Advisor to the Directorate of Research & Development, DSTA.

His research interest is in Computational Mechanics involving multi-scale modelling, computational nanomedicine, composites and numerical techniques. He has over 260 international refereed journal papers and in 2005, he co-authored a book entitled "Rotating Shells Dynamics". To date, he has five patents and has filed another two.

His contributions to Computational Mechanics were recognised with the National Young Scientist and Engineer Award in 1990 and the NUS Outstanding University Researcher Award in 1997. In 1998, he led the Underwater Shock Technology Team to win the MINDEF Defence Technology Prize (Team).