



9 May 2005

Press Statement

A*STAR's statement following the posting of an apology by Mr. Chen Jiahao on his blog on 9 May 2005.

We note that Mr. Chen Jiahao has, on 9 May 2005, posted the apology he owes A*STAR, on <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~chen6/blog/>.

“We accept his apology and consider the matter closed,” said Mr. Philip Yeo, Chairman of A*STAR. “We wish him well. My invitation to Mr. Chen to meet for tea in the Fall still remains.”

We wish to restate that we did not take any objection to fair comments made by him. What we objected to were defamatory statements that were serious and untrue accusations against A*STAR, its officers and other parties.

A*STAR recognizes the value of a diversity of views and welcomes that in all media. But the particular public blog had statements which went way beyond fair comment.

We reproduce below the apology from Mr. Chen.

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APOLOGY

I recognize and accept that a number of statements that I made on my on-line journal “Caustic Soda”, in particular the blog post of 3 March 2005, were defamatory of A*STAR, its Chairman, Mr. Philip Yeo and its executive officers.

I admit and acknowledge that these statements are false and completely without any foundation.

I unreservedly apologize to A*STAR, its Chairman Mr. Philip Yeo, and its executive officers for the distress and embarrassment caused to them by these statements.

I undertake not to repeat the statements, or make further statements of the same or similar effect in this or any other forum or media. I further undertake to remove any such posting anywhere that has not been deleted.

6 May 2005

Press Statement

A*STAR's statement following TODAY's report "Student shuts blog after A*STAR threatens to sue" (page 4, 6 May 2005)

A*STAR was defamed in statements by Mr Chen Jiahao in March 2005. The defamatory statements were not about our scholarship system and grade requirement policies. They were untrue and serious accusations against A*STAR, its officers and other parties. Our lawyers' advice is that we must not repeat the libel, hence our inability to give the media details.

A*STAR has not sued Mr Chen and is giving him an opportunity to retract the defamatory statements and publish an acceptable apology. Though Mr Chen has removed his entire blog, he has not retracted the defamatory statements and provided an acceptable apology.

For the information of those who did not see our statement dated 4 May, we restate it here:

*"We found a public blog that contained statements that were defamatory of A*STAR. A*STAR has the responsibility to protect its reputation and also that of Singapore. So it warned the blogger of legal consequences unless the objectionable statements were removed and an acceptable apology published.*

*A*STAR recognises the value of a diversity of views and welcomes that in all media. But the particular public blog had statements which went way beyond fair comment."*

We wish to emphasize that "A*STAR recognizes the value of a diversity of views and welcomes that in all media. But the particular public blog had statements which went way beyond fair comment."