

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE



Congratulations to the winners of the 2018 President's Science and Technology Awards (PSTA) for advancing the frontiers of science and translating these discoveries to meaningful and impactful innovations that benefit Singapore's society and our economy. The PSTA is the highest honour presented to outstanding individuals and teams of research scientists and engineers for their contributions to Science & Technology (S&T) in Singapore. The accomplishments of the PSTA winners attest to the growing excellence and impact of the S&T community in Singapore.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Awards, which were established in 2009 through the elevation of the then National Science and Technology Awards. Over those 10 years, we have seen the growth of Singapore into a vibrant international research and innovation hub. The 2018 Global Innovation Index continues to rank Singapore as the most innovative country in Asia, and fifth in the world. Our research institutions, the Agency for Science Technology and Research (A*STAR), the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) are also ranked among the top institutions in the world. But we cannot rest on our laurels as there still remains much scope for us to continue serving society and economy through science and technology.

This year's PSTA winners have demonstrated both a relentless pursuit of excellence and a passionate commitment to their scientific endeavours. The two winners of the pinnacle President's Science and Technology Medal, Professor Judith Swain and Professor Lam Khin Yong, are exceptional individuals in their respective fields and have played critical roles in the development and growth of Singapore's Research Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) landscape. More importantly, they have also groomed and mentored the next generation of S&T talent for Singapore.

Professor Swain has contributed tremendously to Singapore's translational and clinical research efforts in various capacities. This includes her previous role as the founding Executive Director of the A*STAR Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences (SICS) and her current role as a Visiting Professor at NUS. Under her capable leadership, SICS played a key role in addressing the impact of chronic metabolic diseases like obesity and Type-2 diabetes in Singapore and Asia. She was also instrumental in establishing the Singapore Centre for Nutritional Sciences, Metabolic Diseases, and Human Development (SINMeD), a joint research centre between SICS and NUS. Professor Swain successfully enhanced and strengthened research collaborations within the research community and with the industry. Today she continues to contribute to Singapore's biomedical sector by inspiring and mentoring the next generation of clinician scientists at NUS.

Professor Lam Khin Yong has held a series of key appointments at NUS, A*STAR and NTU Singapore. He has made many outstanding contributions to advance Singapore's research and development ambitions over the course of his career. As the founding Director of the Centre for Computational Mechanics at NUS and the founding Executive Director of A*STAR's Institute of High Performance Computing, Professor Lam contributed extensively to the development of computational mechanics research in Singapore by spearheading interdisciplinary research, with a focus on working with industry. In his subsequent roles as the founding Executive Director of the A*STAR Graduate Academy and more recently as Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research) in NTU Singapore, Professor Lam played an integral role in establishing important frameworks for talent development, building a critical mass of research capabilities and providing translational capabilities for fundamental research.

Both Professor Swain and Professor Lam are inspirational role models for future generations of scientists to come.

My heartiest congratulations also to the winners of the President's Science Award, President's Technology Award and Young Scientist Awards for their outstanding achievements. I am especially encouraged by the efforts of our young talent in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), such as this year's Young Scientist Award winners Dr Xue Shifeng, Dr Liu Zheng and Dr Anjan Soumyanarayanan, for putting Singapore's R&D on the world map. I am confident that the award will spur them to pursue greater achievements and achieve breakthrough discoveries and impactful innovations. I also hope that they will inspire future generations of scientists and engineers in Singapore to strive hard towards greater scientific excellence.

There is much to celebrate in terms of Singapore's accomplishments on our RIE journey. Let us continue to stay the course and use research and innovation as a key pillar for the continued success of Singapore.


MADAM HALIMAH YACOB
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE