

## **SNAS Annual Report**

### **Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS) Annual Report 2021**

The AGM was held on 29 Mar 2022.

Activities of SAAS for 2021

#### **Young Scientist Badge Scheme**

The Young Scientist Badge scheme, organised by the Association, the Science Teachers' Association of Singapore, the Science Centre Singapore and the Singapore National Academy of Science, continued to attract participants. Participants ranged from students in local primary schools, to international schools based in Singapore as well as home-schoolers and individuals subscribing online. A total number of 17,375 Young Scientist accounts were created in 2021, and a total number of 6,556 badges were awarded in 2021. There are a total of 132 schools subscribed to the Young Scientist Badge Scheme. The most popular badge in 2021 was the Young Sustainability Champion badge sponsored by Temasek Foundation.

A new badge called 'I am a Young Geospatial Scientist' developed with Singapore Land Authority (SLA) was launched in 2021.

A total of 1,086,463 badges have so far been awarded since the inception of the Scheme in 1982.

#### **Questa Club**

The Questa Club scheme aims to stimulate interest in science among secondary students and to encourage them to work independently in the areas of science and mathematics. A total of 879 badges was awarded to students from secondary schools in 2021, **615 silver badges** and **264 gold badges**. Since the inception of the Scheme in 1988, a total of 119,092 badges has been awarded. The Questa badge scheme has also been implemented in a Science Centre led Youth Ambassador programme since 2020. In 2021, 97 students completed the Silver Award activities.

Top schools participating in Questa in 2021 were CHIJ Saint Theresa's Convent and Canberra Secondary School.

#### **SAAS Award for best NIE Trainee Teacher 2019/20**

Two awards were given to the best trainee teachers in sciences and mathematics (Primary and Secondary categories) graduating from the National Institute of Education in 2021. Each received a cash prize of \$500.

Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Primary) – Yap Xue Ling

Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) – Lee Jiaqi Arthur

#### **SAAS Poster Award for Science Communication**

The Association was invited by the Ministry of Education, to sponsor special awards at the Singapore Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) 2020, held from 11-12 March. Fifteen awards were selected by SAAS Council Members from 320 posters for this award. SSEF is an annual competition organised by the Ministry of Education, A\*STAR and Science Centre Singapore, for students aged 15 to 20 years old. SSEF is an affiliate fair of the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), which is considered the Olympics equivalent of Science fairs internationally.

## **UNTAME Festival**

The Association supported the STEM+ Festival for a second time, organised in Singapore to create awareness of the possibilities of STEM applications to both students and the public and was organised by Science Centre Singapore.

After the inaugural event in 2020, the 2021 edition created many more opportunities for onsite, offsite and online engagement. The theme was **UNTAME: Rebooting Our World** and it was held from 6 September to 5 December 2021.

Components of the UNTAME Festival 2021 included a STEAM Festival for 3-6 year olds, Online component for everyone including schools and families, Day programmes for families and community, After Dark Programme for young adults and night explorers. The 2021 edition also saw UNTAME kits being sponsored by donors and organisations for students with limited opportunities. A total of 420 students and children from 14 organisations received the STEM kits.

The STEAM Festival reached about 1,000 participants, the online component to 17,000, Day Carnival to 5,100 visitors and the After Dark to 700 participants. More than 2 million were reached through various social media and digital communication