

SNAS Welcome Speech

Prof Andrew Wee, President SNAS

Introduction

1. The Singapore National Academy of Science (SNAS) was established in 1977. It is an independent scientific body that endeavours to promote the advancement of science and technology in Singapore.¹ SNAS represents the scientific opinions of its member societies. From the outset, SNAS was conceived of as an umbrella organization which would not only have its own series of programmes but would also oversee the activities of its constituent societies.²
2. SNAS administers the national Young Scientist Award (funded by A*STAR)³, and publishes the *Proceedings of The Singapore National Academy of Science (COSMOS)*, which highlights science research in Singapore and publishes invited review articles with the aim of promoting interdisciplinary research in Science and Mathematics.⁴
3. Currently run entirely by volunteers, the scope of SNAS's work has been limited by its lack of resources and full-time staff. Nevertheless, inspired by the rapid development of science and technology (S&T) in Singapore and the success of national academies elsewhere, SNAS believes the time is ripe to expand its role in Singapore by taking on additional responsibilities such as administering research fellowships & selected grants, offering advice to government, and fostering international research contact and co-operation.

Vision

¹ <http://snas.org.sg/>

² Current SNAS constituent societies are Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS), Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS), Singapore National Institute of Chemistry (SNIC), Singapore Institute of Biology (SIBiol), Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB), Singapore Society for Microbiology and Biotechnology (SSMB), Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS), Singapore Institute of Statistics (SIS), Science Teachers Association of Singapore (STAS)

³ <http://www.research.a-star.edu.sg/feature-and-innovation/6472>

⁴ <http://www.worldscientific.com/worldscinet/cosmos>

4. SNAS believes it can work together with the NRF, A*STAR, the universities, and other government agencies to help chart the future of S&T in Singapore, and to project a favorable image of Singapore science to the world. I have initiated a dialogue this year with these agencies, and I hope to make progress.
5. SNAS believes that such an expanded role would benefit Singapore society as a whole even as scientific and technological issues become more complex, and independent views and informed advice are increasingly important. SNAS believes that Singapore must develop its own local expertise in science policy by developing Singaporean (or PR) scientists who are committed to Singapore's long-term development.
6. Over the past two to three decades, Singapore has grown a generation of internationally recognized scientists, many of whom are Singapore citizens or PRs, who can be called upon for their scientific expertise and opinions.
7. Since 2011, SNAS has begun to elect her own Fellows, who are outstanding Singapore-based scientists who have contributed to the development of science research and education in Singapore. We elected 11 Fellows in 2011.
8. It is my hope that the SNAS Fellows will play a leading role in championing science and scientists in Singapore. We need excellent role models, and today, I am pleased to present to you our second batch of 9 SNAS Fellows, who are all excellent Singaporean scientists, and who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Sciences in Singapore.

Prof Roy Glauber

9. Now, it gives me great pleasure to invite Prof Roy Jay Glauber, Nobel Laureate in Physics, 2005, Lee Kong Chian Distinguished Professor, and Mallinckrodt Professor of Physics, Harvard University, to the stage to present the Fellowships.