



INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE SCHOOL

SOLVING GLOBAL CHALLENGES THE INTERDISCIPLINARY WAY

IGS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE (IGS-DL)



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HOSTED BY |

Prof Bo Liedberg
Dean
Interdisciplinary Graduate School

DATE |

Wednesday, 15 February 2017

TIME |

Refreshments

9.00am – 9.30am

Talk

9.30am – 10.45am

(seated by 9.20am)

Q&A

10.45am – 11.00am

PLACE |

LT26 (SS4-B2-33)

Co-hosted by

College of Business

College of Engineering

College of Humanities, Arts,
and Social Sciences

College of Science

Lee Kong Chian School of
Medicine

By Mr Lim Chuan Poh

Chairman, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

Singapore's RIE system – Creating the Future

Mr Lim Chuan Poh, Chairman of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, will talk about Singapore's Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) journey from its infancy to present day, giving insight into the rationale behind the policies and showcasing how the government's investments in research and innovation has catapulted Singapore from a skills-intensive developing nation to the thriving metropolis it is today. He will situate Singapore's system against other small advanced economies around the world; expand on how the RIE system in Singapore today will affect the economy and society; and explore the opportunities that arise as a result of being a knowledge-based, innovation-driven system.

About Mr Lim Chuan Poh

Mr Lim Chuan Poh was appointed Chairman A*STAR on 1 April 2007 to lead A*STAR in conducting world-class scientific research and developing human capital for a vibrant knowledge-based, innovation-driven Singapore.

Appointed as Deputy Chairman A*STAR in November 2006, Mr Lim has been a Board Member of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) since 2003, A*STAR's Biomedical Research Council since January 2004, and the National Research Foundation since January 2006. He is the Chairman of the National Infocomm Security Committee and the Governing Board of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. Internationally, Mr Lim is a Council Member of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum and a Member of Japan's World Premier International (WPI) Initiative Programme Assessment and Review Committee since 2007.

Prior to helping A*STAR, Mr Lim was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education (MOE) from July 2003 to March 2007. At MOE, Mr Lim oversaw the transformation of the publicly funded universities into Autonomous Universities (AUs) to enable them to reach new peaks of excellence. He also reviewed the university research framework that led to the creation of the Academic Research Council and a new Academic Research Funding Framework. A specific proposal of the review was the hosting of Research Centres of Excellence by the AUs to catalyse their evolution into research-intensive universities. The framework for the polytechnics to tie up with top foreign institutions to offer degree programmes in specialised areas was also put in place. In addition, he guided the establishment of the NUS-Duke Graduate Medical School at Outram Campus.

Before joining MOE, LG (NS) Lim Chuan Poh spent 23 years with the Singapore Armed Forces and last held the office of the Chief of Defence Force. LG (NS) Lim joined the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in 1980 on being awarded an SAF Overseas Scholarship. He held various appointments in the course of his military career, including Head, Joint Plans Department; Commander of the 10th Singapore Infantry Brigade; Commander, 9th Division; Chief of Army from July 1998 to March 2000; and Chief of Defence Force from April 2000 to March 2003. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General (LG) in 2001.

During his term as the Chief of Army and then as Chief of Defence Force from 1998 to 2003, LG (NS) Lim oversaw the operational deployment of SAF Peacekeeping Troops to Timor Leste. In response to the changed global security environment following the attacks of September 11 and working closely with the Home Front agencies, LG (NS) Lim led the SAF efforts to put in place plans and measures to counter the threats of catastrophic terrorism. In the same period, LG (NS) Lim also spearheaded the growth and development of the SAF as a technologically advanced integrated force ready and capable of a spectrum of operations. In addition, LG (NS) Lim also contributed to defence diplomacy by hosting the inaugural Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference and the first Chiefs of Defence Conference to be held outside the US.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Mathematics in 1983 and received a Master of Arts degree in 1988 from Cambridge University. He attended the Camberley Staff College in 1988 and graduated with the Best Overseas Student Award. He received a Masters in Business Administration degree (with distinction) from Cornell University in 1993. He attended the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard Business School in 2003.

In recognition of his significant contributions to the SAF, LG (NS) Lim was awarded the Public Administration Medal, Gold (Military) in 1999 and the Meritorious Service Medal (Military) in 2003. For his outstanding services, he was recognised by the USA with the award of the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) in 1999 and again in 2001; the Knight Grand Cross of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (Thailand) in 2001; and the Bintang Yudha Dharma Utama (Indonesia) – The Grand Meritorious Military Order – 1st Class in 2001.

For his contributions in Science and Technology in Singapore, Mr Lim Chuan Poh was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by Loughborough University (UK) on 31 August 2008; the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by Monash University (Australia) on 10 September 2009; the Fellowship of Imperial College on 5 May 2010; and the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by the Arizona State University (USA) on 3 May 2012. He was also awarded a fellowship under the Invitation Programme for Leaders by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in December 2010.