

# Celebrating 60 years of engineering in Singapore



Ready to celebrate 60 years of engineering, with Minister for Communications and Information, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim (centre) blowing out the candles. Joining in the big moment (from left): Former deans, Prof Andrew Nee, Prof Goh Thong Ngee, Prof Poo Aun Neow; NUS Chairman, Mr Wong Ngit Liong (on Minister's right); Dean of Engineering, Prof Chua Kee Chaing (on Minister's left); former dean, Prof Chan Eng Soon and Vice Dean (External Relations) Prof Victor Shim. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary bash was held at the Shangri-La Hotel on 16 Oct, with more than 600 guests.



Recognised for their contributions: From left: Engineering Dean, Prof Chua Kee Chaing; recipient of Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award, Dr Shahzad Nasim; Minister for Communications and Information, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim; NUS Chairman, Mr Wong Ngit Liong; recipient of the Engineering Alumni Service Honours, Mr Seah Cheng San; and Vice Dean (External Relations) Prof Victor Shim.

ACHIEVING rapid growth through the last 60 years, the NUS Faculty of Engineering is now ranked in the world's top 10. During its formative years, the Faculty contributed to Singapore's economic transformation through supporting infrastructural nation-building such as land reclamation, new industrial and public housing estates, urban renewal, and strategic construction of land, sea and air transportation systems.

In the 1980s, the Faculty responded speedily to meet needs of the high-tech manufacturing industries; and from the late 1990s, the knowledge-driven industries. Working with government statutory boards such as the National Science and Technology Board and its



successor, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), the Faculty was instrumental to the formation of science parks and national research institutes.

In its mission to nurture engineer-leaders with global outlook, two flagship initiatives were launched in 2009 – the Design-Centric Programme (DCP) and the Global Engineering Programme (GEP). DCP provides a platform for engineering students from all disciplines, to come out with holistic

solutions for solving complex real world problems. GEP enables the Faculty's best students to finish their B Eng degree in just three years, and to further their studies with a top international partner university in their fourth year. NUS Engineering is also the first in the world to offer a year-long student exchange programme with both the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford.

At the NUS Engineering's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala dinner held in Shangri-La's Island Ballroom on 16 October, NUS Engineering Dean, Professor Chua Kee Chaing, thanked alumni, friends and supporters from the industry for their contributions in raising the Faculty's profile. In keeping with the Faculty's tradition, two alumni are honoured every year. This year, Mr Seah Cheng San (Civil Engineering Class of 1982) received the **Engineering Alumni Service Honours**. Director of 3Fleur Pte Ltd, an investment holding company, he led a group of alumni to establish a faculty-level endowed bursary fund in 2009, providing financial assistance to needy full-time undergraduates. He also initiated the inaugural NUS Engineering Charity Golf event and raised more than \$400,000.

The **Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award** was conferred on Dr Shahzad Nasim, Group Executive Chairman of Meinhardt Singapore Pte Ltd. Dr Nasim graduated with a Master of Civil Engineering degree in 1976, and grew Meinhardt, establishing 42 offices around the globe, which carry the Singapore brand. Projects led by him include landmark buildings in Singapore such as The Sail @ Marina Bay, One Raffles Quay and the Marina Bay Financial Centre. Overseas, building that carry his stamp include The Dubai Mall, The River in Bangkok and the Bank of China in Hong Kong.

*Related link:*

Minister Yaacob's posting in his facebook on the gala dinner: <https://www.facebook.com/yaacobibrahim>