Singapore’s Research & Innovation Journey: What’s Next?

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Blk EA, Faculty of Engineering

Refreshments start at 6:00 pm.
Admission is free.

Synopsis
Over the last 25 years, Singapore has strategized and implemented a series of national plans in developing research and innovation in both the public and private sectors, which has enabled the nation to upgrade its national research resources and capabilities in Science & Engineering from a third world to a first world status in selective areas. Its indigenous Innovation and related Enterprise creation effort by exploiting deep research has also started to see some early, promising results. In order to further strategize and plan for “What’s Next”, it is timely to review the policies/strategies taken by Singapore since 1991 and the results achieved. A summary will first be given in this Lecture. We shall then discuss which policies/strategies could be continued, enhanced or adapted, and what new policies/strategies may be introduced in future to help Singapore overcome new challenges and capture new opportunities as it sustains the long journey towards a high level of indigenous Innovation and Enterprise creation. The current strategies of MNC partnership, human talent development, and growing tech-driven local enterprises would likely be continued and enhanced. The new strategies could include initiating effort to equip the research talent pool with new capabilities in technology and
innovation management skills, and initiating the development of Frugal, Disruptive R&D and Innovation programmes based on the new paradigm of “Think Local, Act Global” for capturing the high growth emerging markets. The goal is to accelerate the pace of developing Singapore towards the status of an Innovation Creation Nation.

**Biography**

Professor Hang Chang Chieh received the Ph.D. degree in Control Engineering from the University of Warwick, England, in 1973. From 1974 to 1977, he worked as a Computer and Systems Technologist in the Shell Eastern Petroleum Company (Singapore) and the Shell International Petroleum Company (The Netherlands). Since 1977, he has been with the National University of Singapore, serving in various positions including being the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering. From 1994 to 2000, he served as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University in charge of research. From 1991 to 1999, he served as Deputy Chairman, National Science & Technology Board. From 2001 to 2003, he was seconded to Agency for Science, Technology and Research to serve as its Executive Deputy Chairman. Since 2004, he has resumed his academic career in the National University of Singapore. His current appointments include Executive Director, Institute for Engineering Leadership and Head of Division of Engineering and Technology Management, Faculty of Engineering.

Prof Hang received the 2000 National Science & Technology Medal for his leadership and contributions to science and technology development in Singapore. He was elected a Fellow of IEEE in 1998 and a Foreign Member of the Royal Academy of Engineering, UK in 2000. He served as the founding Chairman of Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) from 2001 to 2009. Currently, he serves as non-executive Chairman of three high-tech companies in Singapore.