



Headlines: RSI Report on Singapore-MIT Alliance Annual Symposium 2007

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The Nanyang Technological University recently hosted the Singapore-MIT Alliance (or SMA) Annual Symposium 2007. Singapore's Minister of State for Trade & Industry, Mr S Iswaran, graced the event as the Guest-of-Honour and Keynote Speaker. Stay tuned to hear the details of the alliance in this week's On Campus. Welcome to the programme. I'm Mubin Saadat.

The SMA is a global educational and research collaboration between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the National University of Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University. Mr Iswaran describes the establishment of this alliance as a new paradigm in global graduate education in science and engineering.

"As a collaboration of the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, SMA provides outstanding students and researchers with the opportunity to experience an academic and research environment spanning Asia and the US, and opening new avenues in their respective fields of study. Research and innovation underpins growth in the global knowledge economy and Singapore is committed to making significant investments in R&D to build a sustainable competitive advantage for itself."

The Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council (or RIEC) was established last year to spearhead Singapore's research and innovation effort. The National Research Foundation was also set up to provide an overview of R&D at the national level. Mr Iswaran said SMA's goal to be a leading education and research enterprise fits aptly with these R&D endeavours.

"Through world-class educational programmes and high-impact research initiatives, SMA attracts top talent, which is the very essence of research and innovation. To date, 702 students have graduated from the SMA with a total of 710 degrees awarded. 8 SMA graduates received dual degrees. This is an attractive feature of the SMA programme which allows its graduates to be awarded degrees from both MIT, and either NUS or NTU."

The results produced by SMA showed a promising growth that lies ahead for the collaboration. Mr Iswaran said, "The survey of SMA graduates also shows that about two

thirds of the respondents are residing in Singapore - 57% employed in Singapore and a further 10 % are pursuing further education here and I am glad that these SMA graduates have chosen to work in Singapore and I hope that we will see many more of them in the coming years. I am also happy to learn that SMA research has not only yielded some 500 journal articles but that it has also given rise to 26 patent applications of which 3 have been granted.”

The Minister also revealed plans to go beyond the SMA alliance in the field of R&D.

“The Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (or SMART) Centre will be the first establishment under the NRF’s proposed Campus for Research Excellence And Technology Enterprise. In Singapore we like acronyms and this is called CREATE. CREATE will serve as a hub for world-acclaimed research universities to set up research centres and attract some of the best research talent to Singapore, to collaborate Singapore-based researchers in academia and industry. The SMART Centre will build on the foundation of the strong relationship between MIT and Singapore that commenced with the SMA.”

The pervasive nature of collaborations in the realm of education suggests that alliances between educational institutions such as SMA form a crucial component in learning. It signals the need for students to stretch their learning curve beyond the shores to meet new global challenges. I’m Mubin Saadat and this has been On Campus on Radio Singapore International.